



BIBLICAL RECORDER

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EC to expand ethnic relations, mobilization

By AMY WHITFIELD | Baptist Press

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) president and CEO Ronnie Floyd announced Nov. 1 the addition of three full-time EC staff positions focusing on increasing diverse engagement and mobilization.

Building on the foundation laid by retiring vice president for Convention advancement Ken Weathersby, these positions will focus on relations and mobilization for African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans. The EC is already actively searching for the right leaders to fill the positions.

"We want to create more relationships and pathways for everyone to be part of the Southern Baptist Convention," said Floyd. "One of the greatest ways to impact a relationship is to be mobilized on mission with people who believe the same. We want to mobilize people to fields in North American missions, international missions, the missions of individual churches, and to our cooperative efforts together. We have no alternative but to find ways to work together."

The EC previously announced that Weathersby would be retiring due to a medical disability causing visual impairment. Weathersby began his role in 2013 and was responsible for increasing ethnic participation and growing relationships with demographic subsets within the SBC.

"Ken put groups together that had never been See EC page 8

WHAT'S INSIDE

Milton Hollifield: Reflect and ask
'What are you thankful for?' 2
Fla. church signals discipline over 'racial prejudices' 3
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme
focuses on 'Together' 5
Decades later, IMB work bears
fruit in Singapore, SE Asia 5
House approves impeachment inquiry 6
Baptists differ over evangelical movement

Mohler 'will accept nomination' as SBC president



By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. will accept a nomination in June 2020 to serve as Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president, he told Baptist Press (BP) Nov. 1.

"I am honored by the announcement by Pastor H.B. Charles, and I will accept nomination as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in June," Mohler told BP.

"All my life, I have sought to serve whenever asked by my denomination, and I would hope, if elected, to serve in a way that would unite Southern Baptists, strengthen our work together, add energy to our evangelism, and keep our hearts set on taking the gospel to the nations."

If elected, Mohler would be the first entity head to serve as SBC president since then-Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson served from 1999-2000. H.B. Charles Jr., senior pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., tweeted Oct. 31 his intention to nominate Mohler when the SBC meets June 9-10, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

"I'm delighted to announce my prayerful intention to nominate @albertmohler as our next SBC president when we gather together in Orlando in June 2020 for our annual meeting," said Charles, a noted preacher, author and former president of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

"Our times are filled with serious challenges from our culture, along with as incredible opportunities for gospel witness."

Charles promoted Mohler as one capable of mobilizing the SBC behind a common vision.

"I believe @albertmohler is the statesman leader we need at this precise moment," Charles tweeted. "Southern Baptists know and trust @albertmohler. He's a proven leader in our convention, capable of uniting us behind our

Reflect and ask 'What are you thankful for?'

s a part of my personal devotion Atimes with the Lord, I love to read and meditate on passages from

the Book of Psalms. Many of the scriptures in Psalms are expressions of praise and thanksgiving, and I often find myself praying these verses back to God as a way to express my own gratitude to Him for who He is and all He has done because of His great love for us.

The Thanksgiving holiday is special time to remember, reflect and thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us.

The holiday also provides opportunities for us to spend time with family and friends we may only see once or twice a year. These are individuals God brought into our lives for a



special purpose.

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

to share some things for which they are thankful.

The question is, "Am I fulfilling

family?"

with people who say they

are glad we are in the same

Chances are, some of

the family and friends you

will spend time with this

holiday season don't have

with Jesus Christ. During

the Thanksgiving season,

door to a gospel conversa-

tion is to simply ask others

an easy way to open the

a personal relationship

After responding to this conversation topic, they are likely to ask you the same question. If this happens, you have an opportunity to turn the dialogue into a gospel conversation. You may say something like,

"While I'm thankful for my family, friends and the freedoms we enjoy in our country, I'm most thankful that I have a personal relationship with Jesus

Christ. I know He has forgiven my sin and given me the gift of eternal life." If they respond with questions, the opportunity exists to share more deeply about what Christ has done for you.

An important next step to take is to ask "Has anything like this ever happened to you?" If their response is vague or "I'm not sure," you can then ask "Would you like to know how you can have this same assurance?" If they are interested, tell them how you became a follower of Christ and ask if they would like to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. It is most important that you do not sound like you are a perfect person, display a



condescending attitude or use theological expressions those individuals will not comprehend.

If you lack confidence in sharing your faith, visit the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's website at *ncbaptist.org/disciplenc* for trainings designed to equip and encourage you in personal evangelism and discipleship.

Express your gratitude to God, and ask others what things they are thankful for in their lives. You never know what the Lord may do when you ask this simple question.

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving" – Psalm 69:30. 🙉

Women's retreat emphasizes abiding in Christ

By ERIC STISHAN | BSC Communications

biding is more than just a biblical concept. For Athe believer in Jesus, it's a way of life.

"Today our world and culture tell us to do anything but abide," said Ashley Allen, senior consultant for Embrace Women's Evangelism and Discipleship ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, to a gathering of more than 300 women during the 2019 N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat. "[Christ] is all-sufficient, and we can rest in Him.'

"Abide" was the theme for this year's retreat, which drew more than 300 women to Caraway Conference Center and Camp near Asheboro on Oct. 25-26. Over the course of the two-day event, attendees explored what it means to abide through times of worship, large-group session, breakout sessions, fellowship and prayer.

The theme was based on John 15:5 which says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in *Me*, and *I* in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Betsy Bolick, founder of Small Enough Ministries in Boone, served as the event's keynote speaker. In her opening session, Bolick examined four of the seven "I Am" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John in which He explains that He is the "Light," "the Bread of Life," "the Good Shepherd" and "the True Vine."

