

BIBLICAL RECORDER

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‘Healthier culture’ sought at SBC Executive Committee

By SETH BROWN | BR Executive Editor

The Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) announced Oct. 16 that it is reorganizing its communications department and seeking new editorial leadership for its news outlet, Baptist Press.

The announcement came the day after Baptist Press apologized for mishandling a news report about sex abuse allegations brought by LifeWay employee Jennifer Lyell against David Sills, former professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

EC President Ronnie Floyd said changes were needed to “create a healthier culture” both inside the organization and across the national convention of churches.

Jonathan Howe, the EC’s new vice president for communications, said the organization is developing policies to ensure Baptist Press reports on sex abuse and other important topics “with the greatest integrity, truth and accuracy.”

Sing Oldham, who formerly served as vice president for communications, transitioned to vice president for convention relations on Sept. 5.

The EC had already seen three key staff departures in the months preceding the reorganization announcement: David Roach, former national correspondent; Art Toalston, former senior editor

See Healthier page 8

WHAT’S INSIDE

Milton Hollifield: BCH provides children with ‘Hope & Future’	2
Greenway inaugurated as ninth Southwestern president ...	3
Faculty affirm women colleagues	3
Digital resources for BSC annual meeting available	5
Karen Swallow Prior to join SEBTS faculty	6
NCBAM celebrates 10 years	7
IMB values partnerships, Chitwood tells advocates	8
Classifieds	11

Raleigh churches partner with ERLC to donate ultrasound machine



Raleigh Women’s Clinic staff and volunteers, along with leaders from Raleigh churches, join Russell Moore, ERLC president, in a dedication ceremony. (ERLC photo by Rebecca Hankins)

Biblical Recorder

Six North Carolina Baptist churches helped provide an ultrasound machine for Human Coalition’s Raleigh Women’s Clinic in partnership with the Psalm 139 Project, an initiative of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). The 3D-4D ultrasound equipment was dedicated in a ceremony Oct. 24 featuring clinic leaders and ERLC President Russell Moore.

Speaking from Mark 10:13-16 during the ceremony, Moore highlighted how Jesus recognized the value of vulnerable people that are often overlooked.

He encouraged clinic workers to remember that many of the “storylines” of mothers and children they serve will impact generations to come.

“God is going to use them in ways that you won’t be able to see or trace,” Moore said.

Partnering churches included North Wake Church, Wake Forest, N.C.; The Summit Church, Raleigh, N.C.; Imago Dei Church, Raleigh,

N.C.; Faith Baptist Church, Youngsville, N.C.; Bay Leaf Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C.; and Crossroads Fellowship, Raleigh, N.C.

The Psalm 139 Project is an initiative of the ERLC that began in 2004 to help pregnancy resource centers secure ultrasound machines and provide training.

Raleigh Women’s Clinic workers said they were excited to have the new machine. Clinic director Amber Arias said clear images of babies in the womb allow mothers to “connect” with their children.

She also said it gives clinic workers “the ability to send them home with beautiful pictures.”

The Raleigh Women’s Clinic has reported 283 “life decisions” so far in 2019.

“We love Human Coalition and their continued pursuit of the vulnerable women and children of America,” said Lori Francis, director of sending at The Summit.

“They have been an invaluable partner in this

See Machine page 12

Same mission, new era

The *Biblical Recorder* has a new look. Take a minute to browse this debut issue. The overall layout is similar to what you are accustomed to, but you will also discover design changes that were made with you in mind. To help you take it all in, below are four observations about our branding updates.

1) Our logo is different, mostly.

In recent years, the *Biblical Recorder* has built a reputation for reliability and innovation. Southern Baptists in North Carolina and beyond come to us as a trusted source of information. Yet, many of our readers also appreciate how we “come to them” by

reporting the latest news and opinions through a variety of digital media platforms.



SETH BROWN
BR Executive Editor

Our new design is meant to represent both elements. You will recognize our signature “BR” mark and red accent color, paired with a modern font and circular logo that integrate well with social media platforms and other digital applications. Our goal is to attract a new generation of digital-first readers, while continuing to cultivate a brand that reso-

nates with our long-time N.C. Baptist partners.

2) Our newspaper is more readable.

Readers have been at the center of

all our design conversations. We are here to serve you, so our team set out to develop a new layout that conveys the maximum amount of news in the most accessible format.

We increased font sizes, widened margins and worked hard to design a newspaper that is informative and easy on the eyes. We hope the new print edition is a product that you enjoy.

3) Our brand is more consistent.


In the coming days, you will discover an all-new website, weekly newsletter and social media accounts. Each platform's identity has been developed to complement the others.

Our goal is for readers to feel at home with their trusted news source whether they are reading our printed newspaper, browsing our website

or scrolling through social media timelines. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements.

4) Our mission is the same.

We help churches work together to make disciples of all nations. The fundamental purpose of the *Biblical Recorder* has not changed. We still believe the local church is God's “Plan A” for reaching a lost world, and as North Carolina Baptists, we believe we are more effective working together than we are alone. Our primary purpose as a news outlet is to promote partnerships that help local churches fulfill the Great Commission together.

I want to personally invite you to send us feedback on the new design. Email editor@BRnow.org to let us know what you think. 

BCH provides children with ‘Hope & Future’

The Book of James has often been described as “the gospel in shoe leather” because it provides numerous practical examples of how we are called to live out our faith in the world. At the outset of the book, James writes, “*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world*” (James 1:27). Caring for the less fortunate and pursuing personal holiness are two themes that recur throughout the pages of the book.

One of our most significant ministry partnerships is with the Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) of North Carolina, which provides countless opportunities for us to put the gospel on display. BCH was founded by John Mills of Thomasville on Nov. 11, 1885, to “provide the highest quality of Christian services to children, adults, and families in a caring culture of measurable excellence.”

The original vision of the Baptist Children's Homes is still being lived out today, thanks to your prayers and support. In 2018, nearly 16,800 boys and girls in North Carolina were removed from

their families because of abuse, neglect and addiction issues that crippled parents. Baptist Children's Homes welcomes these children into caring cottage homes and foster care family homes where compassionate adults not only take care of their every need, but they also share with them the unconditional love of Jesus.



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
Baptist State Convention
of North Carolina executive
director-treasurer

There are many ways you can support and get involved with the ministry of the Baptist Children's Homes. One way is through your prayers and financial gifts during the BCH annual offering in November. This year's offering theme is “Hope & Future” based on Jeremiah 29:11. The operation of this ministry requires much greater financial support than what Baptist Children's Homes receives through the Cooperative Program, so I encourage you to give a generous gift as a family to support the Thanksgiving offering. Lead your family to pray for Michael Blackwell, his staff and the children who are in their care.

Your gifts to the BCH through this special offering impacts the lives of children, families and

See BCH page 9



BCH Week of Prayer

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina Week of Prayer is Nov. 10-17. Here is a prayer guide for each day.

