



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

MAY 19, 2018 Journal of North Carolina Baptists • VOLUME 184 NO. 10 • **BRnow.org**



**INTERVIEWS WITH SBC
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**
PAGES 10-11

SBC TO DESCEND ON DALLAS

BR Staff

The Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) annual meeting is fast approaching, and information is rolling out almost by the day. Your *Biblical Recorder* staff has been working hard to collect as much information as possible for this print edition to aid North Carolina Baptists and the messengers who represent them.

The SBC annual meeting will take place June 12-13 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. In addition, there are dozens of related events scheduled to occur before or during the yearly gathering.

Inside (pages 8-17) you will find plenty of news and information that will help you stay informed and plan for these events. Look for the program schedule, list of events, digital resources, officer nominations, candidate interviews and more.

We hope you will take this edition with you to Dallas. Please email Liz Tablazon (liz@brnow.org) if you would like extra copies. Also, be on the lookout for *BR* editorial staff as we cover events on site. It would be our pleasure to meet you.



WHAT’S INSIDE

SBC president addresses Patterson, racial diversity	2	Global Hunger run in Dallas	9	Credentials, Tellers Committees	14
Milton Hollifield: ‘unity of the Spirit’	3	Committee on Resolutions	9	ERLC panel on sexual abuse, assault	15
Wireless sound equipment may stop working	3	Scholarships to SBC	9	Events list	16-17
Mark Harris unseats Pittenger	4	Q&As with Ken Hemphill, J.D. Greear	10-11	Sunday School lesson summaries	18
SWBTS trustees to meet amid Patterson controversy	5	Program schedule	12-13	Classifieds	19

SBC president addresses Patterson, racial diversity

Baptist Press

Thank you, Southern Baptists, for allowing me the privilege of serving as your president for the past two years. It has been a joy and honor to travel and see what our Lord is doing throughout our [Southern Baptist Convention, SBC] family at the local church, association, state and national levels.

As we approach our annual convention in Dallas, I want to address some issues that affect all of us.

Many have discussed the need for racial diversity in the various levels of SBC leadership. That has been a priority of my presidency. The church I pastor is be-

coming increasingly racially diverse and I am grateful for that.

All who love God and believe the Bible should love all people, regardless of race or ethnicity. I believe the vast majority of Southern Baptists genuinely feel the same way.

I have sought racial diversity in the appointments I have made and I am confident my successors will do the same.

I also want to address the issues regarding comments made by one of our seminary presidents, Paige Patterson. I praise God for the leadership he gave to the SBC during the Conservative Resurgence.

I am also grateful for his leadership at my alma mater, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I have talked with him in person and by phone regarding his comments and told him that I disagree with the counsel he gave to a woman who was married to an abusive husband. I personally believe that if a husband abuses his wife physically, the wife should immediately:

1) notify the police and follow their instructions,

2) remove herself and her children physically from the abusive husband under the protection of police for her safety, and

3) notify the family's pastor so the church can engage in church discipline toward the abuser. The church should also seek to come alongside the woman and help her in any way possible to ensure her protection and care.

Regarding Patterson's more recent remarks about a teenage girl, I believe

they were improper. While I love him and appreciate him, I disagree with what he said.

Preachers should never refer to women in any way that could be considered demeaning.

SBC pastors must do everything we can to protect all women from being subjected to any form of abuse.

On behalf of the SBC, I ask for the forgiveness of all women who have been hurt by these comments and the issue of ill treatment of women within churches in particular.

I believe we should esteem and regard women in the same way Jesus did during His earthly ministry.

Women are created in the image of God and are of great value and worth.

The church especially is no place for misogyny or disrespect for anyone. This year marks the 100th anniversary of women being messengers to the SBC annual meeting. It is my prayer that this year will also mark a renewed commitment to honoring women and their contributions to our churches and convention.

Some have called for me to stop Patterson from preaching the Convention Sermon in Dallas.

The SBC president does not have the authority to make that decision.

Neither does the SBC Committee on Order of Business. It was the messengers of the 2017 SBC meeting that selected Patterson to preach the 2018 Convention Sermon.

There are only two scenarios in which Patterson will not preach the Convention Sermon:

1) the messengers of the SBC vote at the annual meeting in Dallas for him not to do so, or

2) Patterson personally withdraws from that responsibility. In either case, the alternate preacher, Kie Bowman, would preach the Convention Sermon.

Some have asked how our SBC process functions regarding SBC entity heads and to whom they are accountable.

All SBC employees, including presidents, answer ultimately to their respective trustee boards.

SBC trustees are elected by and accountable to the SBC churches, not to the entity heads. SBC messengers from our churches elect all SBC trust-

ees at our annual conventions.

Ultimately, the trustees have the right to decide all matters regarding any SBC entity, including matters related to any entity president. The trustees alone are invested with ultimate authority by the SBC.

Southwestern Seminary's trustees have a special meeting planned for Tues., May 22. I encourage all of you to pray for that meeting and to trust this process prescribed by our SBC Bylaws that ensures that all proceedings will be handled fairly and in a suitable setting.

Southern Baptists are at a pivotal time. In the very near future, we will elect a new president of the SBC, the International Mission Board will elect a new president, and the SBC Executive Committee will also elect a new president.

For such a time as this, I'm asking all Southern Baptists to do four things:

● Pray for the SBC.

Ultimately, our struggle is not with people, but with Satan and demonic spirits (cf. Ephesians 6:12). We must stop fighting one another, and start fighting the devil on our knees.

● Fast and pray 21 days for our SBC meeting in Dallas.

I call all Southern Baptists to participate in a 21-day fast beginning Tues., May 22 through Mon., June 11. That will enable us to fast for 21 days immediately prior to the SBC meeting that begins on Tues., June 12. Some

can do a regular fast (liquids but no food). Most anyone can do some sort of partial fast (i.e. eliminate certain foods, or eliminate a meal or two per day).

● Speak positively and constructively.

Every word we speak, in private or public conversation, even on social media, should be Christlike and filled with grace. If anyone reviles you, do not respond in kind. Far better to be wronged than to participate in an ungodly exchange of words before a lost world that is listening and watching.

● Pray for our SBC trustees.

They are accountable to the Lord and to our SBC churches, not to the employees of the SBC entities. Let them do their work as we pray for them.

The Southern Baptist Convention needs your help. God has allowed us to live during such a time as this. Let's unite in Jesus Christ and come together in Dallas and show a lost world that we really do love Jesus, love each other, and love them as well.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Steve Gaines, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, released a full statement May 11 responding to questions about his committee appointments and controversy involving a Southern Baptist seminary leader, racial diversity of his appointees and ways Baptists can pray leading up to the annual meeting June 12-13 in Dallas.) **BR**



STEVE GAINES
Guest Column

BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

(ISSN 0279-8182)

News Journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Founded 1833 by Thomas Meredith

K. Allan Blume, Editor/President
editor@brnow.org

Seth Brown, Content Editor
(919) 459-5697; seth@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Production Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Alison McKinney
Business and Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691
alison@brnow.org

Laura Crowther
Editorial Aide

Liz Tablazon
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
liz@brnow.org

Carly Conley
Graphic Designer

Volume 184 No. 10
(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 467-6180
BRnow.org

Board of Directors: Nate Jones, chair; Tony Honeycutt, vice chair; Angela Brady, secretary; David Clary, treasurer; Kevin Atchley; Frankie Gordon; Lisa Harris; Gerald Hodges; Todd Houston; Cindy D. Jennings; Dan Meyer; Frank Norwood; Jim Pennington Jr.; Donna Robinson; Donnie Seagle; Meredith Snoddy; Marilyn Thurman; Aaron Wallace; Tammy Weeks; and Keith Whitfield

Subscriptions

• Individual subscriptions, \$15.99 (one year); \$27.99 (two years); \$39.99 (three years)
• Bulk Plan, \$11.50 • Club Plan, \$13.50
• Family Plan, \$12.50 • Single copies, .60 cents each
Payable in advance. N.C. sales tax is included.
Digital rates: \$5.99 (one year); \$10.99 (two years); \$15.99 (three years).

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, November 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, NC 27676.

Postmaster

Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512-1185.

Let's strive to 'keep the unity of the Spirit'

Recently, I heard Chuck Register from our Baptist State Convention staff preach a message from Ephesians 4:1-3 in which he spoke of the biblical plea for spiritual unity within the body of Christ. Building on some of his admonition, I would like to encourage and challenge North Carolina Baptists to be a Christ-like influence and model the spirit of unity within our Baptist associations, churches and even our Southern Baptist Convention.

Recent events have revealed that many conservative Southern Baptists are divided over doctrinal interpretations, issues within the local church, a generational gap, racial and diversity issues, and more.

Yet, in spite of our divisions often because of differences in opinions and personal preferences, the apostle Paul strongly appeals to us in Ephesians 4:3 to *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."* The effort which God's Word calls us to invest in order to keep the unity is effort that requires work and even exertion on our part. Yet the interesting thing is that the unity Paul speaks of is one that we can't muster up on our own. According to

Galatians 5:16, the unity of the Spirit can be observed in us if we are walking in the Spirit.

While this spirit of unity is a supernatural work, it is also one that we must strive to obtain by yielding our will to God's Spirit. Ephesians 4:3 brings to mind Paul's letter to the Romans in which he wrote, *"as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone"* (Romans 12:18).

So how can we possess and live out this unity? The context of Ephesians 4 provides us with the answer in verse two. It involves humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance and love. I believe each of these attributes builds upon the other. It's hard to be gentle, patient, tolerant and loving if we are not manifesting the kind of humility Christ exemplified as stated in Philippians 2:5-8.

What does humility involve? It involves having a humble opinion of one's self by crushing our own pride. It also involves having an appropriate degree of Christ-awareness and an appropriate degree of self-awareness. Keeping those two perspectives in balance will go a long way in helping us maintain a humble attitude and move us closer toward unity.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer



We would do well to remember what is of supreme importance to followers of Christ. Our attitudes and spoken words should be under the control of Christ instead of our old fleshly nature.

What is most important to us should be what brings the most glory to the name of our Lord and Savior and builds up the body of Christ.

As you prepare to attend the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting June 12-13 in Dallas, Texas, I pray that you will examine your motives before you use unkind words and express negative opinions about another brother or sister in Christ. I urge you to live by God's truth as stated in Ephesians 4:1-3. Strive for unity in the bond of Christian love even when others around you are ignoring God's command in this passage of scripture. **BR**

Churches, your wireless sound equipment may stop working soon

Many church wireless microphone and in-ear monitor systems operate in the 600 MHz frequency. Due to the increasing needs for more of the broadcast spectrum by wireless providers, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently auctioned off much of the 600 MHz frequencies to companies, including mobile phone providers.

T-Mobile spent \$8 billion on 45 percent of the licenses and is aggressively expanding their wireless data network in the 600 MHz spectrum.

Any of your church's 600 MHz devices that operate outside of a very narrow band of frequencies (listed below) must cease operating no later than July 13, 2020.

However, these devices may cease to operate effectively at any time depending upon when a wireless broadband com-

pany begins to use their newly-acquired frequencies.

These companies may use their newly-acquired frequencies at anytime. There are many cases where a microphone worked great one week and the next week the entire 600 MHz system was rendered useless due to a new transmitter coming on line in the intervening week.

Don't assume you are safe to use your equipment until July 13, 2020. Consider it unreliable.

Bottom line

Replace all your wireless devices working in the forbidden frequencies as soon as possible. They may not work next week. Seriously.

There are only a few frequencies in the 600 MHz spectrum that still may be used for unlicensed wireless operations:

- 614-616 MHz
- 657-663 MHz

Note that the manufacturing, import, sale, lease, offer for sale or lease, or shipment of wireless microphones or similar devices intended for use in the United States that operate on the 600 MHz service band frequencies (617-652 MHz and 663-698 MHz) is prohibited after October 13, 2018.

What will happen to our current audio equipment?

You will first need to verify whether or not it operates in the 600 MHz spectrum (other than 614-616 and 657-663). If it doesn't, you have no worries.

If it does, first see if your equipment has a function to select a different frequency – one that may be allowable. If not, you will need to replace your equipment.

Many companies are offering trade-ins with discounts toward replacement systems. Below is a list of companies

with trade-in/rebate programs and the dates by which you have to apply for the promotion.

Promotions run \$50-\$500 depending on the systems. Note that some expiration dates are only a few weeks away

- Sennheiser, June 30
- Samson, June 30
- Lectrosonics, Aug. 30
- Shure, Oct. 31
- Audio-Technica, March 31, 2019

Do not delay taking care of this matter. Your equipment may fail at a very bad time!

(EDITOR'S NOTE – This article first appeared at renewingworshipnc.org. Used by permission.) **BR**



KENNY LAMM
Guest Column

P.K. PREACHER'S KIDS

BY DAVID AYERS



Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance. Include cost and contact information in your email or correspondence.