"The world wants to tell you that you're the vine," Bolick said.

"That all the power is in you, that all the hope is in you. We tell our girls, 'Go, do, and be,' and some of that is not bad; but 'Go, do, and be for the glory of God and in the power of His Holy Spirit."

Bolick reminded attendees that abiding means spending time with God in prayer and scripture reading to recognize who He is.

In a later session, Bolick shared that not only must we abide in Christ, but that for those who believe. God dwells in them.

She also encouraged listeners to remember that they are at war with the powers of this world.

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"Our baptism did not drown our flesh," said



Embrace, the Baptist State Convention of N.C.'s women's ministry. (Alexandria Buffaloe of Buffaloe Photography)





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Fla. church signals discipline over 'racial prejudices'

By DIANA CHANDLER | Baptist Press

majority white Baptist church has apologized A for 'racial prejudices' that leaders deemed partly responsible for a favored black candidate losing the Oct. 27 vote for pastor, and said it will discipline those guilty of the sin.

The pastoral and lay leadership of First Baptist Church of Naples (FBCN) apologized to all Southern Baptists Oct. 31 for "a sickness in what we characterize as a cancer within our fellowship" that led in part to 19 percent of the congregation voting against African American candidate Marcus Hayes. According to the church's constitution and bylaws, candidates for senior pastor must receive 85 percent of the vote to win; Hayes received 81 percent after preaching in view of a call, the church said in a letter emailed to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

"A portion of the 19 percent that voted against Marcus Haves did so based on racial prejudices," reads the letter signed by Executive Pastor John D. Edie on behalf of church leaders. "We know this because of the campaign that started just days before by a few disgruntled people in our church."

Not all members of the church believe racial prejudice swayed the vote.

"With the utmost respect, having attended FBCN for 17 years I stand on my opinion that the color of Pastor Marcus' skin had NOTHING to do

with how the vote turned out," an FBCN member identified on Twitter as Gretchen Church tweeted @gretchen church, although she did not indicate whether she voted for Marcus Hayes. "FBCN has been spiritually fed and nourished for over 27 years by [former] Pastor Hayes Wicker, a man of God filled with the Holy Spirit How could a congregation under a man like Hayes Wicker be racist?! I think not!!!"

FBCN has been without a senior pastor since the spring, when Wicker's pastoral service ended. "The issues facing FBCN are deep and systemic," @ gretchen_church tweeted. "Sadly, Pastor Marcus was not given time to hear everyone out, in a comfortable place for all. Pray for FBCN that God will help them to trust each other again, [c]ast out any ungodly spirts & reunify FBCN & allow a Pastor to lead them!"

In an email to the church membership days after the vote, leaders said a campaign against Hayes included social media, texting, phone calls and emails from "a small group of people who call themselves 'Voices of FBCN,' and/or 'Group of Concerned FBCN Members,' as well as others who have espoused these sinful positions," but further details have not been disclosed.

Leaders assured Southern Baptists that the guilty would be disciplined in line with biblical principles.

"Let me assure you that our statement of contriteness is currently being and will continue to be



followed by actions within our church to make sure that this sinful cancer is dealt with," reads the letter signed by Executive Pastor John D. Edie on behalf of church leaders.

"Biblical church discipline has started within this local house of the Lord, and we are resolute to make sure that First Baptist Church Naples will be an example to the church at large of how Jesus Christ has asked us to go forward in this world as a light that would draw all men to Christ."

See Church page 9

Retreat Continued from page 2

Bolick, adding that our only hope is to remain in Jesus.

Meg Barnes, who serves in the worship ministry at Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, led worship during the main sessions.

Barnes' powerful vocals, accompanied by Hannah Nelson on vocals and guitar along with Patty Hart on piano, led women in powerful, moving hymns and songs of praise.

Supplementing the main teaching and worship sessions, the retreat offered several breakout sessions.

Those sessions, led by ministry leaders from across North Carolina, featured more than a dozen options for women to learn practical methods for applying the principle of abiding in their everyday lives.

Harriet Page, who made the trip from Knightdale and has been a regular event attendee through the years, said she particularly appreciated the breakout session offerings.

"My favorites have been the breakout sessions because you get to pick

something that's very specific to what you are struggling with or what you're already studying in the Word," Page said.

Leena Bess and Melanie Whitesides, two women who came together from near Lincolnton, echoed the same sentiment.

Bess attended a breakout session titled "Abiding in the Vine Through the Storm," which was led by Ashley Reffit, women's discipleship director at The Summit Church's campus in Garner. Reffit, a cancer survivor, sought to encourage women in how to trust God in difficult circumstances

"Her story was just phenomenal," Bess said.

Several women noted how thankful they were to have the opportunity to get away from the demands of life and spend time with God and other women during the retreat.

From young mothers to empty nesters, the prevailing sentiment was articulated by Donna Carter, an at-



tendee from Franklinton.

"You can only find happiness in the Lord, and He was so present here," Carter said.

Carter added how much she appreciated being around other women in a spirit of worship and rest, noting that the conference motivated her to "be in awe of God every single day of my life."

Photography)

Retreat planners concluded the event by announcing the theme of next year's retreat, which will be "In the Secret."

The 2020 N.C. Baptist Women's Retreat will return to Caraway Conference Center and Camp next year on Oct. 23-24.

Registration will open June 1 at embracenc.org/secret20.

Karen Swallow Prior looks forward to Southeastern's 'shared vision'

By LIZ TABLAZON | BR Assistant Editor

Karen Swallow Prior's love for literature is "an evangelistic love," she told the *Biblical Recorder* in a video interview Nov. 1.