- **Sunday** – Pray for children and families in your community and across North Carolina.
- **Monday** – Pray for the thousands of lives BCH serves each year through its 21 NC locations.
- **Tuesday** – Pray for the cottage parents, care givers, chiefs, foster parents and staff who give of themselves around the clock to care for boys and girls.
- **Wednesday** – Pray God will lead couples to be foster parents through BCH's family foster care ministry.
- **Thursday** – Pray for the men and women who live at BCH's nine statewide homes for intellectual & developmentally disabled adults.
- **Friday** – Pray for orphans at Good Shepherd Ministries in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
- **Saturday** – Pray for BCH president/CEO Michael C. Blackwell as he leads the ministry.
- **Sunday** – Pray that the children and families BCH ministers to will come to know Jesus as their Savior. 



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Child transgender treatment opposed

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

Southern Baptist ethicists expressed their deep concern about the gender transitioning of children after a Dallas judge's ruling appeared to clarify no such procedure would be performed on a 7-year-old boy in a controversial case.

Judge Kim Cooks continued the joint custody arrangement of the twin sons of James Younger and Anne Georgulas in a ruling Oct. 24, according to news reports. She said both parents must agree for any gender transition treatment to go forward on the son at the center of the case.

Cooks' decision came three days after a jury recommended Georgulas be granted "sole managing conservatorship" of her sons, according to LifeSite-News.

The jury decision fueled concerns Georgulas would thereby be able to transition one of the sons to a female, apparently by means of puberty block-

ers and cross-sex hormones, LifeSite reported.

Younger opposes such treatment and has contended his former wife is transitioning the boy despite their son's opposition.

Records demonstrate, however, Georgulas had requested the court require the consent of her husband before any such treatment was carried out, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Her petition said the boy is not old enough for treatment "with hormonal expressions, puberty blockers, and/or transgendered reassignment surgery," according to the report.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), told Baptist Press (BP), "While we don't yet know all the specifics of the case in the broader custody battle between this mother and father, any sensible person ought to see that a 7-year-old should not be subjected to the trauma of hormonal puberty blockers.


"As Christians, we believe that the categories of

male and female correspond with our createdness, not apart from it," he said in written comments.

"But even those who disagree with us should see that expecting a child to undergo such a dramatic and life-altering procedure cannot possibly be right. Let's pray and work for saner times."

Andrew Walker – the ERLC's senior fellow in Christian ethics and a newly appointed associate professor of Christian ethics and apologetics at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – said the case serves as a cautionary tale.

"This story is a warning of what's to come if the effort to deny essential maleness and femaleness is not confronted," Walker told BP in written remarks. "Our gender is not severable from our biological sex. Stories like this will only proliferate as society continues its lurch toward moral insanity.

"Christians must be ready to offer a joyful witness that God makes men and women in His image for their good and for society's prospering." 

Greenway inaugurated as ninth Southwestern president

By JAMES A. SMITH SR. & ALEX SIBLEY | SWBTS

Four Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entity heads charged Adam W. Greenway to remain committed to a high view of scripture, confessional fidelity, the Great Commission and cooperation during Greenway's inauguration as the ninth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) Oct. 21.

The above four elements represented the four pegs of Greenway's vision for SWBTS as the "big-tent" seminary of the SBC. Greenway was elected the seminary's ninth president earlier this year.

Attendees included other SBC entity heads, representatives of more than a dozen seminaries and universities, and various state Baptist convention leaders. Three individuals shared greetings, including SBC President J.D. Greear, senior pastor of The Summit Church in the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., area.

O.S. Hawkins, president and CEO of GuideStone Financial Resources, delivered the first charge, exhorting Greenway to recognize his stewardship of SWBTS as "a sacred trust." The institution beloved by many, he said, has stood on the Word of God for more than 100 years.

"We look back tonight at the great and rich heritage we have of sending those multiplied thousands of people out with no doubts about the Word of God," Hawkins said.

"And we look forward to a bright future of once again seeing this faculty and those who will come to join it train future generations to do the same thing."

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, noted the responsibility of all seminary presidents to remain faithful to their institutions' statements of faith – in the case of Southern Baptists, the Baptist Faith and Message.

"On behalf of Southern Baptists, you have to do this for the rest of your life," Mohler said to Greenway. "This is a life sentence to maintain the pattern of sound words, until one day, each in our own time, we each lay that burden down; and if we do our task well, and have handed on that pattern securely, then there will be another to take the place and to maintain that trust."

Mohler added, speaking on behalf of the presidents of all the SBC seminaries, that though they woke up that morning as leaders of six different institutions "bearing the stewardship and responsibility to serve one great denomination of churches," tonight, "all Southern Baptists are Southwesterners."


Following Mohler was Paul H. Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board (IMB), who encouraged Greenway to maintain a vision for raising up and sending out missionaries of the gospel.

Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, delivered the final charge, speaking on the topic of cooperation.

"We can do more together than we can do alone," Floyd said.

"Southern Baptists, let us choose cooperation. Let us choose cooperation over isolationism, cooperation over independence, cooperation over competition, and cooperation over tribalism."

"Southwestern Seminary has been uniquely and sovereignly placed in one of the greatest, most influential regions in the United States and the entire world, and standing upon the history of our past, we gaze toward our future," Floyd said.

In his inaugural address, Greenway pledged to lead "one Southwestern" from four "vantage points": institutionally, denominationally, relationally and ultimately. 



Adam Greenway addresses the crowd at his inauguration as Southwestern Theological Seminary's ninth president. (SWBTS photo)


Faculty affirm women colleagues

By JONATHAN HOWE | Baptist Press

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) faculty issued a resolution of support for their colleagues Katie McCoy and Terri Stovall Oct. 23.

The resolution was requested by Malcolm Yarnell, SWBTS research professor of systematic theology.

The message, which criticized

McCoy and Stovall, was sent by Scott Colter to a defunct SWBTS address formerly used by Dorothy Patterson. The faculty unanimously adopted the resolution in response to an email provided to seminary trustees at the fall meeting Oct. 21-22. McCoy serves as assistant professor of theology in women's studies while Stovall is dean of women and professor of women's ministries. 