All submissions will be subjected to *Biblical Recorder* styles and guidelines and will be edited. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512.

Call (919) 847-2127.

Send story ideas to editor@BRnow.org or to the address above.

North Korea prisoners' release spurs hope for revival

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

The release of three American Christians from North Korea is hopefully an early sign of Christian revival in the Asian nation, Southern Baptist consultant and native Korean Paul Kim told Baptist Press (BP).

"It's bigger than just releasing the three individuals," said Kim, Asian American relations consultant to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. "It's much, much bigger, (which) history will tell later. I think there will be very exciting things happening."

He anticipates change from a more spiritual than political trajectory.

"My hope and desire is that North Korea will (experience) a spiritual awakening," said Kim, a former pastor, church planter and International Mission Board trustee who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Released prisoners Kim Hak Song, Tony Kim and Kim Dong Chul, all Christians, arrived early May 10 at Joint

Base Andrews near Washington. U.S. President Donald Trump hailed the prisoners' release ahead of a historic June 12 meeting with North Korean president Kim Jong Un. The prisoners had been held on erroneous charges levied between October 2015 and April 2017, according to news reports.

"It's the beginning of a sign, a step forward," Paul Kim said. "Other Christians are praying and targeting for North Korean doors to open (to the gospel)."

Freed prisoner Kim Hak Song was ordained as an evangelical Christian pastor by the nondenominational Oriental Mission Church in Los Angeles, CNN reported, but was not serving as a pastor upon his arrest. He was working at a Christian school, Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST), when he was arrested in May for supposed "hostile acts" toward the state, *Time* reported.

Historically, Christianity was strong in North Korea before the Korean War, Paul Kim told BP, stemming from the work of missionaries in the late 19th century. Christian persecution during the war forced Christians

to flee to South Korea, where they planted churches and started a prayer movement.

"Now, God is bringing (Christianity) back to North Korea," Paul Kim said. "Hopefully, this (will be) the trend." Even today, he said, underground Christians serve the Lord in the nation, although hundreds of thousands have fled to China.

According to religious persecution watchdog Open Doors USA, about 305,000 Christians worship in hiding in the nation of 25.4 million people. Others are considered atheists or traditionalists.

Tony Kim (also known by his Korean name of Kim Sang Duk) also worked as an American professor at PUST. Upon Kim's 2017 arrest for unspecified charges, PUST said his detention was "related to an investigation into matters not connected in any way with the work of PUST," *Time* reported.

Kim Dong Chul, 62, was arrested in October 2015 on charges of espionage and undisclosed crimes, *Time* said. He was convicted in March 2016 and was serving 10 years in prison with hard labor. **BR**

Mark Harris unseats incumbent U.S. Rep. Pittenger in N.C. GOP primary

Biblical Recorder

Mark Harris, former pastor in Charlotte, unseated incumbent Robert Pittenger in North Carolina's 9th District Republican primary election May 8 for the U.S. House of Representatives. Harris, who is also a former president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, ran against Pittenger in 2016 for the same seat but lost by a slim margin.

He is the first challenger to upset an incumbent this year, according to news reports, and is set to face the district's Democratic primary winner, Dan McCready, in November.

"From the beginning, this race has been about giving the people of this district a voice," Harris told supporters on election night (May 8), according to video from Charlotte's WSOC-TV. "You have stood up tonight across the 9th Dis-

trict, and you have made that voice loud and clear."

Tami Fitzgerald, executive director of the NC Values Coalition, said she is "elated that voters recognized that Mark Harris has the integrity, leadership skills, and conservative values to represent the 9th Congressional District. ... We strongly support Mark as he moves into the general election."

Harris resigned last summer from a 12-year tenure as pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte. He has two degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (master of divinity and doctor of ministry).

In an earlier interview with Baptist Press, he described a sense of calling to politics and awareness of "a distinct need" for pastors "not just to take a position on the sideline" of American public life, "but to get engaged." **BR**



MARK HARRIS



Joshua was Israel's fearless leader. He was a man who loved the Lord with all his heart, soul and strength and a father who cherished his family. Things were going well in Israel. The war was over and the territory divided. The only thing left was to eliminate the small pockets of the enemy remaining in the Promised Land.

Then Joshua noticed Israel was being unfaithful to God. He gathered all the compromising tribal leaders and pleaded with them not to associate with the remaining enemy and remember God's faithfulness. There was no change.

Joshua again gathered all the hypocritical leaders and begged them twice to throw away their "little g" gods. Finally, Joshua drew a line in the sand and said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

- Is this verse practiced in your home?

- Have you counted the costs if this verse is not applied in your home?

- Will your kids adopt this verse in their future homes?

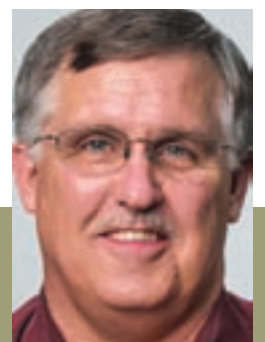
In unison, the people proclaimed, "We will serve the Lord"

(Joshua 24:21), but their words were empty. In the end, Joshua died leaving behind a family who loved the Lord but a nation who did not seek God (Judges 2:10).

Joshua had many victories as a military leader, but none were bigger than winning the battle for his family's heart. He undeniably taught his family to love the Lord in a culture that was far from God. How was he able to do it? The same way we are able today. Joshua was filled with the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 34:9) and lived the Shema.

As a born again believer, you have all the power you need to raise your family in a culture that wants nothing to do with God (Ephesians 1:13b). Because the Holy Spirit lives inside you, you are able to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength. He gives you the ability to connect your life to His Word, model it in your home, workplace and community and intentionally teach it to your children (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

If Joshua could do it, you can do it.



MARK SMITH

EDITOR'S NOTE – Mark Smith is senior consultant for Family Evangelism and Discipleship at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He can be reached at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5647, or msmith@ncbaptist.org.

4 Questions for Church Bus Buyers:

1. Which Bus Company has sold more buses to churches than any other company in the country?
2. Which Bus Company has more exclusive endorsements from denominational organizations than any other?
3. Which is the only Bus Company to offer a 7 Year / 70,000 Body & Chassis Warranty on all new buses sold to churches?
4. Which Bus Company has the best prices?

America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1 Answer:

Carpenter Bus Sales

Doesn't that make it easy to know who to work with?

www.carpenterbus.com • 800-370-6180

SWBTS trustees to meet amid Patterson controversy

Baptist Press

An open letter from Southern Baptist women objecting that Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), has been “allowed to continue in leadership” despite his statements on sexuality and domestic abuse garnered more than 1,800 signatures in its first 24 hours online. At publication time there were more than 3,000 signatures.

The letter was addressed to SWBTS trustee chairman Kevin Ueckert as well as the full trustee board, which is scheduled to meet May 22 at Patterson’s request.

Other Southern Baptist women have defended Patterson’s character without affirming all his specific comments.

At issue in the open letter are an audio clip from 2000 in which he expressed his views regarding domestic violence and divorce and a video of a 2014 sermon in which he referenced a teenage girl’s physical attractiveness. The open letter is available at swbtsletter.com.

The open letter, published online May 6, stated, “We are shocked by the video that has surfaced showing Dr. Paige Patterson objectify a teenage girl and then suggest this as behavior that is biblical. We are further grieved by the dangerous and unwise counsel given by Dr. Patterson to women in abusive situations. His recent remarks of clarification do not repudiate his unwise counsel in the past; nor has he offered explanation or repentance for inappropriate comments regarding a teenage girl, the unbiblical teaching he offered on the biblical meaning of womanhood in that objectification, and the inappropriate nature of his own observations of her body.

“This pattern of discourse,” the letter continued, “is unbefitting the sober, wise, and sound character required of an elder, pastor, and leader ... The Southern Baptist Convention [SBC] cannot allow the biblical view of leadership to

be misused in such a way that a leader with an unbiblical view of authority, womanhood, and sexuality be allowed to continue in leadership.”

The SWBTS trustee board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. that day on the seminary’s campus in Fort Worth, Texas, according to a statement released by Ueckert.

“In light of recent events, Dr. Patterson has requested that I convene our full trustee board to meet in official session,” the statement said. “As part of a trustee’s duty to this institution, and by extension to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and by virtue of my authority as Chairman of the Board I am calling a special called meeting of the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the Bylaws.”

Among the first signers of the open letter were Lauren Chandler, wife of Dallas-area pastor Matt Chandler; Amanda Jones, a Houston pastor’s wife and daughter of Beth Moore; Jennifer Lyell, a vice president at LifeWay Christian Resources’ B&H Publishing Group; and Karen Swallow Prior, professor of English at Liberty University and a research fellow with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Prior told Baptist Press (BP) in an email exchange, “The letter was drafted collectively among a group of women who were among the first signers. Because this is a grassroots effort designed to reflect many SBC women, we prefer not to focus on the writers, but the signers.” She added: “the drafters sought much wise counsel before it was published.”

Wheaton College professor Ed Stetzer – who has written a blog post calling for Patterson to retire from his presidency at SWBTS – tweeted May 6 that the letter was “a big deal” for “theologically conservative women leaders to call for [Patterson’s] resignation.”

Among Southern Baptist women offering a different perspective was SWBTS dean of women’s programs Terri Stovall, who tweeted a May 4 statement titled

“Let a Southwestern woman speak.” Stovall has been at SWBTS either as a faculty member or a student under Presidents Russell Dilday, Ken Hemphill and Patterson.

“People ask, ‘How are you treated?’” Stovall wrote. “In my 35 years of ministry, have I always been treated in a Christ-like manner? My answer is, ‘Not exactly.’ In fact, I resonated with the most recent [blog post to Christian men] penned by Beth Moore. But honestly, my most painful experiences have occurred in the local church and not at Southwestern ... Let me be clear. I have never, no not ever, been treated with any less than the highest respect from Paige Patterson. Dr. Patterson has never discounted me as less-than, has always listened to me, heard me, and took my opinion into equal consideration as my male counterparts.”

Amid social media discussion of abuse and sexism, Donna Gaines, wife of SBC President Steve Gaines, tweeted a call May 5 for Southern Baptists to “get off social media and into our Bibles and prayer closets; off our high horses and onto our knees.”

Donna Gaines told BP May 7 “the thing that most grieved me were some of the vicious attacks on people. We should be able to discuss issues without attacking people, and it wasn’t even just that people were attacking Dr. Patterson. It was people who were speaking on both sides of the issue being attacked by both sides of the issue.”

“Obviously,” Gaines added, abuse of “anyone is indefensible. Nobody’s arguing with that,” and churches must be prepared to help the abused.

Regarding Patterson, Gaines said, “I can’t defend what he said. At the same time, I have known this man for a long time and believe his character and integrity are still intact even if he made a mistake and used an inappropriate illustration.”

Patterson released an apology through the SWBTS website May 10 for comments that were “obviously been hurtful to women in several possible ways.

“I wish to apologize to every woman who has been wounded by anything I

have said that was inappropriate or that lacked clarity,” he continued. “... Please forgive the failure to be as thoughtful and careful in my extemporaneous expression as I should have been.”

SBC President Gaines released a statement to Baptist Press May 11 expressing thanks for Patterson’s ministry history while opposing his controversial comments. “I praise God for the leadership he gave to the SBC during the Conservative Resurgence,” Gaines said. “I am also grateful for his leadership at my alma mater, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I have talked with him in person and by phone regarding his comments and told him that I disagree with the counsel he gave to a woman who was married to an abusive husband.

“I personally believe that if a husband abuses his wife physically, the wife should immediately: 1) notify the police and follow their instructions, 2) remove herself and her children physically from the abusive husband under the protection of police for her safety, and 3) notify the family’s pastor so the church can engage in church discipline toward the abuser. The church should also seek to come alongside the woman and help her in any way possible to ensure her protection and care.

“Regarding Dr. Patterson’s more recent remarks about a teenage girl, I believe they were improper. While I love him and appreciate him, I disagree with what he said. Preachers should never refer to women in any way that could be considered demeaning. SBC pastors must do everything we can to protect all women from being subjected to any form of abuse.”

Gaines added, “On behalf of the SBC, I ask for the forgiveness of all women who have been hurt by these comments and the issue of ill treatment of women within churches in particular. I believe we should esteem and regard women in the same way Jesus did during His earthly ministry. Women are created in the image of God and are of great value and worth. The church especially is no place for misogyny or disrespect for anyone.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – This story was compiled from Baptist Press reports.) **BR**

FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
ENROLL NOW FOR NEW QUARTER ON JULY 10, 2018

- Preparing the “God Called” to minister since 1946
- Our graduates are serving churches all across the S.B.C.
- Earn an Associates Degree in Religion (choose from Christian Ministry, Church Planting, and Christian Worldview tracks)
- Our Associate degree is now fully available online
- Courses offered for Spanish speaking students at several N.C. locations (Call Robert Fernandez at 828-399-0109)

For more information call (828) 685-8886, or write: David Horton, President, Fruitland Baptist Bible College, 1455 Gilliam Road, Hendersonville, N.C. 28792
Owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

VA BENEFITS AVAILABLE
POST-9/11 GI BILL

Interstate Transportation Equipment, Inc.