It is a passion that aligns with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's (SEBTS) Great Commission emphasis – one she will be a part of next fall, when she joins the faculty as a research professor of English and Christianity & Culture.

Prior will be the first research professor at The College at Southeastern, and one of the few female faculty members.

She not only wants to "win everyone over to a love of literature" but believes "God has given us these gifts on this earth of fields of study ... as a way to know Him and love Him and win others to Him.

"For me, the love of ... the good things God has created is part of the Great Commission, is part of pointing people to the source of those good things on earth."

Her devotion to literature began when she was a social work major at Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y.

"[Reading] had just always been something enjoyable and fun for me, but when I began taking college English classes and had professors who took it seriously and showed me how it could be more than just a hobby, it ignited something in me that I didn't know," she said. "So I switched my major to English as an undergraduate."

Now after more than two decades in her profession, Prior has earned the respect of students and colleagues.

The seminary's Oct. 24 announcement about her hiring immediately garnered celebratory responses, particularly from women.

Brittany Salmon, a writer and doctoral student, tweeted, "You see all the women cheering loudly? Especially those of us with seminary degrees? It's because representation matters ... We've been praying and advocat-



ing and are beyond thrilled to see a woman model what we hope to be."

Bekah Stoneking, a LifeWay editor and SEBTS student, replied to Salmon's post, "10 years and almost 2 degrees later and my story is the same. I'm grateful for this incredible addition to our small but mighty female faculty..."

"I'm just very honored and excited to be able to be someone that students will find is a representative for them," Prior told the *Recorder*.

"Tve lived most of my life – my academic and personal life – in spaces that were very empowering to me, and over the past number of years, as my awareness has grown of how women and minorities have not always had that experience, it has become more of a passion of mine to help meet a need that I think many of us are growing more aware of.

"It's exciting to be able to fill a need that is so obvious now, particularly within my denomination of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). I just can't say what an honor it is to be there for this time."



Prior has also advocated on behalf of sex abuse survivors in the SBC and called on leaders to implement stronger tools to protect the vulnerable within Southern Baptist churches.

When asked whether the SBC has done enough in beginning to address its abuse crisis, she said it has "made great strides" toward addressing "a problem that is deep and wide and will not be solved overnight."

"There is much more work to be done, obviously ... I think that there are some within the convention who are allowing other issues to detract from this one, which is so overwhelmingly important, I think. So I would just encourage the convention to stay on the course ... but I'm very encouraged." The announcement of Prior's move to SEBTS drew criticism as well, particularly for her past involvement with the Revoice Conference, an event focused on same-sex attracted people trying to live out traditional Christian notions of marriage and sexuality.

Prior said she supported the conference because of what she understood its goal to be.

"I have seen a lot of damage done over the years within the lives of those who have felt that they had to hide that struggle or deny that struggle or just not share that burden with others," she said.

"I certainly did not agree with everyone who presented there or everyone who is affiliated with it, but I still believe the church needs to support those of our brothers and sisters who want to live faithfully according to the biblical sexual ethic."

Prior said she understood reservations about Revoice but believed "some of the disagreements come down to semantics and the use of language, and we will always disagree on those things, but I would encourage critics to simply look at the actual statement that I offered in support, and I don't believe that many would disagree with my statement."

Prior will miss her students and colleagues at Liberty, her "home" for 21 years, but said she looks forward to "working within a student body that probably shares a more common vision and values."

"I know a good number of the faculty and administration at Southeastern ... they aren't strangers to me, and I look forward to working with people that I've known and respected for a long time from afar," she said.



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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme focuses on 'Together'

International Mission Board

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Every December since 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has empowered Southern Baptist's international missions work. At the beginning of this giving season, we start with a week of prayer dedicated to international missions, taking place December 1-8. During International Mission Board (IMB) President Paul Chitwood's report to messengers at the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, he was able to share that because of the LMCO that overseas baptisms by churches that IMB missionaries have planted or directly partner with have increased by more than 6,000 over last year; new church starts reported in 2018 were nearly triple the number of new church starts IMB reported in 2016; and the number of national believers who received advanced theological training increased by 10,000 over each of the prior two years.

For links to LMCO stories, photos, videos and other resources, visit *imb. org/Imco*.



National goal – \$165 million 2019 Week of Prayer for International Missions – Dec. 1-8 **Website** – *imb.org/Imco* Look for coverage at *BRnow.org* or in upcoming *Biblical Recorder* print issues.

Decades later, IMB work bears fruit in Singapore, SE Asia

By CAROLINE ANDERSON | IMB

The scent of pine trees and roasting coffee beans permeates the Southeast Asian air. International Mission Board (IMB) worker Katelyn Summers* keeps careful track of the roasting time. Outside on the terraced hill, high school students, who have traveled from their home in Singapore, lug bags of freshly picked coffee cherries to be processed and dried.

The students came to this Southeast Asian nation to serve as part of their church's partnership with Summers to help introduce the gospel to the people group among whom she is working. Summers buys coffee cherries from her people group and processes, roasts, and sells the coffee beans. Her coffee sourcing and selling provide the community with a livelihood, and they provide Summers with an opportunity to share the gospel.

And when the Singaporean students help Summers, they carry on the missions legacy of their parents' and grandparents' generations.

Southern Baptist footprints

The history between Singapore's Calvary Baptist Church and the IMB began decades ago.

"If you go back far enough, you'll see the handprints and footprints of

the Southern Baptist missionaries," said Calvary pastor Koh Kok Chuan. In the 1950s, many IMB missionaries came to serve in Singapore after being forced out of their former country of service due to the advent and acceleration of Communism.