SCHEDULE

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) annual meeting Nov. 11-12 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, here is the proposed schedule of the meeting:

Monday evening, Nov. 11

- 2 p.m. Registration opens
- 3:30-4:30 Breakout session 1
- 6 General session 1
- 6:15 Call to order – Steve Scoggins
Prayer – Nicholas Muteti; pledges – Faith Ann Revis
Committee on Convention Meetings – Larry Burns
- 6:35 Partnership introductions:
North Carolina Baptists on Mission – Richard Brunson;
Office of Great Commission Partnerships – Zac Lyons
- 6:45 Worship through music – King’s Cross worship team
Scripture reading and prayer – Quintell Hill
- 7 Chuch planting celebration; president’s address – Steve Scoggins
- 8:30 Benediction – M.C. Ko

Tuesday morning, Nov. 12

- 8:20 a.m. General session 2
Worship through music – BeDoTell worship team
- 8:30 Call to order – Steve Scoggins
Scripture reading and prayer – Robert Welch
- 8:45 Institution and agency reports:
North Carolina Baptist Foundation – Clay Warf;
N.C. Baptist Hospital – Leland Kerr;
Baptist Children’s Homes of N.C. – Michael C. Blackwell;
Biblical Recorder – Seth Brown
- 9:15 Board of Directors report – Melanie Wallace
- 9:55 Miscellaneous business
- 10:10 Worship through music – BeDoTell worship team
- 10:20 Executive director-treasurer address – Milton A. Hollifield Jr.
- 10:50 Benediction – Miriam T. Acevedo
- 11-12 Breakout session 2

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 12

- 1:20 p.m. General session 3
- 1:25 Call to order – Steve Scoggins
Scripture reading and prayer – James Khankhothang
- 1:40 Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina report – Amy Pardue Boone
- 1:55 Election of officers (fixed order of business)
- 2:05 North Carolina Baptists on Mission report – Richard Brunson
- 2:20 Committee reports:
Committee on Nominations – Robin Fisher;
Historical Committee – Allen Murray;
Committee on Resolutions and Memorials – Kenny Gooden
- 2:35 Worship through music – Kenny Lamm
- 2:40 Board of Directors budget report (fixed order of business) – Melanie Wallace
- 3:10 Benediction – Patrick Warutere
- 3:30-4:30 Breakout session 3

Tuesday evening, Nov. 12

- 6:15 p.m. General session 4
- 6:30 Call to order – Steve Scoggins; prayer – Leo Guerrero
Committee on Convention Meetings report – Larry Burns
- 6:40 Greetings and reports:
Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention – Ronnie Floyd;
Fruitland Baptist Bible College – David Horton;
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary – Scott Pace;
North American Mission Board;
International Mission Board
- 7:05 Presentation of officers
- 7:15 Scripture reading and prayer – Joe Knott
- 7:25 “Who’s Your One?” special service
Featured speaker – Ronnie Floyd
- 8:25 Benediction – Stan Welch



NOVEMBER 11-12, 2019

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NCANNUALMEETING.ORG



MONDAY | NOVEMBER 11

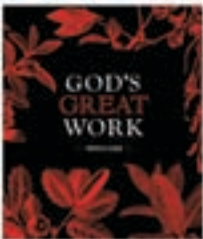
Church Planting Celebration

Join us for a special church planting celebration and message from state convention President Steve Scoggins.

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 12

'Who's Your One?' Service

Hear from SBC Executive Committee President Ronnie Floyd during a worship service related to the "Who's Your One?" evangelism emphasis.



PRAY FOR 30 DAYS

Unite in 30 days of devotional study and prayer during the month of October. Prayer guides can be ordered for \$2 each, downloaded for free or emailed to you daily. Visit prayfor30days.org to access each.

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Digital resources for BSC annual meeting available

BSC Communications

Attendees to this year's annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) can now access a number of event-related resources before they arrive on-site to help them make the most of their meeting experience.

This year's book of reports, the 2020 budget proposal, the event program and more are all available as digital downloads on the annual meeting website at ncannualmeeting.org/resources.

The resources can also be accessed through the N.C. Baptist app, which is available for both Apple and Android smartphones and mobile devices by searching for "NC Baptist" in the Apple App or Google Play stores.

"Evaluations from previous annual meetings tell us that a growing number of messengers prefer digital access to materials rather than depending on printed copies at the an-

nual meeting," said Brian Davis, BSC associate executive director-treasurer.

"However, not every messenger shares that sentiment, so we will still have some print copies available for those messengers who prefer them."

When messengers register at the meeting, they will be asked if they have downloaded the app or accessed digital copies of the program, which includes the event schedule, facility maps, breakout session listings, exhibitor listings and more. If a messenger prefers a printed copy of the program, they will be provided with one.

All messengers will be provided a printed copy of the proposed 2020 Cooperative Program budget booklet in addition to the special edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, which will include committee reports that will be considered during the meeting and other vital information.

In an effort to reduce printing costs, the book of reports – the largest

printed item typically provided to messengers – is being produced primarily as a digital resource available online and through the mobile app.

The book of reports includes a variety of highlights from state convention ministries, institutions and agencies, historically affiliated universities and more.

A limited number of printed copies of the book of reports will be available to messengers upon request at the registration area.

Signs will be posted at the registration area with instructions for messengers and guests on how to access and download the digital materials if they don't access them in advance.

"We hope a large majority of messengers attending this year's Annual Meeting will access these materials and resources prior to their arrival in Greensboro," Davis said.

"Accessing these materials in advance will allow messengers to be better informed about everything that


will be taking place during this year's meeting."

"We are constantly exploring new ways to deliver information to the pastors, staff and laity who are part of our family of N.C. Baptist churches, while striving to be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us."

This year's annual meeting is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 11-12, at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

The meeting theme is "God's Great Work," which will include an emphasis on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

More information is available online at ncannualmeeting.org.

Visit BRnow.org/resources/BSC-2019-annual-meeting to find stories leading up to the meeting, links to coverage during the meeting and for complete information after the meeting. Search #GODSGREATWORK online as well. 

OTHER EVENTS

Before and during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual meeting, a number of other events take place at the same venue (Koury Convention Center in Greensboro) or nearby. Please check for updated information at ncannualmeeting.org or BRnow.org as well as at the convention hotel for any changes and if registration is still available.

• **N.C. Pastors' Conference**, Nov. 10-11 – Koury Convention Center; speakers: J.D. Greear, J.J. Washington, James Fisher, Daniel Ritchie, Mike Cummings, Alvin Sum-

mers and Mike Stone; theme: One; visit ncpastorsconference.org.

• **African-American Pastor's banquet**, Nov. 10, 4-6 p.m. – Koury Convention Center, Heritage Room; speaker: William Thompson; theme: Called to Serve.

• **N.C. Baptist Ministers' Wives**, Nov. 11, 9-11:45 a.m. – Koury Convention Center, Victoria Ballroom; speaker: P.J. Giaritelli; theme: Buttons, Bows and Blessings; worship leaders include ministers' wives led by Ginnie Varnam. Visit ncbminwives.wixsite.com/ncbmw/events.

• **Missionary fellowship**, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Lindley Park Baptist Church, 4010 Walker Ave., Greensboro; lunch costs \$13. Contact Jack and Ruby Gentry at (336) 766-1109 or email gentryclemmons@aol.com. Meeting is for active duty international missionaries who are on stateside assignment, emeriti, former, retired or newly appointed international missionaries.

• **Hispanic Banquet**, Nov. 11, 2-6 p.m. – Koury Convention Center, Guilford G.


• **Associational Missionary Banquet**, Nov. 11, 4 p.m. – Sheraton Greensboro, Blue Ash Room.

• **Great Commission Partnerships Breakfast**, Nov. 12, 7 a.m. – Koury Convention Center, Victoria Ballroom. Sponsored by Metro New York Baptist Association, North American Mission Board and International Mission Board.

• **Heavenly Banquet**, Nov. 12, noon –



Koury Convention Center, Guilford G; theme: Loving Your Neighbor to Christ.