The South's Oldest Bus Company Since 1947

interstatetransportation.com

New and Used Buses
Financing Programs Available

HIGH POINT, NC • 800.726.0779

‘Defining Moments’ forge history, future of WMU-NC

By DIANNA L. CAGLE | BR Production Editor

Many hands and hearts invest in putting together the Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) Missions Extraganza (ME).

This year’s 127th annual meeting, with the theme “Defining Moments,” brought together almost 460 participants to Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

“Meet the need first,” said Taylor Field, pastor of Graffiti Church (East 7th Baptist) and director of Graffiti Community Ministries in New York City for more than 25 years. Those four words are the basis for the ministry of Taylor and Susan Field, North American Mission Board SEND missionaries, who served as featured guests during the two-day event April 27-28.

“Look in your life for the people who can’t pay you back,” he said, referring to a sign he keeps in his office that says, “Those who deserve love least need it the most.”

Over three main sessions, Field shared several key ministry concepts: serve the unserved, see the unseen and small is big.

Field spoke of a train ride he once took from New York to Connecticut. Bodies were packed tightly together. A woman began making her way through the train, begging for money.

“She’s dirty,” he recalled thinking, admitting shame at the thought. He was dressed to impress a rich congregation and battled in himself. He didn’t want her to touch him. Emotions welled up within him, and he said it was as if God whispered, “I love her just as much as I love you.”

That was a defining moment for Field.

“[God’s] not impressed by our influence,” Field said. He encouraged the women to start with what they have.

“You don’t have to do everything,” he



Susan Field shares a prayer request with the women attending WMU-NC ME.

said, but urged them to start small. “We want to big things in small ways,” said Field, referencing the loaves and fishes story in the Bible.

He asked for prayer for revival and for “God to blow on the embers of our hearts again.”

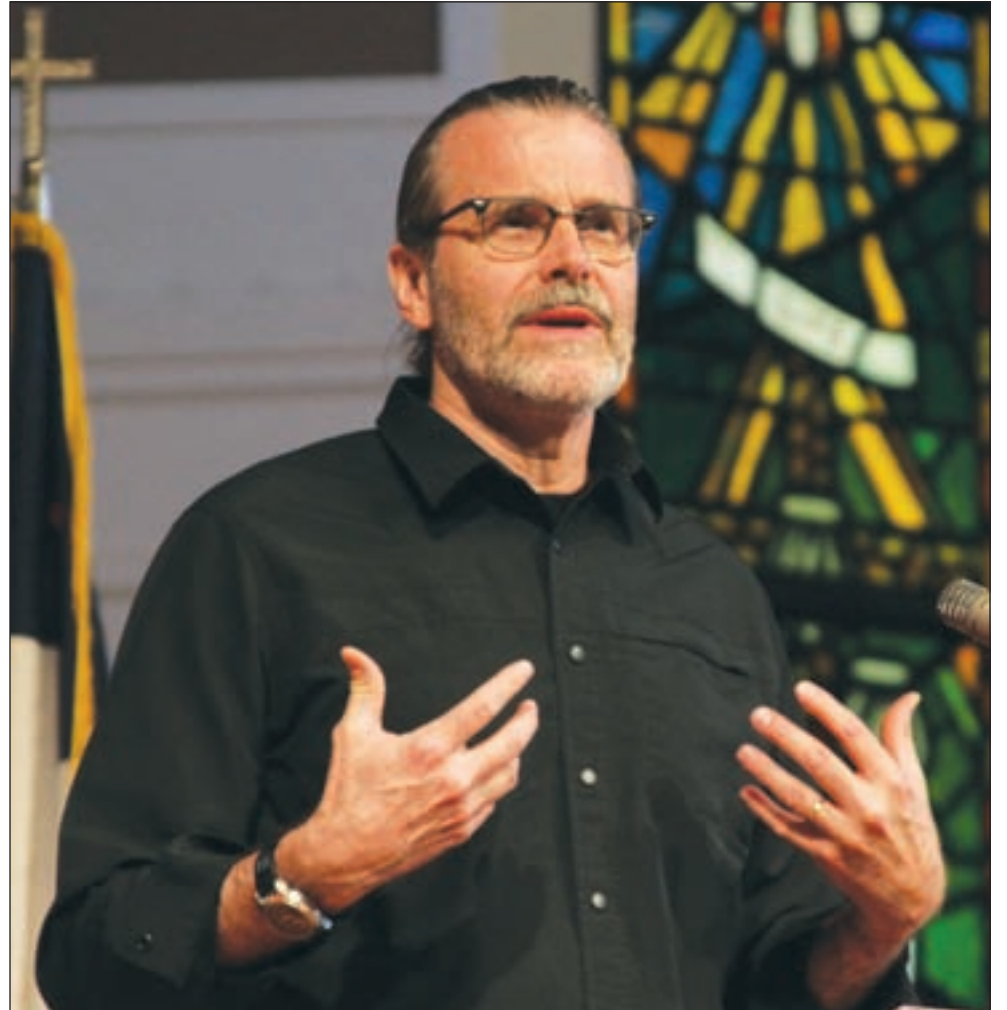
Sharing from Luke, Field talked about the kind of party Jesus wanted: inviting those everyone would least expect.

“Do not invite your friends,” Field said. “When you give a feast, invite the poor, the lame. You will be blessed ... because they cannot pay.”

Rosalie Hunt, a former missionary and author who lives in Alabama, shared during the program as well and in breakout sessions about her upcoming book about Fannie E.S. Heck. Heck was integral in the foundation of WMU. The book is expected to be released in 2019.

An offering collected raised \$7,925.78 for ministries of WMU-NC as well as Operation Bandanas, a ministry that gives military service members a camouflaged bandana with Psalm 91 printed on it.

Participants approved the 2018 budget of \$935,031 for total costs for WMU-NC and operation of Camp Mundo Vista and projected budget for 2019 of \$915,031.



Taylor Field shares about the four basic words that his ministry in New York is based on: Meet the need first. Field was the main speaker for Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina’s Missions Extraganza April 27-28. (BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle)

Officers elected included:

- **President:** Dee Dee Moody, First Baptist Church in Salisbury;
- **Vice President:** Deborah Taylor, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Lumberton;
- **Vice President of Development:** Barbara Hill, Fairview Baptist Church in Statesville;
- **Recording Secretary:** Beth McDonald, McDonald Baptist Church in Rockingham; and
- **Assistant Recording Secretary:** Alison Markwood, Missio Dei in Greensboro.

Members-at-large that were elected from various regions include:

- **Region 3:** Penny Gates;
- **Region 4:** Margaret Muegge and Lynn Odom;
- **Region 5:** Joyce Rogers;
- **Region 6:** Delores Thomas;
- **Region 7:** Jessica Ferguson and Norma Hollar;
- **Region 8:** Ruby Fulbright;
- **Region 9:** Candi Mains; and
- **Region 10:** Duronda Hood.

The next meeting is April 26-27, 2019, at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh. **BR**



Missionary speakers, Debbie Wohler Reasoner, left, and Chris Mauger, right, share from the Woman’s Missionary Union prayer calendar. They shared testimonies from their mission fields and the names of those whose birthdays were being celebrated those days, including Mauger’s whose birthday was April 27. Rosalie Hunt, center, leads a breakout session on North Carolinian Fannie Heck.



NEWS BRIEFS

‘Scout Me In’ campaign includes girls

(Baptist Press) Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is striking gender from its Scouting program titles in 2019, ushering in the change with a “Scout Me In” campaign for Cub Scouts. BSA’s advertising includes girls and boys, and is BSA’s latest move to open its programming to girls as announced in October 2017. BSA began an evolution in 2013 that extended Scouting to homosexuals, and in 2015 opened leadership and employment to gays and bisexuals. Trail Life USA (TLUSA), a Christian alternative to Scouting birthed in 2013, described BSA’s transformation as a “lost journey into the woods of co-ed political correctness.”

Mac Brunson concludes 12-year FBC Jax pastorate

(*Christian Index*) Mac Brunson, co-senior pastor of 10,000 member First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., announced his resignation April 29. Brunson said in the announcement he and his wife had come to believe in recent months “the Lord was bringing our ministry to a close here in Jacksonville.” Heath Lambert, a counseling professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, joined Brunson last fall as senior co-pastor of the Florida church. In an online statement, the church said Brunson’s announcement was in keeping with a transition plan for him and Lambert approved last September.

LifeWay named top employer for second year

(LifeWay) LifeWay Christian Resources ranked as one of the top 500 midsize employers in the U.S. (No. 196) by Forbes magazine for a second consecutive year. To determine the ranking, Forbes looks at how likely workers are to recommend their employer to someone else and how they feel about the other employers in their industry. Founded in 1891, LifeWay is one of the world’s largest providers of Christian products and services, including Bibles, books, Bible studies, church supplies and other Christian resources. The Nashville-based company owns and operates more than 170 LifeWay Christian Stores across the nation, totaling more than 5,000 employees.

EC search committee accepting nominations

(Baptist Press) Nominations are being accepted for president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, search committee chairman Steve Swofford announced May 2. Recommendations may be submitted by email at ECPresidentSearch@sbnet.net. The search committee also solicited advice on the “five most important characteristics of the next president” from SBC entity presidents, the executive director of Woman’s Missionary Union and Baptist state convention executive directors, Swofford told Baptist Press. The search committee was elected during a special meeting of the Executive Committee April 17 in Nashville to begin the process of selecting a successor to Frank S. Page, who announced his departure March 27 due to a moral failure.

Prayers, unity highlight Day of Prayer

(Baptist Press) Southern Baptist and other evangelical speakers called for, and hundreds of participants prayed for, unity in the church and country during a National Day of Prayer observance May 3 in the U.S. Capitol. The televised evening event in National Statuary Hall came near the close of the United States’ 67th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer (NDOP). Multitudes of Americans gathered in thousands of locations across the country to pray during the day. Ronnie Floyd, president of the NDOP Task Force and former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president, told the audience, “[I]t is time for the church of America to come together in unity. It is with every fiber of my bone, into the very depths of my soul, I say to you tonight with a growing burden in my heart: ‘A divided church cannot call a divided nation to unity.’”

Dave Miller, PC president, diagnosed with cancer

(Baptist Press) Iowa pastor Dave Miller, president of last year’s Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors’ Conference, has been diagnosed with kidney cancer and will undergo surgery after the SBC’s June 12-13 annual meeting in Dallas. Miller, elected SBPC president in 2016 in St. Louis, reshaped the 2017 Pastors’ Conference in Phoenix toward heightened participation by small-church leaders. He is senior pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, where he has served nearly 13 years. Miller underwent a biopsy May 1 at UnityPoint Health in Sioux City and underwent the removal of his gallbladder and spleen on May 3. In a May 7 email, Miller told Baptist Press he will undergo robotic surgery June 26 to remove a tumor from his kidney. “[A]fter a brief recuperation I have every hope of returning to even better health than I had before my recent surgeries,” he wrote.

Full stories available online at BRnow.org.

Survey weighs value of Baptist associations

By **ROGER ALFORD** | *Kentucky Today*

Most church leaders believe their financial contributions to local Baptist associations are “a good Kingdom investment” while others are struggling to see their relevance, according to findings from a national survey released in July 2017.

“When asked to describe the most exciting aspect of their local Baptist association, the most popular answer among church leaders was ‘nothing,’” said Jason Lowe, a Kentucky director of missions who led the study that looked into attitudes about the work of local Baptist associations.

Lowe, who serves the Pike Association of Southern Baptists in eastern Kentucky, said the findings weren’t all doom and gloom.

“The most encouraging finding is that there is hope among church leaders that associations can be relevant once again,” he said.

Lowe said in a 208-page report that some church leaders are questioning whether local Baptist associations are still vital or even relevant.

“I personally believe that Baptist associations can still be a relevant ministry partner to the local church,” Lowe said. “However, I recognize that not everyone shares that opinion.”

The survey, which allowed respondents to remain anonymous, was conducted in April to gain a better understanding of how Southern Baptist church leaders view the effectiveness of the associations. The survey consisted of two sets of questions for church leaders and association leaders.

Over the course of a two-week period, 448 responded to the survey. Of those, 159 were senior pastors and 116 were directors of missions. The remainder were largely church staff members, lay members, denominational or agency staff members, seminary students and church planters.

Lowe said perhaps the most significant finding was the perceived lack of value in associations.

