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Maggie Chandler Endowed Scholarship Established

Central Baptist College President Terry Kimbrow has announced the establishment of the Maggie Chandler Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was established by Maggie's husband, Don Chandler, and the Chandler family. Priority in awarding of the Maggie Chandler Endowed Scholarship will be given to a male or female member of Central Baptist Church in Conway who is seeking a degree in ministry.

Maggie had a varied career in work and ministry. She attended Central Baptist College and graduated with an AA degree. She was Governor Mike Huckabee's administrative assistant, worked for several years in state government and wrote and took part in TV shows for Lifeword Broadcast Ministries interviewing many well-



known Christians. For almost 30 years, she wrote a weekly article entitled, "I Wish I'd Said That" for the *Baptist Trumpet* and she created a study guide to the book of Revelation on cassette tape. In her home church, Central Baptist of Conway, she served as a Life Group teacher for 40 years and worked with women's ministries.

"Maggie's impact on everyone she met is her legacy. She was a godly woman who made a remarkable impact on her husband's pastoral ministry. They worked and worshiped together for 55 plus years. Maggie's love of learning and seeing others learn is the reason her family established this endowed scholarship fund. Her legacy of loving God and loving people will remain in perpetuity through this endowed fund at Central Baptist College through the students who benefit from the scholarships it produces each year," said CBC President Terry Kimbrow.

Maggie and Don Chandler were married for 53 years. Their children are: Lori Kulbeth and husband, Donnie; Michael Chandler and wife, Shelly; and Marlo Atwell and husband, Cory. They also have seven grandchildren: Matt Kulbeth, Zach Kulbeth, Gabe Chandler, Noah Chandler, Luke Chandler, Chanley Atwell and Nate Atwell.

MOVING with Ministers and Staff

To view previous listings from this column, visit our website at www.baptisttrumpet.com.



Jimmy Brock has resigned as student pastor at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas to accept the position of Director of the Association of Baptist Students at Southern Arkansas University. He plans to be working with the ABS before the end of April.

Dal Hogan has accepted the pastorate at Bradford Baptist Church in Bradford and is already on the field.

Blackwell, Atkins is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact Roger Story at (501) 242-2584.

CBC has over 70 endowed scholarships, representing over \$3.6 million in contributions. Endowed scholarships serve as a lasting tribute, as contributions are placed in the permanent endowment and only a portion of the interest is awarded as scholarships. Endowed scholarships are awarded by vote of the CBC Scholarship Committee, taking into account the qualifications and eligibility of the applicants as detailed in the scholarship agreement.

Memorial gifts to the Maggie Chandler Endowed Scholarship Fund can be sent to Central Baptist College, 1501 College Avenue, Conway, Ark. 72034. Checks should be made payable to Central Baptist College with "Maggie Chandler Endowed Scholarship" indicated on the memo line. Contributions can also be made online at cbc.edu/give. Once to the giving form, select "other" as the fund from the drop-down menu. Then type "Maggie Chandler Endowed Scholarship" in the comment box that appears.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Vice President for Advancement Sancy Faulk at (501) 205-8799 or sfaulk@cbc.edu.



International Missions Director Resigns

By Holly Meriweather, Lead Writer

After serving as International Missions Director for four years, Eric Johnson recently announced his resignation effective in mid-May. Johnson accepted the role after Phil Knott left the position in May of 2017.

He and his family are returning to Texas where he will be lead pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. Born and raised in Mexico to a missionary family, Eric later served there with his wife, Kelly and three children. They returned to the States when First Baptist Church called Eric to pastor their Hispanic congregation, which he did until assuming the international director role.

Missions Executive Director John David Smith said, "We are profoundly grateful to Bro. Eric for his self-sacrificial approach to leading BMA international missions these past four years. His love for the Lord and his loyalty to our association of churches are unquestioned. We pray God's richest blessings on Bro. Eric, Kelly, Audrey, Matty and Abram as they begin their ministry at FBC Jacksonville, Texas, and we look forward to Bro. Eric maintaining a small role with BMA Global Missions. Thank you, Bro. Eric, for your ministry and leadership."