• **Southeastern Alumni & Friends Luncheon**, Nov. 12, noon – Sheraton Greensboro; Blue Ash Room; speaker: Ronjour Locke; instructor of preaching and urban ministry, director for the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership. Visit BRnow.org. Under "Resources" click on "BSC 2019 Annual Meeting." 

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Karen Swallow Prior to join SEBTS faculty

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS

Karen Swallow Prior will join the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) as full-time research professor of English and Christianity & Culture beginning fall semester of 2020. She will be the first research professor in the history of The College at Southeastern.

“I am delighted to have Karen join our faculty,” said SEBTS President Danny Akin. “She is a gifted teacher in the field of English and literature who loves Christ, the gospel and the Great Commission. Our students will be blessed to sit under her instruction. She is a wonderful addition to the outstanding faculty of Southeastern.”

Prior has served for more than two decades as professor of English at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where she is also a senior fellow with Liberty University’s Center for Apologetics and Cultural Engagement.

She received both her M.A. and Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a B.A. from Daemen College. Prior and her husband Roy are members of Thomas Road Baptist Church.

Prior, an author and speaker with expertise in 18th century British literature, has published three books, including two award winners. *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life in Great Books* was named a Top Religion Book of 2018 by Publisher’s Weekly, and *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More – Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist* was chosen for a *Christianity Today* Book Award



Karen Swallow Prior plans to join Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary’s faculty in fall 2020. (AnneClaire Helene photo)

in 2015. She also has written numerous articles in publications such as *Christianity Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Books & Culture*, *The Atlantic* and *The Gospel Coalition*.

“I could not be more excited about this announcement,” said Scott Pace, dean of The College

at Southeastern and Johnny Hunt chair of biblical preaching. “Karen Prior is a welcomed addition to our already stellar faculty at The College of Southeastern.


“As a conservative evangelical and cultural ambassador, Karen brings a unique combination of skills and expertise that will help train our students through a Christian liberal arts education and equip them to give their lives for the cause of Christ in the church, among the nations and in every aspect of society.”

While Prior will primarily teach undergraduates at The College at Southeastern, she also will teach at the graduate and doctoral levels.

Prior has served as a research fellow with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and is currently a member of the Faith Advisory Council of the Humane Society of the United States.

“I’m looking forward to being able to join with Southeastern in its exciting mission of sending students, future pastors and future scholars across the globe according to God’s calling on their lives and the Great Commission,” Prior said.

“At Liberty, I have been privileged to disciple Christian young people for 21 years, primarily in my discipline of English,” she said.

“My mission in teaching has always been to have students leaving my classroom loving life, literature and God more than when they came in. I look forward to continuing in that mission as I move into this new assignment at Southeastern.” 

Trustees & donors gather, celebrate 25th anniversary of college

By LAUREN PRATT | SEBTS

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) donors and trustees gathered together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The College at Southeastern (The College) during their biannual meetings Oct. 13-15.

“The days are evil. The need for soldiers of the cross is great. We are a school that absolutely is making an eternal difference,” said President Danny Akin during a dinner Oct. 14 for trustees and donors. Akin highlighted significant growth within The College and the continued need of financial support for the “For the Mission” campaign.

On Oct. 15, trustees voted on a number of items, including the following:

- The election of The College at Southeastern dean Scott Pace as vice president for undergraduate studies.
- Approved a resolution on the 25th anniversary of The College.

- Approved a motion made during the 2019 SBC annual meeting for entities to report efforts made to address the sexual abuse crisis within the convention.

- Approved mandatory training on sexual abuse prevention and care for all students.

New trustees began terms this fall, including Beth Wooten, Danny Rumble, Michael Cummings, Jay Hardwick, Stewart Holloway and Chuck Jennings.


During his Oct. 14 address, Akin highlighted the numerous ways in which The College is bolstering its Great Commission impact. The College currently has an enrollment of 1,380 students. In the past decade, The College has developed a number of programs for training and community life. The North Carolina Field Minister Program, which began in 2017, equips inmates in the North Carolina prison system to receive a bachelor of arts in pastoral ministry. The Hunt Scholars Program, which

was created in 2015, allows students to receive their bachelor of arts in pastoral ministry and master of divinity in pastoral ministry in five years. The College’s House System was created in 2016 and provides a structured residential life program. Each student is assigned to a House from the time they arrive on campus. The House System provides countless social events, opportunities for spiritual growth, and a community of support for the students.

“[The House System] is a lab for character and leadership development,” said Jake Hatfield, director of college life at SEBTS, during an Oct. 15 morning meeting with donors.

Akin explained that theological conviction and cost are the two primary reasons that fueled the start of The College. The “For the Mission” campaign, which publicly launched at the spring trustee and donor meetings April 7-9, is now 50 percent funded. The purpose of the campaign is to fund four strategic initiatives in

four years. These initiatives include funding a new dining hall, renovations to Simmons Hall to provide campus housing, student aid, the Southeastern Fund and faculty endowments.

Akin gave an update to donors regarding recent happenings at Southeastern, including 9Marks at Southeastern, the Biblical Theology of Womanhood workshop with Nancy Guthrie and more. He updated donors on his recent trip to the Ukraine, where SEBTS has a partnership with the Ukraine Baptist Theological Seminary. Akin told donors and trustees that, along with the growth at the College, Southeastern celebrates that its enrollment has grown to 4,776 students. Members of the Southeastern Society also had an opportunity to commission Amy Whitfield, who will be transitioning from her role as director of marketing and communications at SEBTS to associate vice president of convention communications for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. 

N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry hosts opioid awareness workshop

By CAROL LAYTON | NCBAM

Older adults are not immune to the opioid epidemic – not by a long shot. Many find themselves raising grandchildren or caring for adult children in addiction. Others are victimized for their assets and medications. Still others are themselves addicted to increasingly powerful narcotics used for pain management.

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, recently hosted a workshop in Thomasville to educate senior adult church leaders about the epidemic and the many ways that seniors can be affected. The workshop was presented by Matty Ponce-de-Leon, pastor of Arlington First Baptist Church in Jonesville.

Ponce-de-Leon began his presentation by showing a family portrait of him and his wife Alexis with their three children – “the family I almost threw away.” He then shared about his early exposure to drugs before coming to Christ while a resident of Your Father’s House Halfway House in 2006. Ponce-de-Leon now serves on the board of directors for Your Father’s House Ministry.

Ponce-de-Leon shared alarming statistics for North Carolina. Our state ranks on the edge of the highest per capita prescribing areas in

the country. Nationwide in 2017, there were 58.7 opioid prescriptions written per 100 people. In North Carolina, 72 opioid prescriptions were written for every 100 individuals.

Just one of the many ways the epidemic affects older adults is that many seniors are raising their grandchildren for parents who are in treatment, in addiction, in jail, or in their graves from an overdose. In 2018, 78 percent of all of North Carolina’s children were living with their grandparents who, in many cases, are jeopardizing their financial security in order to keep grandchildren out of foster care. Among grandparents’ many sacrifices is the loss of simply “being a grandparent” as they assume the authoritarian role of a parent. Many grandparents have the additional challenge of raising grandchildren born with conditions such as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

NAS is associated with poor and deteriorating school performance and is caused when a baby withdraws from certain drugs exposed to in the womb.