"You can say that the door was closed to that nation, but it opened a huge door in Southeast Asia and the East Asian diaspora," Koh, who goes by KC, said. "I think Singapore really benefitted from those missionaries that came down."

Calvary was started in 1957 by missionaries from the Foreign Mission Board (now IMB). The church was the culmination of the pioneering work of a Sunday School class that met in the home of missionary Lydia Greene. The church building was constructed using funds from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and the first service in the building was held Dec. 8, 1957. Calvary's first six pastors, who served over the course of 15

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years, were sent and supported by the Foreign Mission Board. Calvary has since been led by local leaders. Now Calvary has a Mandarin service, a Hokkien-language service, and two English services. The church has grown through the years from 30 charter members to 700.

Partnership for the gospel

In 2011, through their contacts with Baptist Global Response and other missions organizations, leaders at Calvary connected with Summers, who serves in a Southeast Asian nation. Over time, through prayer and vision trips, a partnership developed.

Church leaders have made multiple trips to the country. Other teams, like the high schoolers, have traveled to work alongside Summers, and more trips are in the works.

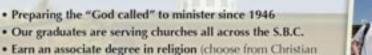
At a recent church fair, Calvary members sipped coffee from Summers' farm as they meandered past See Fruit page 7

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NEWS BRIEFS

Kirk Franklin plans Dove, GMA, TBN boycott

(Baptist Press) Gospel music mogul Kirk Franklin will boycott the Gospel Music Association (GMA), the Dove Awards and Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) after awards broadcasts deleted mentions of racial injustice from his acceptance speeches, he said Oct. 28.

"It is important for those in charge to be informed not only did they edit my speech, they edited the African-American experience," Franklin said. "Today, I feel like quitting. I am heart-

TobyMac's oldest child dies at 21

(Baptist Press) Truett Foster McKeehan, son of Christian rapper TobyMac, died suddenly in his home in Nashville Oct. 23, according to the *Tennessean*. He was 21.

McKeehan was found unresponsive in his home late morning Oct. 23, the *Tennessean* reported. Emergency crews responded to a call about a person in cardiac arrest. A Nashville Fire Department spokesperson said authorities announced McKeehan dead when they arrived at his home. broken that I even have to share this with you."

GMA has apologized to Franklin after deleting the 2019 comments to meet broadcast time constraints.

Edited out of his speech from the event Oct. 15 was his request for prayer for those involved in and impacted by a shooting.

Franklin's comments are included in a video of the 2019 awards available at *tbn.org*. His comments from the 2016 awards were also edited.

A representative said in a statement Oct. 24 to USA Today Network-Tennessee that a cause of death had not been determined.

McKeehan was an aspiring rapper, releasing music and videos under various stage names. He also appeared on tracks from several of his father's albums.

TobyMac was in the middle of a Canadian tour when he returned home to Nashville to be with his family.

Gateway enters partnership with Korean seminary

(Gateway) Korea Baptist Theological University and Seminary (KBTUS) President Seon Bae Kim and Gateway Seminary (GS) President Jeff Iorg have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a five-year partnership between the two schools.

Iorg and other members of Gateway's faculty and staff traveled to KBTUS' campus in Daejeon, South Korea, to sign the agreement on Oct. 26. The MOU outlines procedures allowing students to study abroad in individual and group settings. Students in good standing at either institution are given the opportunity to research and attend classes at the partner school at a reduced tuition cost. Additionally, the MOU provides guidelines for international study experiences for groups of students from both the visiting and host institutions.

"This partnership represents a significant opportunity for students from both schools to prepare for ministry leadership in a cross-cultural environment," lorg said.

Gateway also launched the Korean Alumni Association during a luncheon at the Korean Baptist Convention building in Seoul.

House approves impeachment inquiry

Baptist Press

The U.S. House of Representatives' nearly party-line vote Oct. 31 in support of a presidential impeachment inquiry for only the fourth time in American history reflected the deep division in Congress and the country over the issue.

The House voted 232-196 for a resolution instructing committees to continue their investigations into whether evidence exits to impeach President Donad Trump and establishing rules for the process. No Republican members voted for the resolution, while only two Democrats voted against it. Republicans had criticized the probes being conducted by Democrat-controlled committees in closed hearings and without a vote from the full House authorizing such investigations.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi had announced Sept. 24 she was instructing six panels to investigate the president for possible impeachment, but no action by the full chamber had been taken until the Oct. 31 roll call. Some Democrats have long called for the impeachment of Trump for a variety of reasons since he took office in 2017, but the focus of the current inquiry is into a late July phone call between Trump and new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump appeared to encourage Zelensky to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading Democratic candidate to face the president next November, and his son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company. In addition, Trump delayed the transfer of nearly \$400 million in congressionally approved military aid to Ukraine before the call.

A public opinion survey conducted Oct. 27-30 for The Washington Post and ABC News found 49 percent of Americans think Trump should be impeached and removed from office, while 47 percent think he should not. Impeachment inquiries have been held for three previous presidents: Andrew Johnson in 1868; Richard Nixon in 1974; and Bill Clinton in 1998. Johnson and Clinton were impeached, but the Senate failed to convict either president. Johnson survived by only a vote. Nixon resigned before the Judiciary Committee sent articles of impeachment to the House.

Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., a Southern Baptist, charged the Democratic leadership with conducting a "sham impeachment by impetuous fiat" for the purpose of overturning the 2016 election. Pelosi, Walker said in a written statement, "handed the reins over to [Intelligence Committee Chairman] Adam Schiff, allowing him to serve as a basement-dwelling judge, jury and executioner. Now, House Democrats, in an admission of their tainted and secretive impeachment process, are trying to retroactively legalize their injustices and hysterics."