What I Have Learned These Past 50 Years

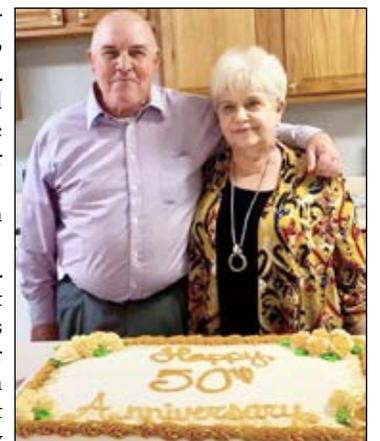
By Judy Bolin

(Editor's Note: Judy is a former member of the *Trumpet* staff (she served as secretary to Editor David Tidwell from 1993-1994). Bro. Rick was also my pastor when I surrendered to the ministry at Park View, North Little Rock in 1993. Rick and Judy celebrated their 50th Anniversary on March 26.)

God has been good to us; better than we deserve.

James 4:14 tells us that life is a vapor. This verse has truly been proven in the last 50 years of our lives. It is cliché, but it does seem like only yesterday when we said our vows in our pastor's home that evening in 1971. Rick has teased me relentlessly about paying the preacher \$20, and Bro. Ashley never giving him his change.

We are blessed with two children. Our daughter, Erin, lives in Hamburg with her family. She is so dear to us and everything we could ask for in a daughter. She is very attentive and loving. She has given us two of our biggest blessings, our grandchildren,



See LEARNED, Page 3

In This Issue

Are We Back? (pg. 2)

God Is Worthy of All Praise (pg. 4)

It's Not Complicated (pg. 3)

Master's Builders Report (pg. 5)

Who Changed the Price Tags (pg. 2)



From the President...
Think Globally—Act Locally

Jeff Swart, BMAA President

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Sports News

By Erik Holth

**NCBWA
 Hitter of the Week**

• Morningside, Iowa, April 1 —

After an amazing week, despite losing three of four, CBC baseball player Steven Stewart was named the Hitter of the Week by the NAIA — *photo by Bryan Collins* National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. This is the first time Stewart has earned this honor.



Baseball

• **Paragould, March 30** — Playing on the road for the first time in 10 days, CBC was at Pioneer Field, taking on the Pioneers of Crowley's Ridge College. CBC (12-9), swept the doubleheader, scoring 22 runs combined and beating CRC (11-15) by scores of 11-3 and 11-6.

• **Conway, April 2** — CBC opened a four-game series against Williams Baptist with a doubleheader in Walnut Ridge. CBC (14-9, 6-4 AMC) took care of business, sweeping Williams Baptist (8-12, 4-6 AMC) 2-1 & 7-4.

Volleyball

• **Conway, March 30** — Playing their final American Midwest Conference (AMC) match of the regular season, CBC hosted the Cougars of Columbia College inside Reddin Fieldhouse. CBC (11-12, 4-5) was swept in straight sets by CC (13-6, 6-2 AMC) by scores of 19-25, 17-25 & 12-25.

• **Conway, April 2** — CBC hosted College of the Ozarks in their final game of the season at Reddin Fieldhouse. The Mustangs (11-13) dropped their regular season finale at home to College of the Ozarks (5-1) 3-2 by scores of 26-24, 25-21, 21-25, 22-25 and 15-17.

Softball

• **Conway, March 30** — Finishing their 11-game homestand, #13 CBC took on the Scots of Lyon College at City of Colleges Park. #13 CBC (16-6, 4-0 AMC) took care of business, winning game one 5-1 before taking game two 4-3 in comeback fashion over LC (3-19, 0-4 AMC).