“Only 65.6 percent of church leaders think that their local Baptist association is a strategic partner in helping their church to fulfill the Great Commission, meaning that nearly 1 out of every 3 church leaders do not think so,” according to the report. “Only 58.5 percent of church leaders think that their church would be negatively affected if their local Baptist association ceased to exist.”

However, 73.8 percent of church lead-

ers think that their local Baptist association is a good kingdom investment of their church’s financial resources.

Lowe said the churches that are most involved in the work of local Baptist associations and are most familiar with their mission and work are the most excited about their work. More than 90 percent of church leaders who are extremely involved in the work of the associations believed they were strategic partners in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Ninety percent of church leaders extremely involved in the work of the local associations said they would be negatively affected if their local Baptist associations ceased to exist.

And more than 90 percent of church leaders most involved in the work of local associations said they believed contributing financially was good kingdom investment.

“The research showed that most church leaders do believe that associations can have a future,” Lowe said. “That is if significant changes are made.”

Church leaders said they’d be motivated to increase their financial support for local Baptist associations if they could demonstrate their relevance with a clear vision and strategy.

“As an ambassador for the proclamation of the gospel, I love what is offered through the local Baptist association,” said Johnny Rumbough, executive director of missions for the Lexington (S.C.) Baptist Association, in a Facebook post Aug. 10, 2017. “The local Baptist association is a strategic missional entity that my friends and I can connect with for rapidly sharing the gospel. The association exists because a collection of churches voluntarily determine they can accomplish more together than alone. It has a unique relationship with local churches for the purpose of serving as a catalyst for churches starting new missional points, continuously offering strengthening and equipping opportunities for churches, strategically encouraging church partnering locally and globally, and equip churches for making, multiplying and mobilizing disciples for delivering the gospel to all people of the world. I love what is offered through the local Baptist association!”

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Roger Alford is editor of *Kentucky Today*, kentuckytoday.com, where this article first appeared. *Kentucky Today* is a news resource of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The *Biblical Recorder* is publishing this article in the print issue to draw attention to Baptist Association Emphasis May 20-27 in the Southern Baptist Convention.) ■

SBC: Joining the orchestra

It was June 2006 when I walked through a tunnel into the Greensboro Coliseum and first saw the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in action. I watched in awe as a sea of paper ballots rose in the air time and again, and President Bobby Welch led 11,639 messengers through two days of actions that would affect the year to come. It was like watching a symphony. But as a new member of the orchestra, I often wondered what was happening and at times was unsure of what I was doing. I knew I had a great responsibility, and I wanted to approach it with the necessary deliberation.

After those two days, I determined to never stop learning about the processes of Southern Baptist cooperation. In the words of Aaron Sorkin (and perhaps Harry S. Truman), “Decisions are made by those who show up.” But “showing up” must mean more than our mere presence. We come together to make decisions about how we will work together for the spreading of the gospel to the ends of the earth. It must involve more than raising

our hands in the air. It must involve our minds and our hearts. When we act, we should seek to understand.

The SBC is a body of people who are members of churches that have chosen to participate in cooperation with one another. When the Convention gathers to do its business, no single messenger carries more authority or privilege than another. Every vote carries the same weight, everyone sits under the same rules, and every individual has the opportunity to use his or her voice.

The SBC does not rule from the top down. Rather, it is a cooperative effort of the churches that does its business from the bottom up. The most important person in the SBC is the individual messenger, and when the deliberative assembly gathers, the denomination is doing its most important work: the work that determines the future of its cooperative ministries.

Engagement takes many forms. Whether we are giving our resources, serving with others in tough places, praying for missions, or raising a ballot, we are making

the decision to stand with others who have the same desire to see the gospel spread throughout the world.

We truly can do more together than apart, and this is best accomplished by an informed commitment to participation. It is vital that participants have accurate knowledge of how our system works. Even more so, that knowledge should inspire us to engage in the process of cooperation more deeply, so that together we may pursue the mission of Christ.

Our systems are designed to work, but our processes can get messy because we are human. Working together will always require effort and patience, and dependence on the Lord’s grace. But even in the messiest moments, I choose to stand with others because I believe our hope is real and our mission is worth the challenges.

We learn so that we can engage. We engage so that we can go on mission together.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Amy Whitfield is director of communications at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. This article is adapted from the preface to her new book with co-author Keith Harper, SBC FAQs: A Ready Reference.) ■■



AMY WHITFIELD
Guest Column

Ethnic breakdown of Gaines’ appointments released

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

This year’s Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Committee on Resolutions may be “one of the most ethnically diverse committees in the history of the SBC,” convention president Steve Gaines said in a statement announcing the ethnic breakdown of his presidential appointments.

The Committee on Committees and the tellers each include 16 percent non-Anglo members, said Gaines, pastor of Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn. The Credentials Committee includes a lower percentage of non-Anglos (4 percent) because Gaines tapped for the other three groups most of the non-Anglos who were recommended to him and willing to serve, he said.

“From the beginning, including a maximum percentage of ethnic diversity on the various committees we have appointed has been a major priority and goal in the nominations made under my leadership,” Gaines said in his statement, which was released to Baptist Press May 9.

Of the Resolutions Committee’s 10 members, four are African American, four Anglo, one Hispanic and one Asian.

Two members are female. The committee is tasked by SBC Bylaw 20 with preparing and submitting resolutions to the convention and recommending them for adoption.

“I am grateful for the ethnic diversity we have on the Resolutions Committee,” Gaines said. “It is predominantly non-Anglo and is probably one of the most ethnically diverse committees in the history of the SBC.”

Of the Committee on Committees’ 68 members, 11 are non-Anglo. Six members are female. According to SBC Bylaw 15, the Committee on Committees nominates to the convention the Committee on Nominations, which in turn nominates the members of boards, commissions and committees.

To appoint the Committee on Committees, Gaines said, “we received recommendations from across the convention, nominations sent to us by state convention executives and also those sent to us by key church leaders across the SBC. When we compiled all of those recommendations, we received approximately 200 names, 25 percent of which were non-Anglos.

“We had 68 openings to fill,” he said. “Many that we asked declined because

they did not plan to attend the convention meeting. Many others who plan to attend the convention meeting simply did not want to serve. That resulted in reducing our original percentage of 25 percent non-Anglos to the current percentage of 16.2 percent on the Committee on Committees.”

The percentage of non-Anglos serving as tellers and on the Credentials Committee is lower than Gaines had hoped, he said, “because we used most of our recommendations of non-Anglo messengers on the Resolutions Committee and on the Committee on Committees.”

Four of 25 tellers are non-Anglo and five are female. One of 27 Credentials Committee members is non-Anglo and two are female.

Tellers tabulate votes under the supervision of the registration secretary, according to Bylaw 10. The Credentials Committee is charged by Bylaw 8 with ruling “upon any questions which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers.”

“As president of the SBC,” Gaines said, “I have worked diligently to continue expanding ethnic involvement in our convention, and I’m certain my successors will do likewise.” ■■

Casual attire, no ties on tap for Dallas heat

Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines recommends casual dress at the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting amid Dallas’ oppressive heat.

“This year I am once again encouraging all messengers to the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting to dress casually,” said Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn., to Baptist Press.

“Summer temperatures in Texas can run in the 90s and men should feel free not to wear a necktie. Speakers on the platform are encouraged to dress in business casual attire. I hope this will make our annual meeting more enjoyable for all.”

Casual attire was also encouraged for the 2017 annual meeting in Phoenix, where temperatures were in the triple digits.

Dallas temperatures are forecast in the upper 80s and low 90s leading up to and during the meeting June 12-13 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center. ■■

Online Resources

News

- Biblical Recorder (brnow.org)
- Baptist Press (bpnews.net)

Livestreams

- SBC Annual Meeting (sbcanualmeeting.net)
- ERLC Pre-Conference (erlc.com)

Twitter accounts to follow

- @BRnow
- @BiblicalRecord
- @BaptistPress
- @SBCMeeting
- @IMB_SBC
- @NAMB_SBC
- @ERLC
- @SBCPastorsConf
- @HarvestAmerica

Check the @BiblicalRecord Twitter profile to subscribe to a list of SBC-related accounts.

Hashtags

- #SBC18
- #SBCAM18
- #SBCPC18 (SBC Pastors’ Conf.)
- #HarvestAmerica (Crossover)

BRnow.org

**FOR THE LATEST N.C. BAPTIST
NEWS AND INFORMATION**

First Bossier's pastor to nominate Hemphill for SBC president

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

Louisiana pastor Brad Jurkovich will nominate Ken Hemphill for president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) at the upcoming annual meeting, Hemphill told the *Biblical Recorder* in an email May 9. Supporters announced Hemphill's candidacy Feb. 1 in a news report by Louisiana's *Baptist Message*, but no information was released at that time about who would make the nomination.

Jurkovich, pastor of First Bossier in Bossier City, La., and member of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, said he is "truly honored" to nominate Hemphill

in a Twitter post May 9.

"His passion for spiritual awakening, evangelism, and the future of the SBC is stirring," he continued. "I believe he's capable, ready & has the wisdom to lead us at this critical time."

In addition to Jurkovich's promise to nominate Hemphill as the SBC's lead officer, First Bossier has been active in conversations about convention affairs in recent months.

The church hosted live interviews with Hemphill and J.D. Greear, also a candidate for SBC president. First Bossier's executive assistant, Lorine Spratt, publicly criticized SBC leaders recently in a two-part set of open

letters published by the *Baptist Message* and a Southern Baptist blog site.

Hemphill, 70, currently serves as an administrator for North Greenville University and is a member of First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, N.C. He was president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1994-2003 and national strategist from 2003-11 for the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis. Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., announced Jan. 29 that he will nominate Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., for SBC president. Q&A's with the candidates are on pages 10-11. **BR**

Second global hunger run set for Dallas

By **TOM STRODE** | Baptist Press

Messengers and others attending the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Dallas will have the opportunity to participate in the second Global Hunger Relief (GHR) Run to help feed the hungry.

A coalition of Southern Baptist organizations is sponsoring the run June 13, the second day of this year's annual meeting. All registration fees for the event – which includes a 5K race and a one-mile fun run – will be used to feed the hungry in the United States and throughout the world. Last year, 200 runners and volunteers took part in the inaugural GHR Run in Phoenix and raised more than \$5,000. GHR is a partnership of seven Southern Baptist entities that collaborate to ad-

dress hunger needs in the world. The Cooperative Program's support of SBC entities enables 100 percent of the gifts received by GHR to be used in hunger projects carried out by Southern Baptist missionaries and partners. Many churches give attention to the work of GHR, formerly known as the World Hunger Fund, on Global Hunger Sunday in October each year.

"Global Hunger Relief funds are in many ways the lifeline for Southern Baptist hunger projects around the world," said Jeff Palmer, chief executive officer of Baptist Global Response (BGR). "Through our mission agencies, churches and local Baptist partners, we already have a ready reserve of implementing partners to help respond to hunger needs when and wherever they occur."

The GHR national partners are BGR,

the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), SBC Executive Committee, International Mission Board (IMB), LifeWay Christian Resources, North American Mission Board (NAMB) and Woman's Missionary Union. They seek to keep Southern Baptists aware of the international hunger situation and to alleviate hunger through feeding programs in this country and around the world.

ERLC President Russell Moore said the GHR Run "is an illustration of the partnership that exists among the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention, working together to equip our brothers and sisters in the spread of the gospel around the world. Lives will be saved and needs will be met because of those who participate in the run."

The sponsors of the GHR Run consist not only of BGR, the ERLC, IMB, NAMB and LifeWay, but the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, GuideStone Financial Resources, Southeastern Baptist



Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Foundation, Baptist General Convention of Texas and Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Transportation will be provided for participants from the Kay Bailey Hutcheson Convention Center to Trinity Skyline Trail. Online registration and more information are available at globalhungerrelief.com/run. **BR**

★ COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines has named members of the Committee on Resolutions for the June 12-13 SBC annual meeting in Dallas. Jason Duesing of Missouri was named as the committee's chairman by Gaines. Duesing is provost and associate professor of historical theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City and a member of Antioch Bible Baptist Church in Gladstone, Mo.

The other committee members, in alphabetical order, are:

- Ken Alford, pastor, Crossroads Baptist Church, Valdosta, Ga.
- Byron Day, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Laurel, Md.
- Candi Finch, assistant professor of theology in women's studies, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; member of Hope Church, Fort Worth.
- Willie McLaurin, special assistant to the executive director, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Franklin, Tenn.; member of Simeon Baptist Church, Antioch, Tenn.
- Chris Metcalf, pastor, Lihue Baptist Church, Lihue, Hawaii.
- Jason Paredes, lead pastor, Fielder Church, Arlington, Texas.
- Adron Robinson, senior pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Country Club Hills, Ill.
- Alicia Wong, associate professor of women's ministry, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, Calif.; member of Rosena Church, San Bernardino, Ca.
- Curtis Woods, associate executive director for convention relations, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky.; member of Watson Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville.