The only Democrats to oppose the resolution were Reps. Collin Peterson of Minnesota and Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey.

The inquiry could result in the following steps: a vote by the House Judiciary Committee on articles of impeachment; if articles are approved, the entire House would vote on impeachment, with only a majority required for passage; and if the House impeaches the president, the Senate would hold a trial, with Chief Justice John Roberts presiding. A two-thirds majority would be needed to convict and remove Trump from office.



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Fruit Continued from page 5

booths and stalls with a booklet relaying information about the people group and how they can pray and be involved in making the gospel accessible to this community.

Summers recently visited Calvary to share about her work, and the church formally voted to join her in a long-term endeavor to see the people group grasp the good news of the gospel.

In it for the long-haul

Calvary is diving deep into the partnership with a fortified missions strategy that includes educating the church on how each member has a role to play.

Calvary sees this as a generational commitment. Their desire isn't to bounce from people group to people group, or from one strategy to another. They're committed to this people group for the long run.

"We're in it for generations. It's not just one group of people. It's the church moving through various generations [of members] to see how God is going to lead us into the work," KC said.

Missions at your doorstep

Calvary's goal is to integrate missions into their church's identity so that it becomes more holistic rather than compartmentalized. "If we can learn what we need to do overseas, here, it is very natural for us to do the same [abroad]," KC said. "What you do at home, you must also do outside. And what you are doing in a foreign land, you must bring back. We need to get a mindset that says, 'Missions is everywhere, and whether it's at your doorstep, or you're going somewhere else, we should all be missional."

Good stewards

As electric fans work hard to circulate air in the open-air dining area, three middle-aged businessmen share how they've been involved in their church's missions efforts, both financially and through short-term trips. The three friends believe they've been blessed for a purpose – to share the gospel and create opportunities for others to share the gospel. And they are using their influence and resources to do it.

Singapore's influence has grown exponentially in its short history. In the 54 years since becoming its own country, Singapore has become a financial powerhouse with the third-highest per-capita GDP in the world.

"We are an amazing generation, not because we are amazing, but because of the way the country has progressed," KC said.



Singapore discuss the ways they've used entrepreneurship to create opportunities for others to share the gospel. (IMB photo)

Just as the past 50 years have been revolutionary for Singapore, they've also been revolutionary for Singapore's churches. Calvary sees going to the nations as being good stewards of what God has put in their hands. When they are open to using their resources and time to serve the Lord, the church blossoms locally and internationally.

"We need to be out there," KC said. "Our God is a big God. We serve out of that understanding.

"It's not just about the church," he added, "but also [about] my own life. When God calls me to do something, it's no matter of my convenience – what I want to do, my comfort zone. It's a matter of obedience."

Name changed 🙉



Baptists differ over evangelical movement

By TOM STRODE | Baptist Press

A historian, an ethicist and a pastor – all Baptists – displayed a difference of opinion on the usefulness of the word "evangelical" and the state of evangelicalism in an Oct. 29 conversation at the Museum of the Bible.

Thomas Kidd, history professor at Baylor University and prolific author, discussed the crisis in evangelical Christianity with Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Thabiti Anyabwile, pastor of Anacostia River Church in Washington, D.C. Kidd interacted with Moore and Anyabwile regarding his new book *Who Is an Evangelical?: The History of a Movement in Crisis.*

In his keynote address, Kidd said he remains optimistic about evangelicalism despite its politicization, especially in recent years. He cited as an example the 2016 poll results that showed 81 percent of self-identified evangelicals voted for Donald Trump.

"Some would say that I am naïve to hope that there remains a core of practicing orthodox evangelicals who really do care more about salvation and spiritual matters than political power," Kidd told the audience. "It's true that millions of practicing evangelicals are part of the 81 percent, but we should not define evangelicalism by the 81 percent.

"[A]t root, being an evangelical entails certain beliefs, practices and spiritual experiences," he said. "So partisan commitments have come and gone, and sometimes it's true evangelicals have made terrible political mistakes. But conversion, devotion to an infallible Bible and God's discernible presence – those are the characteristics that make an evangelical an evangelical."

Non-evangelical Americans, however, may have a variety of impressions about what "evangelical" means, Kidd said, "but one certain association that people make with the word is 'Republican.' And the term 'evangelical' has become fundamentally political in popular parlance today."

Another likely association nonevangelicals make with the word is "white," he said, adding pollsters assume evangelicals are white.

In his response to Kidd, Moore said he is not ready to surrender the word "evangelical."

"I think when it comes to evangelical, it's possible for a word – and it's possible for a movement – to be born again," he said.

Moore said in a panel discussion that closed the evening, "I am a realist when it comes to the gospel but a nominalist when it comes to evangelicalism.

"And so I don't have as much invested in evangelical as a word or evangelicalism as a movement except there is no available alternative to it except for adding modifiers."

Anyabwile said he does not share the optimism of Kidd and Moore regarding evangelicalism.

Mohler Continued from page 1

shared commitment to biblical truth and the urgency of the Great Commission.

"At this hour, it's crucial that Southern Baptists come together," Charles said.

"We need the conviction to stand boldly for Christ. We need the zeal to mobilize our resources to spread the [g]ospel. We must do so together. I believe @albertmohler is the man to lead us forward in that unity." Mohler echoed Charles' comments. "We are facing a new era in the world and in the United States, and cultural challenges that will test our conviction," Mohler told BP. "We must make clear that we stand without without reservation for biblical Christianity and Baptist conviction, and we must stand together."

He pledged to build on "the faithful leadership of the past and help develop the faithful leadership of the future."

Mohler is a member of Third Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., which reported 609 members and 800 average attendance on the 2019 SBC Annual Church Profile (ACP).