Other seniors, who may or not be raising their grandchildren are depleting their savings in desperate attempts to help adult children by posting bail, paying legal fees, covering rent and car payments, or financing drug treatment programs. While



Matty Ponce-de-Leon, pastor of Arlington First Baptist Church in Jonesville, shares with attendees at the Sept. 25 workshop, The Opioid Epidemic and Older Adults. (NCBAM photo)


some seniors willingly offer this help, others are extorted or manipulated by their children. “If you don’t give me your prescription, I’ll have to take a street drug.”

Seniors whose own families are not affected by the epidemic need to be aware that strangers, neighbors, or others may target them. Ponce-de-Leon reported that addicts sometimes hang out near prescription counters and then rob people in the parking lot or follow them home. Handymen may ask to use the bathroom for the purpose of pilfering medicine cabinets and walking away with unused or expired opioids, cough syrup, or other narcotics.

Perhaps most alarming, Ponce-de-Leon shared a conversation with a Hospice chaplain who had seen end-of-life medications stolen by fam-

ily members and other cases where patients were kept at home rather than in a hospital for the purpose of having access to their medications. Ponce-de-Leon urged seniors to carefully choose their healthcare power of attorney.

After sharing alarming statistics and stories, Ponce-de-Leon acknowledged there are many in our churches who feel they “just can’t relate” to the troubling issues of addiction. He was blunt. “We’re going to have to. Too many lives are being lost and destroyed for the church not to step into the battle.”

He then outlined a biblical approach to viewing addiction, engaging in spiritual warfare, discipling addicts, and the value of showing trust in the Lord with frequent and fervent prayers for those affected. 

NCBAM celebrates 10 years

By CAROL LAYTON | NCBAM

It isn’t often one is asked to create something from nothing. But, that’s exactly how North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) began in 2009.

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, “laid it on the heart” of Michael C. Blackwell to create a non-residential ministry to older adults. Hollifield called Blackwell “the trusted source” in North Carolina Baptist life and said if anyone could create such a new and creative ministry – with broad-based support – it would be the long-time president of the Baptist Children’s Homes.

Blackwell accepted the challenge

and assembled a blue-ribbon committee of experts in all matters relating to aging adults – legal, medical, religious, psychological, social and other challenges associated with the frail elderly.

“The Lord has provided excellent staff and has consistently opened doors for new programs and partnerships at just the right moment,” Blackwell said. “In the next 10 years, as Baby Boomers continue to retire and need help maintaining their independence, NCBAM and North Carolina Baptists will be ready!”

Then, as now, BCH was a leader in developing family-focused Christian ministries. In addition to residential care for children, the ministry has established a Christian-focused day care, wilderness programs for boys


and girls, a ministry for developmentally disabled adults, a family care ministry for single moms and their children, college campus ministries and an orphanage in Guatemala. In further fulfillment of BCH’s calling to serve all of God’s children, NCBAM was born.

Blackwell chose Sandy C. Gregory to serve as director. At that time, Gregory was serving as south central director of development for BCH and had education and experience working in senior adult ministry. Blackwell connected Gregory with Bobby Boyd, then president of the BCH Board of Trustees and a retired director of Catawba County Social Services with 35 years’ experience.

Gregory and Boyd spent the first year in research.

With a mission statement in place (“to help individuals 65+ maintain their independence”), NCBAM began a three-month pilot program with the Liberty Baptist Association. Working with Mike Ester, director of missions, NCBAM identified resources, established partnerships with existing services, and met individuals with needs.

Since 2009, NCBAM’s Call Center has received more than 25,000 calls, served 4,000 individuals, met needs in all 100 counties, facilitated 33,000 volunteer hours, and set the world’s record for the most wheelchair ramps built in one day (321).

NCBAM currently has six regional directors who work throughout the state developing partnerships with churches and within the aging services network. 

AROUND THE SBC

Staff changes

JAMES A. SMITH SR. has been called as director of public relations at Southwestern Seminary. Smith was recently vice president of communications at the National Religious Broadcasters Association (NRB) in Washington, D.C. The Smiths are parents to Lauren Garner and two grandchildren.

The North American Mission Board has called **SHANE PRUITT** as director of next gen (generation) evangelism. Pruitt was serving as an evangelist, Bible teacher and director of evangelism for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Pruitt and his wife, Kasi, have five children.


ANDREW WALKER has been called as associate dean of Southern Seminary's School of Theology and director of the Carl F.H. Henry Institute for Evangelical Engagement. He has served with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for six

years and will continue to be a part-time research fellow with the organization. He and his wife, Christian, have three daughters.

Retirement

Baptist Convention of New Mexico (BCNM) Executive Director **JOSEPH BUNCE** announced Oct. 22 he will retire from his position effective February 2021, following 15 years of service as the state's lead missionary. Bunce began serving in his capacity on Feb. 1, 2006.

He pastored several churches in New Mexico and Missouri. Bunce earned a doctor of ministry from Golden Gate Seminary (now Gateway Seminary) in 2000, a master of divinity from Midwestern Seminary in 1987, and a bachelor's degree in religion from Eastern New Mexico University.

He and his wife Sharon have been married for nearly 42 years. They have two sons, Micah and Caleb, and several grandchildren. 

By ANN LOVELL | IMB

More than 155,000 people die daily without Christ. This is a harsh and unacceptable reality facing Southern Baptists, International Mission Board (IMB) President Paul Chitwood told a recent gathering of advocates near Richmond, Va. The lost – those living apart from a relationship with Christ – need people who will advocate on their behalf by praying, giving, going and sending.

The gathering, which included Baptist state executives, associational and Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) leaders, former missionaries, student leaders and representatives from other Baptist entities and churches across the United States, encouraged partnerships and networking for the sake of advocating for the lost around the world.


The vision from Revelation 7:9 is “not one we crafted, but one placed in front of us through the revelation to John,” Chitwood told the more than 250 gathered advocates.

“If we are to ever see the Great Commission completed toward the vision of a multitude from every tribe before the throne, then we must amplify our voices together,” Chitwood said.

“Using our voices, God can move professionals, students and retirees from the comfortably padded pews of U.S. churches into the presence of unreached people. Advocacy is how we unleash the body of Christ.”

During the conference, IMB leaders presented different ways God has led IMB missionaries to engage the lost around the world and how believers in countries like the Philippines and South Korea are now sending their own missionaries.

Daryl Cornett, pastor of Aberdeen First Baptist Church of Aberdeen, N.C., tweeted during the gathering, “I’m encouraged greatly for the advance of the gospel through the IMB in the days ahead! A great heritage and an exciting future!”

To learn more about becoming an IMB advocate, [email info@imb.org](mailto:info@imb.org). 

Healthier Continued from page 1

who retired Sept. 30; and Augie Boto, former EC executive vice president who also retired Sept. 30. Boto served as interim president for 13 months prior to Floyd's arrival May 20.