SBC travel scholarships available to small church pastors

Baptist Press

Pastors of smaller membership churches are eligible for help with expenses for attending the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) annual meeting by applying through the Caskey Center for Church Excellence at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS).

Surplus funds from last year's Pastors' Conference costs were placed in reserve by the conference's officers and designated for convention travel scholarships for smaller membership pastors, with NOBTS' Caskey Center designated to distribute the funds.

Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. Funds must be used for flight, hotel, mileage, rental car, meals, books and resources or other convention-related expenses. If awarded, the \$1,000 check

will be mailed directly to the church with a letter designating the funds for the pastor's convention expenses.

Pastors of congregations with less than 150 in average attendance and whose churches are unable or unwilling to fund convention expenses may apply.

Applicants will be asked a series of questions to determine eligibility. Personal contact information as well as church contact information will be required. By applying, applicants agree to use the funds to attend all four SBC Pastors' Conference sessions June 10-11 as well as all of the SBC annual meeting sessions June 12-13.

Last year, 61 scholarships of \$1,000 were provided from funding generated by the Pastors' Conference, with \$24,000 from its budget overage set aside for scholarships this year.

To apply or for information, go to nobts.news/ConferenceScholarship. **BR**

Hemphill wants to restore trust, civility

Baptist Press

University administrator and former seminary president Ken Hemphill, one of two candidates to be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president in June, responded to six questions from Baptist Press (BP) and Baptist state editors.

A coalition of Southern Baptists announced the nomination Feb. 1 via a Baptist state paper.

Hemphill was president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1994-2003 and national strategist from 2003-11 for the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis, an initiative launched in 2002 calling Southern Baptists to renewed passion for God's Kingdom. Hemphill now serves as special assistant to the president for denominational relations at North Greenville University. Hemphill has also pastored churches in Kentucky and Virginia and led the Home Mission Board's (now the North American Mission Board) Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in the early 1990s.

The new SBC president will succeed Memphis-area pastor Steve Gaines, who was elected to the first of two one-year presidential terms in 2016.

A separate question-and-answer session with the other candidate – J.D. Greear – appears on page 11. BP requested each candidate to respond within 150 words to questions submitted by Baptist state editors and BP.

Q: What are some specific ways you would like to help bridge possible theological and generational differences in the SBC that Southern Baptists have expressed concerns about in recent years?

A: In order to bridge any “potential” barriers to fellowship and mutual cooperation, we must restore trust and civility in our conversations about each other. Social media gives everyone instant access to unfettered means of sharing opinions on everything.

The internet is an effective tool of communication, but it must be self-monitored by biblical standards such as “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) and avoiding unwholesome words and speaking for edification (Ephesians 4:29).

Second, we must provide opportunities for listening and discussing theologi-

cal, racial or generational differences. Local associations and state conventions can play a vital role in bringing together diverse groups of people for fellowship, respectful discussion and prayer. We must avoid labeling faithful Southern Baptists.

Third, our structure at every level of our convention must reflect and celebrate our racial and generational diversity while maintaining our core spiritual and theological convictions.

Q: Please describe why you believe support for the Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is vital to Southern Baptists' mission and vision.

A: This is a key issue that motivated me to become a candidate.

First, establishing the budget requires cooperation at every level of SBC life. It is fine-tuned by the Executive Committee and approved by messengers at the annual convention. A church's non-restricted gift through the Cooperative Program (CP) should be the norm for the sake of budgeting and planning.

Second, cooperative giving is a biblical approach to funding missions by churches who work together for kingdom-sized goals. As a funding mechanism for supporting missions, it has absolutely no peer in Christian history.

Third, CP giving and our mission offerings allow every church of every size to be an equal partner in the ministries of the state and national convention. Percentage giving is not measured by the size of the gift but the size of the sacrifice. We must celebrate percentage giving rather than actual dollars given by a particular church.

Q: What are some lessons Southern Baptist churches in the South can learn – and possibly apply to their ministries – from congregations outside of that region in more pioneer or unreached areas of the country?

A: I have been privileged to speak in many new-work areas and have learned far more than I have ever imparted.

First, we can learn the importance of working together on those things that facilitate gospel encounters. In this same vein, they teach us how to build relationships and share the story of Jesus with persons with little exposure to the gospel or Southern Baptists.

Also, we can learn from them how to do much with so little. Few of these churches have full-time or multiple staff members and many of our smaller state

conventions no longer have the equipping resources they once had, therefore they teach us to rely upon the Lord and to work with others. Because they understand the crucial nature of working together, these new-work churches are often very generous in their cooperative giving. They teach us percentage giving has greater value than flat-lined dollar amounts.

Q: What would you suggest should be changed across the convention within the next two to three years to ensure growth?

A: Let's be clear! The Lord builds His church (Matthew 16:18). He uses human instruments and expects all of us to engage in the singular mandate of the Great Commission – to make disciples. This requires going (evangelizing), baptizing (congregationalizing) and teaching (disciple-making). History shows that when our convention loses its laser-like focus on the Great Commission, we lose ground.

We must regain our kingdom focus. We are called to be a royal priesthood (Exodus 19:4-6), representing the King and advancing His kingdom to all peoples before His triumphal return. Our goal is far larger than growing our church or even our convention. We must regain the high ground of being a people on mission with God.

That means that some of our personal preferences must be put aside as we renew our minds – a kingdom mindset through churches, associations, state conventions and SBC missions and ministries. We need to revitalize the role of state convention evangelism director, invest more in campus ministries, utilize gifted evangelists and restore a passion for soul-winning.

Q: What are some ways relationships between SBC entities can be improved or strengthened?

A: There is a “hermeneutic of suspicion” in our culture today and it impacts the Christian community and our ability to cooperate. We must repent of critical attitudes and rhetoric that damage our ability to work together for the Kingdom. We must learn again to operate based on the principle of love which

chooses to believe the best and refuses to judge motives.

When you have a valid criticism, express it with kindness with a view to finding helpful solutions. We must restore “trust,” because cooperation is impossible without trust. Trust and mutual care can only happen when we sit down together, discuss issues, pray and work for a solution. We must relearn the art of “pulling for each other.” We need to work to establish situations that produce “win/win” outcomes. As scripture indicates, when one member suffers, we all suffer together and when one succeeds we all succeed. SBC entities must be transparent and responsive to its constituents.

Q: In the wake of the #MeToo movement and numerous sex-related scandals that have impacted our nation, including Southern Baptist churches and leaders, what are some ways congregations can better respond to these issues and minister to those affected?

A: We must first teach biblical holiness as a positive alternative to the world's obsession with sexual permissiveness. We must provide biblical teaching that the body belongs to the Lord and is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We must train church leaders concerning the importance of safety and security. Such measures include adopting strong policies, properly reporting and taking seriously the claims of those indicating abuse. Churches should create accountability groups where a mentor or a mature friend has permission to ask the hard questions about what we are listening to, reading and watching.

The sexual abuse of women and children should never be tolerated or left unpunished. When church leaders/members are guilty, action needs to be swift and decisive. If someone experiences moral failure, the church must respond with biblical discipline that has as its ultimate goal the restoration to fellowship of the repentant offender (2 Corinthians 2:7-8).

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Compiled by Shawn Hendricks, editor of Baptist Press. With reporting by David Roach, chief national correspondent.) **BR**

PEW UPHOLSTERING & REFINISHING
REVERSIBLE PEW CUSHIONS
NEW PEWS CARPETING
COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
1-800-289-7397
Church Interiors Inc.
The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialists
High Point, North Carolina
www.churchinteriors.com

Kivett's - Your Source for Renewal

Complete Renovations • Refinish
 New Pews • Steeples • Stained Glass
 Steeple Cleaning • Baptistries

www.kivetts.com
KIVETT'S INC.
The Largest Family Owned
 Church Furniture Manufacturer in the US

1-800-334-1139 • Clinton, NC

Greear desires unity based on gospel, BFM

Baptist Press

North Carolina pastor J.D. Greear, one of two candidates to be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president in June, responded to six questions from Baptist Press (BP) and Baptist state editors.

Florida pastor Ken Whitten announced Greear's nomination for SBC president Jan. 29. During the 16 years Greear has pastored The Summit, worship attendance has grown from 610 in 2002 to just under 10,000, according to statistics available through the SBC's Annual Church Profile.

Total baptisms increased from 19 in 2002 to 631 in 2017 at the church's nine campuses. The Summit has planted 248 churches to date, including 208 outside the U.S., with a goal of starting 1,000 churches in 50 years.

The new SBC president will succeed Memphis-area pastor Steve Gaines, who was elected to the first of two one-year presidential terms in 2016.

A separate question-and-answer session with the other candidate – Ken Hemphill – appears on page 10.

BP requested each candidate to respond within 150 words to questions submitted by Baptist state editors and BP.

Q: What are some specific ways you would like to help bridge possible theological and generational differences in the SBC that Southern Baptists have expressed concerns about in recent years?

A: The basis of our unity in the SBC has always been the gospel and beyond that, the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM). It's what the messengers have seen fit, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to establish as the parameters of our cooperation.

Every word taught in scripture is important, but we have set the BFM 2000 as the basis of our unity and I believe that should be our guide. Whenever we let secondary or tertiary doctrines, cultural customs, or worship preferences distract or divide us, the devil wins and evangelism loses.

Q: Please describe why you believe support for the Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is vital to Southern Baptists' mission and vision.

A: Cooperation between churches for the sake of mission is why the convention exists, and that cooperation has enabled Southern Baptists to produce more church planters, more missionaries and more seminary graduates than any other group in America. Cooperative giving through the Cooperative Program (CP), Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon Offerings is a powerful and proven method for supporting Great Commission work.

As a former International Mission Board missionary and a two-time seminary graduate, I have been the beneficiary of the CP in multiple ways. In recent years our church has increasingly gotten involved in giving, and we only plan for that to continue. We want to call a

new generation of Southern Baptist churches, similarly, to rise up and engage in cooperative mission and giving. Institutions like the CP and the entities they support enable our mission efforts to have staying power, and they should be important to all Southern Baptists.

Q: What are some lessons Southern Baptist churches in the South can learn – and possibly apply to their ministries – from congregations outside of that region in more pioneer or unreached areas of the country?

A: Baptisms are down in the SBC, especially in the Southeast, where the population is growing the fastest! The answer isn't to be found in circling the wagons. It's to remember that God founded every church with sending in mind.

Many churches in the SBC have devolved from mission outposts to maintenance facilities, and as such they have lost the presence and power of Jesus. Jesus said, "If any serves me, where I am, there he will be also" (paraphrase of John 12:26).

Jesus is seeking and saving the lost. Churches in frontier regions naturally live there; all churches should return to that.

This is also where the distinction between smaller and larger churches becomes insignificant. Smaller churches often reach people in frontier areas more effectively than big ones.

Most of the churches in the New Testament, for instance, were smaller, but the impact they made for the

SEE GREAR PAGE 15



J.D. GREAR

Our church is doing a lot!



The N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry handles hundreds of calls from senior adults who need wheelchair ramps, home repairs and more. NCBAM's staff in Thomasville then dispatches volunteers to help meet those needs. Because our church partners with other Baptists, our ministries are multiplied!

See why leading North Carolina pastors have chosen the Cooperative Program as their main missions support method. Visit www.ncbaptist.org/cp.



Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive • Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org

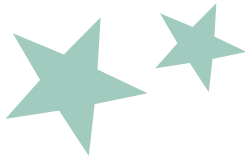
The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

Every month we help meet the needs of hundreds of senior adults across the state so they can stay in their homes.

We support the N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) through our Cooperative Program, a channel of blessings!



PROGRAM SCHEDULE



★ TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 12

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
8:15 AM	Opening Worship	Mark Blair , Convention music director; music minister, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
8:25 AM	Welcome and Call to Order Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials Committee, Tellers, and Resolutions Committee	Steve Gaines , SBC president; senior pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
8:30 AM	Scripture and Prayer	Kevin Smith , executive director, Baptist Convention of Md./Del., Columbia, Md.
8:35 AM	Registration Report and Constitution of Convention	Don Currence , SBC registration secretary; minister of children and administration, First Baptist Church, Ozark, Mo.
8:38 AM	Committee on Order of Business Report (First)	Grant Ethridge , chairman; senior pastor, LibertyLive.Church, Hampton Roads, Va.
8:43 AM	Appreciation of Volunteers	Steve Gaines
8:45 AM	Welcome to Dallas	Greg Abbott , Texas governor
8:55 AM	Honoring America and Recognition of Veterans The Pledge of Allegiance The National Anthem: "The Star-Spangled Banner" Worship	Mark Blair
9:10 AM	Crossover Report	Joel Southerland , executive director of evangelism, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.
9:15 AM	GuideStone Financial Resources Report	O. S. Hawkins , president and CEO, GuideStone Financial Resources, Dallas, Texas
9:27 AM	Introduction of New Motions (First)	Steve Gaines
9:42 AM	Executive Committee Report (Part 1)	D. August Boto , interim president; executive vice president for convention policy, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
10:12 AM	Introduction of Past Presidents	Steve Gaines
10:17 AM	Introduction of the President and Family	Randy C. Davis , president and executive director, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Brentwood, Tenn.
10:22 AM	Prayer for the President	Bill Street , minister of evangelism and discipleship, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
10:27 AM	Worship	Mark Blair
10:35 AM	President's Address	Steve Gaines
11:45 AM	Closing Prayer	Trent Gann , pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodville, Fla.

★ TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 12

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
1:15 PM	Scripture and Prayer	Bob Davis , evangelist; pastor, Beulah Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va.
1:20 PM	Special Guest	Dave Ramsey , personal finance expert; CEO, Ramsey Solutions, Brentwood, Tenn.
1:50 PM	Election of Officers (First)	
1:55 PM	Executive Committee Report (Part 2)	D. August Boto , interim president; executive vice president for convention policy, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
2:55 PM	Election of Officers (Second)	
3:00 PM	Committee on Order of Business Report (Second)	Grant Ethridge , chairman; senior pastor, LibertyLive.Church, Hampton Roads, Va.
3:10 PM	North American Mission Board Presentation	Kevin Ezell , president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.
3:40 PM	Election of Officers (Third)	
3:45 PM	Introduction of New Motions (Last Opportunity)	
4:00 PM	Committee on Committees Report	Emir Caner , president, Truett-McConnell University, Cleveland, Ga.
4:10 PM	Committee on Nominations Report	James Freeman , chairman, Country Meadows Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.
4:20 PM	Election of Officers (Fourth)	
4:25 PM	Election of Officers (Fifth)	
4:30 PM	Committee on Resolutions Report	Jason Duesing , chairman; provost, associate professor of historical theology, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.
5:05 PM	Closing Prayer	Danny Sinquefield , pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Bartlett, Tenn.

★ **TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 12**

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
6:30 PM	Committee on Order of Business Report (Third): Election of 2019 Convention Preacher, Alternate Preacher, and Music Director	Grant Ethridge , chairman; senior pastor, LibertyLive.Church, Hampton Roads, Va.
6:45 PM	An Evening of Prayer and Worship	Mark Blair , Convention music director; music minister, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
	Special Guest	Ravi Zacharias , president, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Alpharetta, Ga.
8:30 PM	International Mission Board Commissioning Service	David Platt , president, International Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
9:15 PM	Closing Prayer	Rick Lance , executive director/treasurer, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, Prattville, Ala.

★ **WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 13**

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
8:15 AM	Opening Worship	Mark Blair , Convention music director; music minister, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
8:25 AM	Scripture and Prayer	Sonny Tucker , executive director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Little Rock, Ark.
8:30 AM	Committee on Order of Business Report (Fourth)	Grant Ethridge , chairman; senior pastor, LibertyLive.Church, Hampton Roads, Va.
8:45 AM	Previously Scheduled Business	Steve Gaines , SBC president; senior pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
9:00 AM	Woman’s Missionary Union Report	Sandra Wisdom-Martin , executive director/treasurer, Woman’s Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.
9:12 AM	North American Mission Board Report	Kevin Ezell , president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.
9:24 AM	International Mission Board Report	David Platt , president, International Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
9:36 AM	Evangelism Task Force Report	Paige Patterson , chairman; president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
9:46 AM	Worship	Mark Blair
9:55 AM	Convention Sermon	Paige Patterson
10:35 AM	Prayer of Response	Bob Pearle , senior pastor, Birchman Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas
10:40 AM	Joint Seminary Presentation and Reports	Daniel L. Akin , president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Jason K. Allen , president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. Jeff Iorg , president, Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, Ontario, Calif. Charles S. Kelley Jr. , president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La. R. Albert Mohler Jr. , president, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Paige Patterson , president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
11:55 AM	Closing Prayer	Zac Reno , pastor, The Summit Church, Benton, Ark.

★ **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 13**

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKER
2:30 PM	Opening Worship	Mark Blair , Convention music director; music minister, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
2:40 PM	Scripture and Prayer	Noah Sidhom , pastor of leadership development, web and social media, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
2:45 PM	Previously Scheduled Business	Steve Gaines , SBC president; senior pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
2:55 PM	Special Guest	Jonathan Evans , author; speaker; chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys, Dallas, Texas
3:10 PM	Presentation of Officers	D. August Boto , interim president; executive vice president for convention policy, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
3:20 PM	LifeWay Christian Resources Report	Thom S. Rainer , president and CEO, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.
3:32 PM	LifeWay Christian Resources Presentation	Thom S. Rainer
3:47 PM	President’s Panel on Stewardship	
4:25 PM	The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Report	Russell D. Moore , president, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Nashville, Tenn.
4:37 PM	The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Presentation	Russell D. Moore
4:52 PM	Closing Words and Dallas hand-off to Birmingham	Steve Gaines
4:55 PM	Closing Prayer	David Hankins , executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.

★ **CROSSOVER/HARVEST AMERICA**

A partnership with the North American Mission Board, Harvest America, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, local Baptist associations and churches will cover the community with the gospel for Crossover 2018. This will culminate in a Harvest America event June 10 at 6 p.m. at AT&T Stadium. Greg Laurie, of Harvest America, will preach. Featured music includes Chris Tomlin, Switchfoot, Crowder and Phil Wickham. A pre-event starts at 5:30 with hip-hop artists Trip Lee, Tedashii and KB. Harvest America will simulcast the main event. Visit namb.net/crossover or harvestamerica.com.

Currence to be re-nominated as SBC registration secretary

By DAVID ROACH | Baptist Press

Don Currence, a Missouri administration and children's pastor, will be nominated for a second term as Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) registration secretary, his pastor Phillip Burden announced May 8.

"It is my privilege to nominate Don Currence as registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention," said Burden, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ozark, Mo., where Currence has served on staff 25 years.

"Don exercises Christian leadership in the congregation context that reflects the character of Christ. Don serves our convention with the same fervor and commitment."

Currence was first elected at last

year's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix after serving 12 years as an assistant to former registration secretary Jim Wells. Wells did not attend the Phoenix convention amid his final days battling cancer and died a week following the annual meeting.

Prior to his service at First Baptist Ozark, Currence was on staff at churches in Missouri and Louisiana.

First Baptist Ozark gave 12.8 percent of its 2017 undesignated receipts in Great Commission Giving, including 7 percent through the Cooperative Program (CP), the church told Baptist Press.

First Baptist's total mission giving was 16.9 percent of undesignated receipts.

The church's CP giving was confirmed by the Missouri Baptist Convention and data from the SBC's An-



DON CURRENCE

nual Church Profile (ACP) database.

Great Commission Giving is a category of giving established by SBC action in 2011 that encompasses giving through CP, Southern Baptists' unified program of funding state and SBC-level ministries, as well as direct gifts to SBC entities, associational giving and giving to state convention ministries.

According to ACP, First Baptist recorded 14 baptisms last year, with an average worship attendance of 616.

Currence has been a trustee and state alumni officer for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and served in various state and associational leadership roles in Missouri and Louisiana.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and a master of church music from New Orleans Seminary.

Currence and his wife Cheta have two high school daughters. ☐

★ OFFICER NOMINEES

SBC President:

- J.D. Greear, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.
- Ken Hemphill, First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, N.C.

SBC First Vice President:

- A.B. Vines, New Seasons Church, San Diego, Calif.
- Mike Gonzales, High Point Baptist Church, Austin, Texas

SBC Second Vice President:

- Felix Cabrera, Iglesia Bautista Central, Oklahoma City, Okla.

SBC registration secretary:

Don Currence, First Baptist Church, Ozark, Mo.

SBC recording secretary:

John Yeats, Dear Creek Baptist Church, Cuba, Mo.

SBC Pastor's Conference President:

- Danny Wood, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Vestavia, Ala.

★ CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines has announced appointees to the 2018 Credentials Committee. Appointed as chairman is Greg Hyche, senior pastor of Ladonia Baptist Church in Phenix City, Ala.

Committee members are:

- Chris Baker, associate pastor, Christ Central Church, Oklahoma City
- Jaye Biles, layperson, North Richland Hills Baptist Church, North Richland Hills, Texas
- Chris Bradford, pastor, The Pathway Church, Mont Belvieu, Texas
- Tom Buck, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Lindale, Texas
- Natalie Burden, layperson, First Baptist Church, Ozark, Mo.
- Larry Craig, retired pastor, First Baptist Church, Troup, Texas
- Jason Crandall, lead pastor, City View Church, Pearland, Texas
- Glenn Davis, director of missions, Heart of Kansas Southern Baptist Association, Wichita, Kan.
- Michael Felkins, lead pastor, Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa
- Trey Graham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cache, Okla.
- Brent Hobbs, lead pastor, New Song Fellowship, Virginia Beach, Va.
- Kevin James, pastor, New Creation Bible Church, Tracy, Calif.
- Jay Johnston, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington, La.
- Greg Lakes, pastor, Pilot Knob Missionary Baptist Church, Berea, Ky.
- David LaMascus, layperson, First Baptist Church, Uvalde, Texas
- Jason Lankford, lead pastor, True North Church, Anchorage, Alaska
- William Maxwell, administrative director, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Franklin, Tenn.
- Jered Patrick, pastor, Southern Heights Baptist Church, Russellville, Ky.
- Ivy Shelton, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Waskom, Texas
- Phillip Shuford, director of missions, Tri-County Baptist Association, Nixa, Mo.
- Anthony Svaijda, senior pastor, Harvey Baptist Church, Stephenville, Texas
- Michael Taylor, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ponca City, Okla.
- John Turner, pastor, First Baptist Church, Galveston, Texas
- Robert Wilson, director of missions, Enon Baptist Association, Ardmore, Okla.
- Jim Wolfe, pastor, Ridge Avenue Baptist Church, West Monroe, La.
- Tony Wolfe, director of pastor/church relations, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Grapevine, Texas

★ TELLERS COMMITTEE

Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines has named tellers for the SBC 2018 annual meeting June 12-13 in Dallas. John Herring, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Prosper, Texas, will chair the tellers.

Also appointed as tellers are:

- Jay Adkins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Westwego, La.
- Nathan Butler, director of missions, Smoky Hill Baptist Association, Concordia, Kan.
- Daphiney Caganap, layperson, New Seasons Church, Spring Valley, Calif.
- Seneca Calhoun, layperson, North Garland Baptist Fellowship, Richardson, Texas
- Johnny Derouen, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Muskogee, Okla.
- Jason Gray, lead pastor, Redeemer Church, Abilene, Texas
- Patrick Latham, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Lawton, Okla.
- Chad Leutwyler, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Leonard, Texas
- Chris Liebrum, director, Office of Cooperative Program Ministry, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas
- Mike Manning, pastor, First Baptist Church, White Hall, Ark.
- Leslie Manning, layperson, First Baptist Church, White Hall, Ark.
- Rod Minor, senior pastor, Anderson Mill Baptist Church, Austin, Texas
- Charles Moore, senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky.
- Rusty Mott, pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Kountze, Texas
- Joe Nogalski, pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, New Haven, Mo.
- Joyce Nogalski, layperson, Memorial Baptist Church, New Haven, Mo.
- Cary Perin, lead pastor, City View Church, Alvin, Texas
- Tommy Reed, pastor, Fitzpatrick Baptist Church, Prestonburg, Ky.
- JC Rico, field ministry strategist (part-time), Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Grapevine, Texas
- Jacob Speight, layperson, First Baptist Church, Waskom, Texas
- James Swain, equipping team leader, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
- Brad Walker, pastor, Beinsburg Baptist Church, Benton, Ky.
- Jeanetta West, layperson, North Garland Baptist Fellowship, Garland, Texas
- Gregg Zachary, senior associate pastor, Mobberly Baptist Church, Longview, Texas

Greear

Continued from page 11

Great Commission was nothing short of miraculous.

Q: What would you suggest should be changed across the convention within the next two to three years to ensure growth?

A: We need (1) to focus again on the priority of the gospel as the basis of our unity and evangelism as our mission; (2) to make way for ethnic leaders to lead us in reaching a changing demographic; (3) to make it easy for churches to get involved in church planting, here and abroad; (4) to mobilize a generation of college students to live on mission, and (5) to increase involvement in the CP. We can increase CP involvement in three ways.

First, call for churches to give more to the CP. (Obvious, but bears repeating.)

Second, celebrate state conventions getting money to the field. (Southern Baptists have many desires in their giving, but I believe this is dearest to their hearts.)

Third, encourage all forms of Great Commission giving. We do not, of course, want to foster a societal approach, but we need to allow churches freedom in engaging.