With \$1.075 million in undesignated receipts in 2019, the church gave \$66,000, or 6.1 percent of receipts, to the Cooperative Program, according to the ACP. He doesn't think the "partisan and ethnic definition of evangelicals" is peculiar, he said. "I actually think that is the DNA" of evangelicalism.

"Evangelicalism as a movement has generally and consistently taken what I would refer to as anti-black positions on social and political questions," Anyabwile told the audience. "Historically, the movement has been generally pro-slavery, pro-segregation – much of the movement, anti-affirmative action and anti-immigrant. The common denominator has often been the disadvantaging of black and brown people.

"For that reason, evangelicalism should not become more diverse until this dynamic is radically and demonstrably changed," he said. "To that extent, I would argue that we have not become evangelical enough, that we have not yet become the one people of God.... We have not yet been discipled enough in our Christian identity as our primary identity.

"Until we get there, I'm not certain evangelical is a term worthy [of] fighting for and a label worth wearing. I think we actually have to become God's people in a unified way, and then figure out how to label that."

During the panel discussion, Kidd

EC Continued from page 1

said he is "not optimistic about a politicized evangelicalism. I'm optimistic about evangelicalism, because I'm optimistic about the Lord."

The current crisis in evangelicalism, Kidd said, consists of multiple overlapping aspects, including:

"One, confusion about the term.
"Two, an impression that 'evangelical' may just mean white Republicans who consider themselves religious.

• "Three, a sense that political power may be the essential evangelical agenda.

• "And four, the inability of evangelicals of different ethnicities, especially whites and blacks, to agree on basic political questions."

Moore said many people who do not attend or belong to a church "will nonetheless define themselves as rigorously evangelical because of the memes they are sharing" on social media. Evangelicals will have to deal with "the decongregationalizing of the movement itself," he said.

In his talk, Kidd defined evangelicals as "born-again Protestants who cherish the Bible as the Word of God and who emphasize a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit."

together before, and encouraged conversation that was honest, forthright and could move people toward a common goal," Floyd said.

"That has now opened doors for ministry opportunity, engagement and mobilization more than ever before. The Southern Baptist family is bigger than many might think. We need to develop a culture that welcomes all. Now is the time we need to seize the moment."

The new staff structure comes after two decades of growth among non-Anglo congregations in the SBC, from 13.5 percent in 1998 to 22.2 percent in 2017, according to the North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research. Current church planting efforts also demonstrate the need for increased engagement. In 2018, 62 percent of plants supported by SBC partners were non-Anglo, including 45 African-American, 64 Asian, 106 Hispanic and 78 multiethnic churches.

Throughout his tenure, Weathersby worked with various groups and chaired the Convention Advancement Advisory Council. This group is composed of representatives from the Hispanic Advisory Council, African American Advisory Council, Asian American Advisory Council, Multi-Ethnic Advisory Council, Bivocational and Small Church Advisory Council, Women's Advisory Council and Young Leaders Advisory Council.

According to a 2018 interview with Weathersby, the advisory councils from which the CAAC members were selected "represented more than 10,000 ethnic and language churches and congregations and over 30,000 bivocational and smaller membership congregations."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Amy Whitfield is associate vice president for convention communications for the SBC Executive Committee.)

Church Continued from page 3

Hayes leads the Hendersonville, N.C., campus of the multisite Biltmore Church based in Arden, N.C., and is a member of the SBC EC. He has made no comments to BP regarding the vote.

The 85 percent threshold for victory is exceedingly high, the church acknowledged, but said the congregational vote after the "in view of a call" sermon is usually a procedural affirmation.

"Our Pastoral Search Committee, lay leadership, and the Pastoral Staff all anticipated that our vote would be nothing less than an affirmative statement from our people that God had sovereignly chosen for Marcus Hayes to be our next Pastor," the letter reads.

"Sadly that did not come to fruition. If all things had been fair and equal, our story would not have reached as far and wide, and stoked the emotions that it has. But what was concluded was all things were not fair and right."

FBCN lists 10,596 members on the 2018 SBC Annual Church Profile (ACP), with an average attendance of 3,233.

On voting day, the church noted a "record" turnout of 3,818. Of 1,917 votes cast, 365 were negative. An 85 percent victory allowed no more than 288 negative votes.

In the above referenced email to the congregation, leaders of FBCN vowed to move forward in choosing a new senior pastor.

"Please know this, that our Senior Pastor Search Team will meet to identify options moving forward with our Senior Pastor search," the leaders said.

"For now, we humbly ask you to stay strong in the Lord.... Pray with us and lock arms with us as we move forward and seek the face of God."



Neil Dorrill, chair of the FBCN pastor search committee, addressed the congregation Nov. 3. He provided an update and said the committee still considers Marcus Hayes to be their proposed candidate. (Image captured from FBCN video)

The full text of FBCN's letter to Southern Baptists is available online at BRnow.org.

U.S. pastor awaits hearing in India

Morning Star News/Baptist Press

A U.S. pastor attending a conference in India could be stranded there until December after being arrested for failing to report money he was carrying.

Bryan Nerren, 58, was traveling to northeastern India with two other U.S. pastors Oct. 5 when they were detained at the Bagdogra airport. Nerren was arrested when authorities alleged that he had violated the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Customs Act by not declaring cash he was carrying.