The editor position, held by Shawn Hendricks, was deleted as part of the restructure, an EC spokesperson told the *Biblical Recorder* on Oct. 16.

Baptist Press reported Oct. 28 that Oldham and Ken Weathersby, vice president for convention advancement, were retiring in the coming weeks.

In early 2019, Lyell alleged in a statement to Baptist Press that Sills first “sexually acted against” her in 2004 while she was a seminary student, and continued to sexually abuse her for more than a decade. The article, published by Baptist Press on March 8, described the situation with generic language – calling it a “morally inappropriate relationship” – that led many readers to believe Lyell and Sills were in a consensual affair. Lyell said she has experienced harassment due to the misreporting of her allegations, and the situation has “resulted in significant loss, harm and pain.”

Baptist Press admitted the error Oct. 15 and said “un-Christlike slurs” were even hurled at Lyell in comments on its social media posts linking to the article. The news outlet also admitted that an early draft of the story “clearly communicated the emotional and sexual abuse” according to Lyell's

allegations. Roach, the reporter who authored the draft, told the *Recorder* he “sought to be fair and accurate.” Lyell claimed it was the “leadership” of Boto, Hendricks and Oldham that led to “inaccurate reporting.”

Multiple sources either declined to comment or could not confirm Boto, Hendricks or Oldham's involvement in the editorial process. Neither Hendricks nor Boto could be reached for comment. When the *Recorder* asked for comment from Floyd and Oldham, an EC spokesperson referred to the latest statement from Baptist Press.

The controversial news article was removed from *BPnews.net* on July 30. Lyell said she has appealed unsuccessfully to both Floyd and Oldham for Baptist Press to issue a correction and repost the article.

In addition to criticism about the March 8 news article, the EC has also come under scrutiny for its initial response to SBC President J.D. Greear's public call to address sex abuse, coverups and lack of care for victims in Southern Baptist churches. In a presentation to the EC on Feb. 18, Greear asked the bylaws workgroup of the administrative committee to review the standing of 10 churches that were named in news reports.

The bylaws workgroup called special meetings Feb. 22-23 and determined only three of the 10


churches warranted “further inquiry.”

Rodney Brown, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Ashburn, Ga., one of the churches taken off the “further inquiry needed” list, said in a sermon the following week that two SBC leaders also called to “apologize” for Greear's actions. Those leaders were Boto, who was interim president at the time, and Thomas Hammond, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

Hammond later admitted that his apology to Brown was a mistake. Brown also expressed regret and said he fired the music minister who had previously admitted to being a sexual abuser.

Rachael Denhollander, a sex abuse survivor, advocate and member of Greear's Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, has criticized the EC publicly for allegedly undermining Greear's call to action.

EC Chairman Mike Stone, a sex abuse survivor, told the *Recorder* the SBC's newly formed Credentials Committee is “working prayerfully and intently” to establish an inquiry process and develop procedures for “dealing compassionately” with individuals who report misconduct.

(EDITOR'S NOTE – The *Biblical Recorder* posted the March 8 news story by Baptist Press shortly after its publication, but revised the article to accurately reflect Jennifer Lyell's allegations the same day after receiving her full statement.) 

AROUND THE STATE

Obituaries

ALFRED THOMAS AYSCUE, 86, died Oct. 9 at Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount.

A Franklin County, N.C., native, Ayscue was raised on his family's farm and was saved at New Bethel Baptist Church, Epsom, at age 9. He was baptized at age 12 in a mill pond. He graduated from Wake Forest College (now university) and earned a Christian theology degree from Southeastern Seminary (1967).

Pastorates throughout the years include the Harriet Baptist Church, Henderson; Wise Baptist Church; Pine Level Baptist Church; and Calvary Baptist Church, Mount Airy until his retirement in 1995.

Ayscue was a co-founder and member of the Coordinating Council of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Chairman of Friends of Missions, past President of Council on Christian Social Services, member of the

State Executive Committee and State General Board, past president of the Baptist Convention of North Carolina and, upon his retirement, he was a Cooperative Fellowship ambassador. He also served on the board for the *Biblical Recorder*, Campbell University and Wake Forest University as well as teaching extension classes at Southeastern.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Hazel Buchanan Ayscue; daughters, Debbie Creech and Lori Phillips, all of Rocky Mount; three grandsons; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Lakeside Baptist Church, 1501 Sunset Ave., Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

JOHN E. SAUNDERS SR., 81, of Mooresville died Oct. 5.

After high school in Virginia, Saunders enlisted in the U.S. Navy (1946-'48).

See Around page 12

CHURCH NEWS



Members of **Fairview Baptist Church**, Apex, celebrated its 29th anniversary Oct. 6 by burning its debt note on the church's worship center. The original debt of \$2.8 million was taken on in July 2002. When Matt Capps became Fairview's pastor in July 2015, the church still had \$1.5 million remaining to pay with a \$685K balloon payment due in 2022. "I do not think debt is necessarily a bad thing when it is tied to a necessary resource like a building that is being used as a home base for ministry and worship gatherings. The church has grown its membership and, in 2018, was named among the top 10 churches in giving to the North Carolina Missions Offering. When I became the pastor of Fairview, it became very clear that the debt was a dark cloud that cast a shadow of caution over many areas of the life of the church," said Capps in a statement to the *Biblical Recorder*. "To lift the spirit of the church, we needed to relieve the financial burden they had carried so long." Capps worked with a stewardship team to develop a special giving plan to pay down more of its debt each year, but that goal was exceeded and the church was able to pay off its loan in four years. (Contributed photo)

BCH Continued from page 2


adults. In addition to locations in 21 communities across the state, BCH also serves aging adults, single mothers, teen mothers, orphans, foster families and more. BCH also trains and supports couples to become a licensed family foster home to North Carolina boys and girls. BCH also trains churches to begin their own foster care ministries.

Of those who come to BCH, 70 percent are unchurched, and over the past five years, BCH witnessed nearly 670 professions of faith. In 2018 alone, BCH impacted the lives of more than 94,000 people through its various ministries.

Please join in the week of prayer for the BCH ministries and offering

from Nov. 10-17. Prayer prompts (as seen on page 2), resources, promotional videos and more about this year's offering are available at bchoffering.org.

As we look forward to the Thanksgiving season, consider how you can impact the lives of those less fortunate across our state through a financial gift to the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. Your gift goes to provide food, clothing, shelter and an opportunity to know Jesus Christ personally.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" – Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV). 

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

God's Will and My Circumstances

November 10

Focal passage: Romans 8:26-32

Have you ever felt like you were in the right place at the wrong time? Perhaps you can resonate with the lyrics made famous by Dr. John in 1973, "I been in the right place, but it must have been the wrong time. I'd have said the right thing, but I must have used the wrong line. I'd a took the right road, but I must have took a wrong turn. Would have made the right move, but I made it at the wrong time."

It can be so tempting to look at our circumstances, whether good or bad, and question how God might be involved in the details of our lives. And yet, God makes it clear in His word that He is always working. Even when we think things seem disastrous, we can trust that God is not taken by surprise.