Q: What are some ways relationships between SBC entities can be improved or strengthened?

A: All backbiting and cynicism has to stop. We are one people with a gospel too great and a mission too urgent to focus on petty differences or territorialism between ourselves. Each entity should look at itself as the servant of the others, and most of all of as servant of the mission. Practically, this means we give each other the benefit of the doubt, assume the best in one another and extend grace just as Christ did with us.

Trustee boards should allow appointed leaders the freedom to lead, but those leaders should lead transparently and in submission to the oversight of those boards. Our trustee boards are there to offer counsel, to manage crises, and at times, to put on the brakes or re-direct the focus. In other words, boards should hold the entity heads accountable, but let them lead the charge in mission.

Q: In the wake of the #Metoo movement and numerous sex-related scandals that have impacted our nation, including Southern Baptist churches and leaders, what are some ways congregations can better respond

to these issues and minister to those affected?

A: First, we must understand that some actions are not only immoral, but also illegal. In such cases, rebuking the immorality is not enough; we need to involve law enforcement. Our government structures, Paul says, are appointed by God to keep the peace and we should submit to them.

Second, we need to become as skilled in applying the gospel to suffering as we are to sin. We must learn to listen, to seek counsel and to fight to protect the vulnerable in our flocks.

Third, we should mention the experience of abuse in our teaching. When we don't mention experiences like sexual abuse, we indirectly communicate, "the gospel doesn't apply here."

Fourth, we must insist on the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Things that grow in a secret garden always grow mutant! Pastors must be wise in not putting themselves in tempting or compromising situations.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Compiled by Shawn Hendricks, editor of Baptist Press. With reporting by David Roach, chief national correspondent.) **BR**

ERLC panel at SBC to address sexual abuse, assault

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

Sexual abuse and assault will be subjects of a panel discussion convened by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) on the eve of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 12-13 in Dallas.

The ERLC will sponsor a conversation on some of society's hottest topics during "Gospel Sexuality in a #MeToo Culture" at 9 p.m. June 11. Panelists will discuss how the gospel of Jesus guides the Christian view of such subjects not only as sexual assault, abuse and harassment but domestic violence, pornography and infidelity.

Even before June 11, the ERLC will co-host with The Village Church a two-day conference on the church's gospel engagement with the world. The event – titled "The Gospel and the Future of the Church" – will be held June 8-9 in partnership with The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) at The Village Church's Flower Mound campus in metro Dallas.

The June 11 panel discussion will come at a time when the church and country are going through a crash course regarding sub-biblical treatment of women. Recent months have seen an ongoing series of revelations of sexual harassment, abuse and misconduct by pastors in the evangelical church and prominent men in the culture. The pastoral handling of domestic abuse of Christian wives also has generated controversy recently.

"Sexual assault and sexual abuse are of the devil," ERLC President Russell Moore told Baptist Press in written comments. "If we are the people of Christ, we should lead the way to protecting the vulnerable from predators. This event

will be a conversation on how churches can prepare for and address this crisis, as well as how to minister to the many victims in our pews and in our mission field."

Panelists addressing the problems in addition to Moore will be: Trillia Newbell, author and the ERLC's director of community outreach; James Merritt, lead pastor of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth Ga., and former SBC president; and Jamie Ivey, podcaster and author from Austin, Texas. Space will be limited for the discussion, according to the ERLC. Information on and registration for the event is available at erlc.com/upcoming-events/gospel-sexuality-in-a-number-metoo-culture.

The SBC pre-conference June 8-9 at The Village Church will address how the church's ministries and outreach to the world can be gospel shaped. The speakers will address such issues as preaching, evangelism, discipleship, church planting, missions, sexuality and cultural engagement. In addition to Moore, the speakers will include: Matt Chandler, lead pastor, The Village Church; R. Albert Mohler, president, SBTS; Steve Gaines, SBC president and senior pastor, Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church; Kevin Ezell, president, the SBC's North American Mission Board; Danny Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; J.D. Greear, pastor, The Summit Church, Raleigh/Durham, N.C.; Jen Wilkin, author and Bible teacher; Thabiti Anyabwile, pastor, Anacostia River Church, Washington, D.C.; Susie Hawkins, author and speaker; and Juan Sanchez, senior pastor, High Pointe Baptist Church, Austin, Texas.

Information on and registration for the pre-conference are available at erlc.com/upcoming-events/2018-sbc-pre-conference. The main addresses will be live-streamed. **BR**

BIBLE LAND

TOURS

ADVERTISE YOUR TOUR

IS YOUR N.C. BAPTIST CHURCH OR AFFILIATED N.C. BAPTIST ORGANIZATION LEADING A BIBLICAL LEARNING TOUR? ARE THERE JUST A FEW SEATS LEFT TO FILL?

FOR ONLY \$50 PER ISSUE, THOUSANDS CAN READ YOUR AD. RUN IT TWICE AND THE THIRD AD IS FREE! IT GETS BETTER – WE'LL POST ON OUR WEBSITE, BRNOW.ORG, AT NO ADDITIONAL COST.

CONTACT ALISON AT ALISON@BRNOW.ORG OR CALL (919) 459-5691.

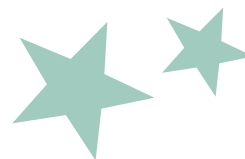
CHRISTIAN HISTORY
LIFE OF CALVIN - SEPT 24-30, 2018
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PHONE NUMBER - EMAIL

HOLY LAND
THE LIFE OF JESUS - SEPT 24-30, 2018
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PHONE NUMBER - EMAIL

CHURCHES OF ASIA
PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY - SEPT 24-30, 2018
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PHONE NUMBER - EMAIL



AUXILIARY EVENTS



2nd Generation Pastors & Planters Fellowship

June 12, 12 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room A118-A119

9Marks @ 9

June 11, 9 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Ballrooms D1-4

Tickets: 9marks.org

Asian American Fellowship

June 11, 7 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room A122-A123

Baptist21 Lunch & Panel

June 12, 11:30 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Ballrooms D1-4

Tickets: eventbrite.com/e/baptist21-lunch-panel-tickets-43628107845

Bivocational Luncheon

June 13, 11:30 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Ballroom D3

Info: (770) 757-1197

Connect 316 Celebration

June 11, 9 p.m.; Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballroom H

Tickets: buytickets.at/connect316

ERLC Panel: Gospel Sexuality in a #MeToo Culture

June 11, 9 p.m.; location forthcoming; tickets: erlc.com/events

Executive Committee Plenary

June 11, 10 a.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Trinity Ballrooms 5-7

Fellowship of Baptist World Ministries

June 11, 7:30 a.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 2, Deep Ellum A

Filipino International Mission Board Summit USA

June 13, 9 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room C141

Info: 919-524-4813

Hispanic AVANCE Meeting

June 11, 7 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Rooms A309-A310

Hispanic Baptist Pastors Alliance

June 12, 8 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Rooms A309-A310

Hispanic Fellowship of the SBC

June 11, 1 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Rooms A306-A307

Life Action Ministries

“How to Lead Your Church to Say YES to God's Vision”

June 12, 11:45 a.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballroom H

Info: mcrescenzi@lifeaction.org

LifeWay Breakfast

June 12, 7 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Ballrooms C1-4

Tickets: lifeway.com/en/special-emphasis/sbc-breakfast/

Messenger Orientation

June 11, 4:30 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Room D221

National African American Fellowship Meeting

June 11, 4 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Trinity Ballroom 3

Tickets: naafsbc.org

National African American Fellowship Banquet

June 11, 6:30 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Trinity Ballrooms 1-2, 8

Tickets: naafsbc.org

NAMB Ambassador Fellowship

June 11, 1:30 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 5, West End

Info: 770-757-1197

NAMB Chaplains Reception

June 11, 3 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room D175

NAMB Church Revitalization + Replant Lab

June 9, 5:30 p.m. – June 10, 5 p.m.

Criswell College

Tickets: sbtexas.com/namb

NAMB Race Relationships within the SBC

June 12, 8 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballroom F

Info: 770-757-1197

NAMB Send Luncheon

June 11, 11:30 a.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballrooms A-H

Tickets: sendluncheon.namb.net/events/send-luncheon-sbc-dallas

NAMB Send Network Church Planters

June 11, 1:30 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 2, Katy Trail, Info: 770-757-1197

SBC Evangelists Southwest Supper Sing-A-Long

June 11, 4:30 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Trinity Ballrooms 5-6

SBC Senders

June 11, 7 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1,

Room C144-C145

Tickets: thesummitcity.wufoo.com/forms/2018-sbc-senders-rsvp

AUXILIARY CONT.



9Marks @ 9 with SEBTS

June 12, 9 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Ballrooms D1-4

For the Church Micro-Conference (MBTS)

June 12, 11 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Ballrooms C1-4

Tickets: mbts.edu/ftcdallas

Gateway Seminary Alumni & Friends Luncheon

June 13, 12 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Ballroom D4

Tickets: eventbrite.com/gateway-friends-and-alumni-luncheon-sbc-2018-tickets-4418872465#tickets

Luther Rice Alumni & Friends

June 12, 11:45 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room C145

Tickets: lutherrice.edu/luncheon

Mid-America Seminary Alumni & Friends

June 12, 11:45 a.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballrooms F-G

Tickets: mabts.edu

Midwestern Seminary Luncheon

June 13, 12 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballroom F-G

Tickets: mbts.edu/sbclunch

Mississippi College Alumni & Friends

June 12, 5 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room C141

Info: cphillip@mc.edu

New Orleans Seminary Alumni & Friends Luncheon

June 13, 12 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Ballrooms C3-4

Tickets: nobts.edu

Samford University Alumni & Friends

June 13, 2 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room C143

Southeastern Seminary Alumni & Friends

June 13, 12 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballrooms C-E

Tickets: eventbrite.com/e/sebts-alumni-friends-luncheon-dallas-tickets-42688585709

Southern Seminary Alumni & Friends

June 13, 12 p.m., Omni Dallas – Level 3, Trinity Ballrooms 1-8

Tickets: sbts.edu

Southwestern Seminary Alumni & Friends

June 13, 12 p.m.

Omni Dallas – Level 3, Dallas Ballrooms A-B-H

Tickets: swbts.edu/events/sbc-alumni-and-friends-luncheon

Text-Driven Preaching (SWBTS)

June 10, 4 p.m. Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center

– Level 2, Ballroom C4 – Tickets: swbts.edu/TDPSBC

You @ SWBTS Cookout

June 13, 5:30-10 p.m.; registration required; transportation available

swbts.edu/extra/sbc/



Ministers' Wives Luncheon

June 12, 12 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Ballrooms A1-4

Tickets: lifeway.com/en/events/ministers-wives-luncheon

Pastors' Wives Session

June 11, 9 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Ballrooms A2-3

Southeastern Seminary Women's Leadership Breakfast

June 13, 7-9 a.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 3, Ballrooms D1-2

eventbrite.com/e/sebts-womens-leadership-breakfast-tickets-

42056074852

Tea @ 3 (SWBTS)

June 11, 2:30 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Ballrooms A1-4

Tickets: swbts.edu/tea@3

Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration

June 10, 2 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Room Theater

Tickets: form.jotform.com/80384152958161

Women & Work: Stepping into Kingdom Productivity

June 12, 7 p.m.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room C144

Info: womenwork.net



Giant Cow Ministries (Ages 5-12)

June 10-13

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 2, Hall C

Tickets: thegiantcow.com/sbc-dallas-2018-registration

Preschool Child care (Up to 4 years)

June 11-13

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center –

Level 1, Room C147

Tickets: form.jotform.com/72855592059973

Youth on Mission (Grades 7-12)

June 12-13

Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center – Level 1, Room C149

Tickets: form.jotform.com/72856078559978

May 27

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

June 3

Keep Standing

Focal Passages: Esther 8:1-8; 9:20-22

Esther's final plea to Ahasuerus was that he overturn Haman's policy of annihilation. She approached the king in humility, falling at his feet and weeping and requested the protection of her people.

The king could not overturn Haman's original order because it had his seal. But he did grant the Jews the right to defend themselves and destroy their enemies. After their victory, Mordecai led the Jewish people to memorialize the event with the feast of Purim. Remembering God's victories in the life of Israel has been common practice. Each feast, beginning with Passover, is a reflection of God's rescue, provision or gracious intervention in their history. The simple fact that the Jewish people still exist and the extent of their influence in Western history points to God as a sovereign promise keeper.

Israel has never been a world power. Even at the height of David and Solomon's kingdom, Israel had regional influ-

ence at best. Yet even secular historians recognize the seminal place Jewish theology and worldview played in the development of Western civilization.

Hitler was just another Haman who

attempted to annihilate the Jews. Anti-Semitism is still rife around the world. Yet, Israel exists. They still remember. They still reflect on the faithful God who has always protected them. The Jewish people still celebrate their feasts.