Nerren, pastor of International House of Prayer Ministries in Shelbyville, Tenn., has another court date Dec. 12. ^(B)

AROUND THE STATE

Obituary

M. VANN MURRELL, 90, died Oct. 31 after a brief illness.

He graduated from Wake Forest College (now university) with a bachelor's degree, Southeastern Seminary with a master of divinity and University of Edinburgh with a doctor of philosophy degree. He taught at Campbell University (1962-'67) and Gardner Webb University (1967-'95). In 1995, he became pastor of Brookwood Baptist Church, Jacksonville, N.C. After retiring from the pulpit, he returned to the classroom to teach for Campbell University and Coastal Carolina Community College on Camp Lejeune Marine Base until 2016.

During his career, he also served 53 churches as interim pastor and on the general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

His wife of 68 years, Ina Clarice Gresham Murrell, died 13 months ago. He is survived by his four children and eight grandchildren.

Memorials to: M. Vann Murrell Scholarship at Gardner-Webb University (gardner-webb.edu/supportgardner-webb/give-now/index).

Staff change

Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan., called **DAVID CROWTHER** as senior pastor. Crowther previously served at Mount Olive Baptist, Pittsboro, for more than seven years. He earned his master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary and his doctorate from Southeastern Seminary. Crowther and his wife, Laura, have three children.

Ordination

COLIN CRAWFORD, of Harvest Glen Baptist Church, Durham, was ordained into the ministry on Oct. 27, 2019. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Crawford is currently a student at Southeastern Seminary. He has been sharing ministerial responsibilities with Pastor Richard Hedges since April 2019.

Have staff changes, retirements, obituaries or church news you want to share?

Send to editor@BRnow.org.

OPPORTUNITY CORNER

The **N.C. Baptist Singers and Orchestra** will perform Nov. 18 at Tabor City Baptist Church. The group is comprised of musicians from N.C. Baptist churches who present sacred music representing many styles during a statewide concert tour. The concert begins at 7 p.m., and is free to attend. The group has five concerts planned January through May in 2020. Visit *ncbaptist.org/event-nc-baptistsingers-and-orchestra*.

Ever wanted to have a gospel conversation with someone but had no idea where to begin? **Gospel Conversations training** explains not only why but also how to have these conversations across various contexts.

You will learn what to do and say to share the good news of the gospel competently and confidently. This training includes a time for practice and follow-up processes for strategy and accountability.

- There are two events scheduled: Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Metro-
- lina Baptist Association, Charlotte **Dec. 7, 1-8 p.m. –** Friendly Av-
- enue Baptist Church, Greensboro Cost is \$10 per person and includes a meal.

Visit ncbaptist.org/event-gospelconversations-training.

Wake Forest Baptist Church, Wake Forest, is asking for help in supplying **Christmas trees** to families of deployed spouses from the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg for its 13th year.

Last year, 67 trees were distributed. The cost per tree is \$68 for a prime Frazer Fir from the WFBC youth tree lot. The deadline to purchase a tree is Nov. 27. Cost per tree is \$68 for a Fraser Fir from the WFBC youth tree lot.

The tree lot also helps the youth raise money for mission trips and other activities for the youth group. Questions? Call (919) 556-5141.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Living in Gratitude

November 24

Focal passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

hat comes to your mind when vou think about

Thanksgiving? Do you have a favorite food, after dinner napping spot or television special? One of my most treasured family traditions has always been our family blessing. Long before I was born, my great-grandfather wrote a prayer that we still recite each year. In the prayer, he wrote, "We

thank Thee for this food and for every token of Thy

love. Give us grateful hearts for all Thy benefits and feed our souls on the Bread of Life." And so, before we chow down on our turkey and dressing, we take time as a family to thank God for His gifts.



EMILY KISTLER Member, Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia

current season to thank God for His goodness, doesn't it? And yet, scripture reminds us that thankfulness is not merely a November

It seems easy or natural in this

activity. As Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, we are to "give thanks in everything."

Giving thanks in everything can sometimes seem a bit overwhelming. Everything means, well, everything. How can we possibly thank God for all of it? I must admit that I'm much more experienced at thank-

ing God for my food than I am for thanking Him for the spiritual leaders in my life, for the gift of His Word or for the blessing of my local church. Perhaps it's more about living each day with an attitude of gratefulness.

Do We Need to Defend Our Faith?

December 1

CASEY SHORT

Church, Williamston

me

Focal Passage: Jude 1-4, 20-25

hen I was a child, a man once came to our house to hang

out with my dad who, at the time, was not a believer. I was also lost, but as a regular van kid at my church, I had been taught much about the Bible. So, you can imagine my horror when I heard the man from the other room using God's Word to justify animosity toward African-Americans.

I flew to my trusty King James to find the passage to which he was referring,

stuck in my mind for over

20 years. Every time I see

the scene, I jump at it!

Ace Ventura (played by

Jim Carrey) is trying to

prove that Roger Pedacter,

an employee of the Miami

Dolphins, has been mur-

dered for having inside

the opportunity to recreate

In this particular scene,

and, unaware that my manner of attack might be disrespectful, I lit into him like a spark to gasoline.

It should come as no surprise to the believer when people challenge the truth of God's Word, even within

the local church. Jude writes that even then, many ungodly persons had infiltrated the ranks to spread false doctrine and to lead Christ's sheep astray.

> We contend boldly (1 Timothy 1:7-8) in the public arena of ideas because our faith is reasonable and worthy of consideration.

"The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" (1 Timothy 1:5).

When I am confronted, Pastor, Pinetops Baptist my prayer is that I will respond more graciously than I did as a child, that I will be

> bold and obedient, but loving. Whether I fail or succeed, and I will do both, I know that God is with

He will be with you, too.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Walking to Battle

November 24

Focal Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

he Christian life is warfare. We L make war on our sin. We make

war on the desires of our flesh. We are at war.

Which is why Paul commands us to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11). The war is not optional. Only your day-to-day success in battle is optional, which is why John Piper famously preached, and hip-hop artist Tedashi sang about, the need for Christians to "make war."