Paul wrote in Romans 8:28, "We

know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

He isn't declaring that every circumstance will turn out the way we would wish or that those who follow Jesus will have easier lives. Instead, Paul is reminding us that even the hard things we experience are designed to refine us and make us more like Christ. When we are trusting God and relying on His strength, we can rest assured that God will "*conform us to the image of his Son*" (Romans 8:29).

Yes, sometimes our circumstances may seem overwhelming. The same God who gave His Son for us cares for us every moment. "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" (Romans 8:31).



EMILY KISTLER
Member, Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia

God's Will and the Glory of God

November 17

Focal passage: John 11:1-4; 38-45

Today I missed teaching my classes for a doctor's appointment. A substitute teacher monitored my students and helped them accomplish their work.

Before I left, I explained how important it was that each student obey the substitute. They were to show respect, work hard and use their time wisely. Not only are these wise choices for any student, their actions while I am away are a reflection on me, their teacher.

We'll celebrate tomorrow if I return to a good report.

When I am away from school, obedient students bring honor to me as their teacher. As believers, when we obey God, even in challenging

circumstances, God is honored, too. In fact, He is glorified!

In John 11, when Lazarus was sick in Bethany, his sisters desperately summoned Jesus. Jesus responded, "*This sickness will not end in death but it is for the glory of God*" (John 11:4). Even in the midst of devastating circumstances, God was working for His glory.

Later, after Lazarus had indeed died, Jesus commanded his companions to remove the stone from his tomb, reminding them of His promise. The people were unsurprisingly hesitant to obey. Lazarus had been dead four days and his body would have already begun to decompose. And yet, they followed the directions of Jesus in a situation that made absolutely no logical sense.

When God demonstrates His glory, people are drawn to Christ and experience eternal life.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Walking Wisely

November 10

Focal Passage: Ephesians 5:15-21

I'm usually pretty bad with directions. One time I was leading a student ministry retreat in a major city when some students and chaperones wanted to take a walk after dinner. I was familiar with the city, so I led the way.

As we began walking through familiar places, I simply stopped paying attention. I became engrossed in conversation and in turn was not fulfilling my duties as tour guide. As the sun began to set and the landscape began to change, I realized what I had done. Rather than wisely paying attention to how and where I was walking, I foolishly led an entire group of people into a high crime portion of the city. In fact, it was a block that people simply did not venture into unless they were looking for trouble.

My intentions were not bad. That wasn't the problem. The problem was that I simply had no intentions.

Paul wrote Christians in Ephesus to exercise care and intentionality in how they walked or lived. To avoid darkness and evil and to instead walk in the light as children of the light (Ephesians 5:15-21).

Walking wisely requires intentionality. We cannot put our spiritual state on autopilot or we will find ourselves walking in sin and foolishness.

That is why the Apostle Paul tells the Ephesians to regularly address one another with encouraging words, spiritual songs and more. For us to walk wisely is to intentionally reverence Christ (Ephesians 5:20-21).



DAYTON HARTMAN
Lead Pastor, Redeemer Church, Rocky Mount

Walking as Family

November 17

Focal Passage: Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Submission is something of a dirty word in our culture, and yet it is meant to be one of the marks of the Christian life (Ephesians 5:21). The Apostle Paul called the Christians in ancient Ephesus to live like family by practicing a posture of mutual submission to one another.

To illustrate his point, Paul described the kind of submission that takes place in the husband and wife relationship (Ephesians 5:22-33) and in the parent and child relationship (Ephesians 6:1-4). But, what is submission?

Submission is a posture of deferential respect. It does not reflect a hierarchy of dignity and value, because

all humans are made in the image of God with equal dignity and value.

Instead, the deferential respect that is demonstrated in our familial relationships is in accordance with each family member's unique role within the family.

This is the kind of deferential respect that ought to mark the family of Christ because we are, in fact, a family.

Throughout Paul's description of family life, he continually draws us back to the Good News of the gospel. The manner in which this deferential respect is demonstrated ought to display the story of the gospel for the world to see. Therefore, the kind of family that the scripture envisions the church to be is a people whose very relationships demonstrate grace, value and deference toward one another.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pastor

Pleasant Memory Baptist Church, Coats, NC, is seeking a **Bi-vocational pastor**. We are a conservative, mission-minded, rural church with an average membership of 100. Applicant should be licensed and ordained by a Southern Baptist church. Mail résumés to Pleasant Memory Baptist Church, 579 Old Stage Road N., Coats, NC 27521, or email to paddoan@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted until November 30, 2019.

Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church, a conservative, mission-minded, rural church, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Please submit résumés to wingfieldfarminc@gmail.com or call Bill Jordan at 252-333-8049 if interested.

Pastor. Zoar Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist fellowship in Shelby, NC, is seeking a Spirit-led, ordained man of God to lead a community of believers who worship in a blended format and hope to grow the body with a mixture of young and older members. Zoar asks that applicants be graduates of an accredited seminary or divinity school and have a minimum of five years' experience. Our search committee is eager to talk with prospective pastors who have a vision for growth and outreach while staying true to our conservative roots and statement of beliefs. Zoar asks that applicants prayerfully consider the opportunity to apply for this position and be prepared to articulate a plan for developing prayer warriors, leading a body who worships with all ages and races and being a beacon of hope to Cleveland County and beyond through fervent Bible study and gifts of the Spirit. Apply by sending a résumé, references, letter of interest and at least two audio/video files of recent sermons to: Pastor Search Committee, Zoar Baptist Church, 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152.

White's Memorial Baptist in Franklinville, NC, is seeking a missions-minded **full-time Senior Pastor** to provide preaching and leadership in areas of spiritual growth, administration, and outreach. Personal characteristics and requirements: called by God; evangelism; displaying Jesus through word, action and discipleship; agree to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message; licensed and ordained by a Southern Baptist church; completed college and seminary; 5+ years experience in ministry. Email/mail résumé to: ktrogon@triad.rr.com or to: WMBC, Search Committee, 2930 Whites Memorial Rd., Franklinville, NC 27248. Résumés accepted until Dec. 15, 2019.

Gatesville Baptist Church is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Interested applicants may submit résumés via e-mail: pastorsearch.gbc@gmail.com or via mail: Gatesville Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search, 201 Court St., Gatesville, NC 27938, by November 15, 2019.

First Baptist Church of China Grove, North Carolina, a Southern Baptist church with conservative values, is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. With the local mission field being the 4,000 residents of China Grove, we are seeking a pastor to help disciple us in preparation for impacting our community. For additional information and to submit a résumé, please visit <https://www.chinagrovefbc.com/job-opportunities>.

Good Shepherd Church of Greensboro is searching for a **full-time or bi-vocational Senior Pastor**. We are a conservative Southern Baptist church located in south Greensboro, NC, and are affiliated with the SBC, BSCNC and the Piedmont Baptist Association. Send inquiries, cover letter and résumé to: Pastor Search, Good Shepherd Church of Greensboro, 4453 Sumner Church Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406.