Their feasts point to something even greater – salvation through Jesus. Jesus is the Passover Lamb. Even Esther foreshadows the coming Messiah. As she bowed in humility and tears begging the king for

the lives of her people, Jesus would kneel in humility and tears in the garden before His crucifixion.

As the king could not overrule the law with his seal, God the Father could not overlook sin. So Jesus took the penalty demanded by His Father's law and became the rescue of the people He prayed for. So let us look back at Esther, see Jesus and remember our rescue.



CHRIS HEFNER
Pastor,
Wilkesboro Baptist
Church

Why Are We Even Here?

Focal passage: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

God created us to live in fellowship with Him.

Have you ever found yourself staring at the contents of an open refrigerator? Just this morning, I marched straight into the kitchen, swung wide the refrigerator door and stood there contemplating a half empty bottle of coffee creamer.

Within moments I began wondering to myself, "What in the world did I come in here for anyways?" I'll admit it. I was distracted by the details of my day. And yet, I have a sneaky suspicion I'm not the only one wasting electricity and cold air. You see, many of us have become so preoccupied by our busy schedules that we trudge through each day without ever considering why we live this life. If we were to ever pause long enough to consider our situation, it's as if we would stand at the refrigerator door of life and exclaim, "What in the world am I here for anyways?"

But praise God, scripture reminds us

this life is no accidental adventure. "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1). None of us is here by chance – we were intricately fashioned by a loving God and made in His image.

And He didn't just create us to leave us in our aimlessness. God has given us a purpose – calling us to "*be fruitful, fill the earth and subdue it*" (Genesis 1:28). We are to bring Him glory by taking care of His creation and living in relationship with Him while sharing His great Name with the world around us.

When I enter the kitchen aimlessly, there are consequences – like the size of my waist or the total on my electricity bill. But when I wander aimlessly through life, the consequences are much greater. I forfeit the opportunity to live the abundant and joyful life for which God has created me. Open my refrigerator today and you will find a sticky note right beside my coffee creamer. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "*I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance,*" and I don't plan on forgetting that!



EMILY KISTLER
Member,
Parkwood Baptist
Church, Gastonia

May 27

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

June 3

Finding Strength

Focal passages: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10; 13:2-8

Over the past five years as a lead pastor, there have been multiple occasions – even on Sunday mornings – when my physical health/stamina was greatly depleted. Sometimes that was due to physical fatigue, other times physical illness and still other times emotional exhaustion. No matter the cause, the potential outcome was the same – if God didn't demonstrate His power in the midst of my weakness, my ministry that day was going to be greatly diminished, or worse.

I am so thankful that in every one of those cases, God demonstrated His power in my weakness and accomplished His will and purpose through me.

In 2 Corinthians 12-13, Paul makes it clear that God's strength is most clearly demonstrated in the midst of our weakness. In fact, God made this truth so clear to Paul that Paul actually said he would boast about or glory in his weaknesses,

knowing that it would be through His weakness that God's power would be put on display.

There were others around Paul who were claiming their own power and strength and claiming that Paul's ministry was weak and worthless. Just as

Jesus had walked in personal meekness and physical weakness during His earthly ministry while demonstrating the Spirit's power, so Paul too acknowledged personal weakness to allow God's power to be evident in/through him. He would even challenge his naysayers to examine their own lives to see if there was any spiritual power and fruit – evidence of redemption – being manifested in them.

Where do you seek to find your strength? The reality is, we are all weak. Let's not, then, try to hide our weaknesses, but rather quickly acknowledge them, finding strength in God and allowing His power to be shown through our weakness.

That is how He will receive glory, which should be our greatest desire!



RANDY MANN
Pastor,
Central Baptist Church,
Henderson

Respected

Focal passages: 2 Samuel 1:22-27; 2:1-7

The books 1-2 Samuel narrate the establishment of the kingship in Israel. Samuel transitions the nation into a monarchy by first anointing Saul and later David as Israel's first kings. Though Saul felt threatened by his successor to the throne, the younger David always respected and honored the Lord's anointed ruler who came before him.

It isn't always easy to show respect to the person in charge, especially when they want you dead! Perhaps we don't agree with decisions made by our boss, pastor or leader in government. Maybe you think you could do a better job.

Without much effort, you can find yourself rejoicing in their shortcomings and failures.

Yet, David tore his clothes in anguish upon hearing that Saul and his son Jonathan had been slain in battle. He also composed a song of lament to give words to a nation in mourning for two of its

most praised leaders (2 Samuel 1:19-27). David punished the one who killed Saul and rewarded those who recovered his body.

God would redeem this tragedy as he led David to go up to the place of the Patriarchs, Hebron, to begin his reign as Israel's king. David prayed to the Lord following the death of Saul, and followed obediently in the way God directed. The coming chapters describe the military success of King David, but in the end even he would sin against God and His people.

When Israel asked Samuel to appoint a man to lead them, they were rejecting God as their king (1 Samuel 8:7). But God's redemptive plan for Israel could not be stopped.

Genesis 49:10 says, "*The scepter will not depart from Judah or the staff from between his feet until He whose right it is comes and the obedience of the peoples belongs to Him.*" This speaks of another rejected king, Jesus, who would come from the line of David and reign in an eternal Kingdom, and receive the highest praise (2 Sam 7:16; Phil 2:9-11).



LOGAN SIDES
Local Missions Director,
Calvary Baptist Church,
Winston-Salem

AROUND THE STATE

Staff changes

DANIEL DICKARD has been called as pastor to Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, Greensboro. Dickard previously served as the dean of students at Southwestern Seminary, where he earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees. He and his wife, Cassie, have two children.

Dobson First Baptist Church has called **BRENDON CROWE** as associate pastor. This is his first job in the ministry. He earned a bachelor of arts from North Greenville University and is currently pursuing a master of divinity degree at Southeastern Seminary.

MYRA PHILLIPS has been called as ministry assistant for the Ashe Baptist Association, West Jefferson. She previ-

ously served as ministry assistant at Bald Mountain Baptist Church, West Jefferson, for 12 years.

Anniversary

On June 3, Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Durham, will honor its senior pastor, **JEFFREY M. MCCARTHY**, for his 25th ministry anniversary. The worship service will include a love offering and a sermon by Charles “Charlie” Cooper, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Sylvania, Ga., who was McCarthy’s pastor when he came to Christ in 1988 in Savannah, Ga. There will also be a fellowship meal. He first served seven years as associate youth/education minister before his 18 years as senior pastor. A native of Bessemer City, N.C., he graduated from Western Carolina University (1982) and Southeastern Seminary (1993).

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

The Baptist State Convention is hosting 2018 Happiness Retreats at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia. These are three-day, two-night retreats for people of all ages with developmental disabilities and delay, ranging from mild to severe. It is set up similar to a Vacation Bible School event and includes Bible study, puppets, creative movement, pool time, handbells, worship, a talent show and a live band. Campers will have many opportunities to learn about Jesus at their unique level of ability. Cost ranges from \$165-175 per person depending on 2-4



person occupancy. Cost includes lodging, meals, registration costs, insurance and a T-shirt. Available dates are July 27-29, July 29-31, Aug. 1-3 and Aug. 3-5. Register by June 21. Visit ncbaptist.org/happiness.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Stallings Memorial Baptist Church in Salisbury, NC, is seeking a **full-time Pastor**. Being a mission minded Southern Baptist church, we are searching for the man that God desires to lead our church into the future with an emphasis on evangelism and missions. Applicants should be SBC ordained with a seminary education from one of the SBC seminaries and affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Send résumés to Pastor Search Committee, PO BOX 483, Rockwell, NC 28138, or smbcpastorsearchcommittee@gmail.com.

Senior Pastor opening at Lakeview Baptist Church near Monroe, NC. Needs to have a minimum of 5 years ministry experience and a master’s of divinity from an accredited seminary. We are a theologically conservative congregation that supports the Cooperative Program. Please send résumé by mail to Pastor Search, Lakeview Baptist Church, 4602 Concord Hwy., Monroe, NC 28110, or by email at pastorsearch@lakeviewfamily.org.

First Baptist Church, Reidsville, a multi-generational church of 175 worshippers, is searching for a **Senior Pastor** with the ability to lead a mission-minded congregation in a growing community. Candidates must have excellent leadership and preaching skills, along with experience in supervising ministry and support staff. Minimum educational requirements are a M.Div., M.A. in Christian ministry or theology with at least 5 years of previous pastorate or ministry experience. Send résumé and statement of Christian journey, including why God may be preparing for a new ministry to: First Baptist Church of Reidsville, 409 S. Main St., Reidsville, NC 27320, or mgcollins@triad.rr.com.

Immanuel Baptist Church, located in the heart of Durham, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **pastor** who will guide us beyond our four walls and in to the growing community. Average attendance Sunday is 50 people. Salary and benefits package: \$31K-\$40K. Please submit résumés to cheryl@visitimmanuel.org. Website: www.visitimmanuel.org.

New Hope Baptist Church (newhoperaleigh.org) seeks a **senior pastor** and shepherd that has a heart for all people and desires to lead New Hope in accomplishing great things for Christ locally, regionally and internationally. We are an active and diverse church with both contemporary and traditional worship services and strong missional focus. We are a moderate church that supports giving to both the CBF and the SBC and are a member of the RBA. Candidates with leadership experience, Baptist church ministry experience and an MDiv degree from an accredited seminary are preferred. Interested candidates should submit their résumé by email to nhbcpastorsearch2018@gmail.com before June 15, 2018.

BRnow.org

Church Staff

Macedonia Baptist Church is currently receiving résumés for the position of **part-time Worship Leader**. Music ministry experience and/or music education will be taken into consideration. To receive a job description or submit a résumé email pastorsetzer@yahoo.com. Send by mail to 5286 E Hwy 150, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Concord Baptist Church, a vibrant and growing church in Anderson, SC, is seeking an **Associate Pastor for Worship and Music**. This person must have the calling, gifting, training and heart to lead a large and diverse ministry of worship. We are excited about our future! For a job description and/or to submit a résumé/profile, please contact jjames@concordbaptist.com. Please also visit concordbaptist.com for more information about our congregation.

Calvary Baptist Church in Salisbury is seeking a **full-time Minister of Music and Education**. We are a conservative church, and we desire to be blended in our worship style. Please submit résumés to scottfaw710@yahoo.com or Calvary Baptist Church, 2255 East Ridge Road, Salisbury, NC 28144.

Easley First Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time Minister/Director to Children and Families**. 4 yr degree & experience required; Graduate study preferred. Web www.efbc.org/jobs. Submit résumés to: childrensministersearch@efbc.org.

Dutch Cove Baptist is seeking a **full-time Worship Pastor** responsible for providing creative, edifying leadership to our worship and spiritual formation ministries as we fulfill our mission of making disciples who multiply the church in our generation. Our worship ministry includes skilled singers and musicians in our band and choir and a multi-generational worship with modern and traditional elements. The ideal candidate will have excellent musicianship and voice skills and a degree in music or equivalent ministry experience. Visit dutchcovebaptist.org/opportunities for more details about this ministry position. Please email résumés to welcome@dutchcovebaptist.org.

Denominational

The *Biblical Recorder* has an opening for a **part-time Editorial Aide**. The job involves posting material on the website, proofing, researching and writing. Some assignments can be done remotely and some require in-office tasks. Approximately 20-25 hours weekly. Please submit a résumé in a Word document format to Allan Blume, editor, at editor@brnow.org. For more information about the *Biblical Recorder* visit BRnow.org/About-us/Who-we-are.

Miscellaneous

NCBAM needs servant volunteers who like to mow, trim, rake, and bless others. Help aging adults enjoy quality life in their own backyards. Call North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry: 877-506-2226.

Placing a classified ad in the *Biblical Recorder*

Choose one of three avenues:

- Send e-mail to: alison@BRnow.org.
- Purchase ads at BRnow.org/Advertise.
- Send a Fax to (919) 467-6180.

For more information, call the office at (919) 459-5691.

Cost for Baptist churches/organizations is \$1.25 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.45 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds also are carried online.

ADVERTISE – (919) 459-5691

Does your church have the **BR**ad✓antage?

- ✓ Is everyone in your church getting the ***Biblical Recorder***?
- ✓ Is everyone in your church following the latest news on ***BRnow.org***?
- ✓ Have they downloaded the free ***BR app***?
- ✓ Are they getting the free ***BRweekly*** e-newsletter every Wednesday morning?

Let's be honest, you need an advantage. The *Biblical Recorder* exists to serve you. The news and information we provide your church family supports the biblical worldview they receive from the pastor's preaching and Bible study groups. That's an advantage they need.
That's an advantage you need.



Did you know that 50% of adults prefer printed news over digital news outlets?
A group subscription plan of the printed *Biblical Recorder* is economical. Call Liz today at (919) 459-5693 or email liz@BRnow.org.