Yet, Paul knows that we will likely misunderstand his appeals for battle. So, he rightly reminds us that our war is not against people, it is against cosmic powers (Ephesians 6:12-13). If



ΔΑΥΤΟΝ ΗΔΩΤΜΔΝ Lead Pastor, Redeemer Church, Rocky Mount

it has flesh and blood, it is not your enemy. Thankfully, Christ has given us all we need to not only survive this war, but to win. We have truth,

righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation and the Spirit, which is wielded when we use the Word of God (Ephesians 6:13-17). But these defenses and weapons are of no use unless you wear them.

But we cannot do it alone. We need each other, which is why Paul tells us to pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18). Our ulti-

mate victory is guaranteed. Nevertheless, here and now, we fight. We fight our enemy as we pursue Christlikeness. We will win. We have won, because Christ has already won, is winning, and will win.

God Leads

December 1

rhythmic fashion that the case could be solved easily.

people post-Exodus in the wilderness

Baptist Church, Clinton

one another, following the commands of the Lord, the church is called to commit to one another - keeping one another accountable in our Christian walk

and spurring one another to love and

good deeds (Hebrews 10:23-25).

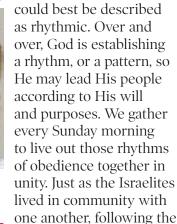


information on the kidnapping of the Dolphins' mascot, Snowflake. In the hilariously famous scene, Ace is standing in Pedacter's apartment, rapidly opening and closing the

balcony door while belting a high

note. With his antics, Ace proves in

Perhaps God's dealings with His



Focal Passage: Numbers 9:15-23 ne scene from the 1994 movie "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" has

In new book, Gallaty reveals the crisis that nearly killed him

By JOY ALLMOND | LifeWay Christian Resources

Robby Gallaty isn't who you think he is. At least that's what billboards in the greater Nashville area said of Gallaty, pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in nearby Hendersonville, in the weeks leading up to the church's 2016 Easter service.

The message - meant to mimic a smear campaign - gained national media attention and garnered 14,000 attendees on Easter Sunday, doubling the church's usual attendance of 7,000.

But the intent of this jarring billboard message went beyond piquing interest of locals and getting them through the doors at Long Hollow to hear the gospel preached; it was a preview of Gallaty's testimony of radical life change.

In his recent release from B&H Publishing, Recovered: How an Accident, Alcohol and Addiction Led Me to God, Gallaty tells the rest of the story. Many years before he was a pastor, Gallaty was addicted to drugs and alcohol. Medicated pain man-

agement efforts following a near-fatal car accident three days before Thanksgiving launched a downward spiral into substance abuse.

"My descent into full-scale drug abuse was amazingly rapid," Gallaty says in Recovered. "In November of 1999, before the accident, I was selling cars, training for the Ultimate Fighting Championship, and thinking about business opportunities. By early the next year, I was looking for faster and better drug connections. I got in too deep for a number of reasons."

In less than a year's time, Gallaty says he became a "fully functioning addict."

"Not everyone can live that way, but I did," he re-

counts in his book. "It enabled me to lead a shadow life by compartmentalizing my drug abuse so that the people who loved me most knew nothing about

> "Other than God himself, the greatcrisis, is the love of the people who care know what was going on in order to help, idea."

was destroying his most important relationships. Not only was Gallaty in and out of rehab programs, he stole \$15,000

hopes his book can be used as a resource to help ministers understand those with addictions.

it.

est resource available to us, in times of about us. But true love always demands full transparency – my family needed to but I covered it up so well, they had no

He wasn't just destroying himself - he

from his parents to support his habits. Gallaty

CLASSIFIEDS

Denominational

Do you love missions? Do you want to spread that love of missions to others? Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina is seeking a part-time Adult Consultant to lead N.C. churches in facilitating missions education, and missions and ministry involvement opportunities for adults. Candidates must be passionate about equipping adults to spread the gospel, skilled in verbal and written communication, innovative in designing and implementing missions programming and organized in coordinating people and events (such as retreats, conferences, mission projects, etc.). A college degree and five years of relevant experience required. Seminary degree preferred, but not necessary as additional training can be provided. To see a copy of the job description please visit our website at www.wmunc.org/ home/employmentopportunities. Please email your résumé and cover letter to Amy Boone at aboone@wmunc.org by November 30.

Pastor

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: ktrogdon@triad.rr.com or to: WMBC, Search Committee, 2930 Whites Memorial Rd., Franklinville, NC 27248. Résumés accepted until Dec. 15, 2019.

> **ADVERTISE** (919) 459-5691

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.

Cashie Baptist Church in Windsor, North Carolina, is searching for a full-time pastor. We are a small-town church located in northeastern NC and are affiliated with the SBC, BSCNC and the West Chowan Baptist Association. You can find a description of our church and the job requirements under the Pastor Search heading at Cashie Baptist.org. Send résumés to Ron Miller. Search Committee Chair, at *millerre@embarqmail.com*.

Church Staff

Pine Valley Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time Children's Minister. Bachelor"s degree in any applicable field required. PVBC is affiliated with the Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the SBC. Résumés may be emailed to laura@pinevalleybc.org.

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.

First Baptist Church of King, NC, is seeking a fulltime 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.

Miscellaneous

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Do you have staff changes at your church or association? Or special news you would like to share (significant church or church staff anniversaries or a mission effort to reach your community)? Let the Biblical Recorder know by calling (919) 847-2127 or email editor@BRnow.org.

Placing a classified ad in the Biblical Recorder

Choose one of three avenues:

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- 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.



ROBBY GALLATY

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