Berea Baptist Church of Pembroke, North Carolina, is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of **Senior Pastor** who is a spiritually mature leader and has a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Candidates must have demonstrated ability to effectively communicate the Word of God through a solid, biblically based teaching and preaching ministry and a passion to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Desired candidates must possess a degree from a bible college and have a least five years of pastoral experience. If, after considering this position, you believe that you feel called to be considered for the senior pastor, please send your résumé with a cover letter stating why you are interested in this position to: The Pastoral Search Committee @ PO Box 387, Pembroke, NC 28372. All résumés must be received or postmarked by November 15, 2019. Late responses will not be considered. Your résumé will be reviewed by the committee to determine if they believe you possess the desired qualifications for the senior pastor position. If so, the committee will contact you to discuss next steps. Thank you for taking the time to consider the senior pastor position at Berea Baptist Church. We look forward to reviewing your information and being in touch more soon!

Church Staff

First Baptist Church of Mocksville is looking for our next **Minister of Youth and Community Missions**. Experience with teens thru college age youth required. Bachelor's degree or masters of divinity preferred as well as strong administration and organization skills. We are dually-aligned to CBF and SBC so we serve a very diverse membership which we think is great! Our ideal candidate would mentor and direct our youth toward a strong Christian foundation that will encourage and instill within them a desire to seek Jesus Christ. They will be an example of Christian maturity while leading the youth through meaningful activities that give them opportunities to show and experience the love of Jesus. Providing pastoral care for the youth and their families would be an important part of this role. Flexibility to participate and be available to the youth during outside church activities would be required. Facilitating missions ministry for the youth and the congregation local to Mocksville would be an important aspect. First Baptist Church of Mocksville is in an exciting season of change and we cannot wait to see where God leads us! If you would like to apply, please send résumé to jobs@fbcmocksville.org.

First Baptist Church of King, NC, is seeking a **full-time facilities manager**. The facilities manager will oversee and perform routine cleaning and maintenance on all indoor and outdoor church facilities as well as oversee the security team for the church. Requirements and experience for the position include: the ability to meet the physical demands of the position, experience in routine maintenance and janitorial work, and possess leadership skills to lead maintenance and security volunteer teams. Applicants please email résumé to info@firstbaptistking.org or mail to P.O. Box 481, King, NC 27021. Salary: TBD.

Youth and Children's Minister/Director (part-time). St. John's Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC (CBF) is seeking a part-time youth and children's minister/director. This position will develop and lead ministries focusing on children (and families) through high school, offering Christian education in a safe and nurturing environment. Please express interest by sending résumé and/or questions to resumes@stjohnsbaptist.com.

First Baptist Church of Raeford, NC, is seeking a **full-time Minister of Youth and Children**. Must have a master's degree in divinity or equivalent experience. Salary will be compatible with education and experience. The youth minister will be working with youth and children and work with pastoral staff and church leadership in discipleship. We are a Southern Baptist Convention church in doctrine and part of the Robeson Baptist Association as well as a member of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Please send a cover letter and résumé to First Baptist Church Personnel Committee, 333 N. Main St., Raeford, NC 28376. The application process will be open until November 16, 2019. You can also email cover letter and résumé to the personnel chair, Gwen Booker at gbbooker@embarqmail.com.

Dublin First Baptist Church, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor and Minister to Students**. We are a conservative, mission-minded, Southern Baptist congregation in rural southeastern NC, average attendance of 200. We adhere to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and partner with the Bladen Baptist Association, Baptist State Convention of NC and the Southern Baptist Convention. We are searching for the man of God who is called to lead students and their families, possessing a deep knowledge of the Bible and gifted in teaching God's Word to young people and adults. This position has pastoral responsibilities conducted under the guidance of the Senior Pastor. A minimum associates degree in biblical studies required. Bachelors or seminary graduate with 5 years' experience as a youth leader/pastor preferred. Please send résumé to Associate Pastor and Minister of Youth Search Committee, PO Box 187, Dublin, NC 28332.

Prospect Baptist Church, Albemarle, NC, is seeking a **full-time Children's Pastor/Director**. Primary duties include overseeing the ministries for children from birth to 5th grade. Experience in children's ministry is preferred. Please email your résumé to stoney@prospectbaptist.com or mail 502 Prospect Church Rd., Albemarle, NC 28001.

Miscellaneous

Advertise your ministry or business. The *Biblical Recorder* offers competitive denominational and nondenominational rates for media outlets our size. Contact alison@BRnow.org for information or visit BRnow.org/Advertise.



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Machine Continued from page 1


war on our culture, and we are grateful for their relentless pursuit. We believe, hope and endure all things with faith that one day abortion will come to an end.

“We hope this ultrasound machine is a marker of many lives made in the image of God coming to fruition.”

Marty Jacumin, senior pastor at Bay Leaf, said, “Having the opportunity for a mother or father to see and hear the beauty of life is so important as they are deciding on what to do with their child.

“That’s why we wanted to partner with the ERLC and other churches to provide this resource.”

Human Coalition has also pioneered a virtual clinic that uses teleconferencing to serve Texas residents, with plans to expand the service nationwide.

According to internal data provided to the *Biblical Recorder*, expanding the virtual clinic could result in significantly more “life decisions” than brick-and-mortar or mobile clinics alone. 

Around Continued from page 9

He went on to graduate from Mars Hill Junior College, Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Seminary.

Ordained in 1957, Saunders served as pastor of churches in Indiana and Maryland. Later he served in ministry positions on the staff of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, director of missions in Missouri and on the staff of the Florida Baptist Convention.

In 1992 he retired, but continued to serve as an interim as pastor at Southside Baptist Church and Derita Baptist Church in Charlotte and First Baptist Church of Cornelius, as an associational missionary and on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina staff.

Saunders was active as a church consultant for many years, and, in later years, served as missions pastor at First Baptist Church, Mooresville, and began the Food for Days ministry to help feed children in local schools at age 80. While serving as the Brotherhood Director for the Maryland Baptist Convention he was the director of the boy’s camp for many years. He and his wife also helped start Coastal Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years Beverly Graham, brother Joseph Saunders, sister Mary Smith; children, Cathy Oldenburg, John, Jr., Carla Enix and Carrie Holder;


nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Food for Days, P.O. Box 175, Mooresville, NC 28115, or to First Baptist Church, Mooresville building fund, 150 South Church St., Mooresville, NC 28115.

Retirement

MARGARET TYREE HARDING retired from the Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina in October after serving 20 years as adult missions and ministries consultant. She previously served as minister of education and youth at Grandin Court Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va. (15.5 years). She also worked at North Run Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Harding graduated from Averett University with a bachelor’s degree in church ministries and from Southeastern Seminary with a master of divinity. During college and seminary, she served at West Main Baptist Church and Moffett Memorial Baptist Church, both in Danville, Va.

She and her husband, Bill, will remain in Cary. They are members of Ephesus Baptist Church, Raleigh. She will be available for speaking and ministry assignments after some time off. Email mharding@nc.rr.com. 

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