• **Conway, April 2** — #13 CBC took on #19 Columbia in a battle for first place in the AMC. #13 CBC (16-8, 4-2 AMC) was swept by Columbia (17-5, 5-0 AMC) in a doubleheader, dropping game one 4-1 before falling 1-0 in eight innings in game two.

Women's Soccer

• **Conway, April 2** — CBC played in their first ever AMC Tournament game at Missouri Baptist. CBC's (5-9) season came to an end at the hands of Missouri Baptist (8-5) in the 3-6 game of the AMC quarterfinals.



Student Ministry Matters

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Are We Back?

This past Sunday, we all celebrated Resurrection Sunday. I don't know what it looked like at your church, but I'm sure it was still different than years gone by. At Calvary, we still wore our masks and continued to provide seating for social distancing. It was still better than last year. In 2020, there were only 10 of us at the church as we led an online service for our people.

Sunday's service made me think about a few things:

One, while Easter used to be a high attendance day for many churches, our attendance was still less than pre-COVID numbers. We did see a 30% increase, but it was still under what we were experiencing at the beginning of 2020.

Two, I am so ready to be done with masks, blue tape (our form of marking off pews), and social distancing. When a family comes together, it doesn't want walls placed between them. We at Calvary have happily done these things to show care and concern for others, but I'm ready for us to be on the other side of this.

Three, as I looked out at the crowd to welcome them, I was a little extra nervous. To see that significant increase was a little unsettling. So many things that we have been worried about came to mind all at once. What if someone here spreads COVID? What if we are the cause of someone getting gravely ill? In addition, my fears of being in front of a crowd that I thought I conquered long ago came flooding back. It was a weird moment.

Looking back, I realize that I have allowed the last year to shape my view of reality. I am more fearful than when I began 2020. I am also less hopeful. 2020 was a tough year on all of us. Whether or not our churches return to their former size or we see our youth groups gather as they once did, God has called us to be visionary leaders for our people. We must provide a heart of authentic enthusiasm as we go forward.

If you find yourself like me, exhausted and lacking hope, let me encourage you as you seek to return to the things and mindset that you need:

• **Trust** — That seems like a simple answer, but many of us have become fearful over the past year, not trusting God through the difficulties. We have found ourselves dwelling on the circumstances rather than the Creator. God is in control and wants us to simply trust Him.

• **Dig into the Word** — As we seek to return to a place of proper attitude, we need to fill our head and heart with God's Word. I have watched too much Netflix and Disney+ this past year. Maybe you have found yourself in a similar situation. God wants us to know Him better. We do that by digging into the Word.

• **Find other ministry leaders to connect with** — Every two weeks, I join in on a Zoom call with Larry Barker, Heidi Sorrells and other ministry leaders. It is such a blessing to hear that I am not alone in my struggles and that there are words of hope and encouragement. If you want to get involved with that group, contact Heidi at heidi@bmaam.com. If another Zoom group is not your speed, find other student ministry workers and pastors in your area and have coffee with them. We are in this together.

Are we back? Maybe the conversation needs to begin with "Am I back?" Each of us needs to do some self-evaluation as we head into the next few months of transition. Our churches and ministries need us to lead well. Let's prepare our hearts as we start taking steps forward into the future.



Who Changed the Price Tags?

Years ago, I read a true story that you may not believe.

Two burglars broke into a department store in one of America's largest cities. They were able to successfully enter the store without setting off the security system, stayed as long as they needed to do what they came to do and escaped without being detected. What makes this story fascinating is what these burglars did while they were in the department store.

They stole absolutely nothing — no merchandise, no cash and no personal property of the employees or management was taken. Instead of stealing any merchandise, they changed the price tags on the merchandise. These pranksters took a price tag off a \$395 camera and put it on a \$5 box of stationery. They removed the price tag off a \$5.95 paperback book and put it on an outboard motor. They repriced every item in the entire store.

The next morning, the store opened at the regular time. The store functioned as it always had for the first four hours, then someone noticed that something was awry. For four entire hours no one — not an employee, cashier or customer — realized that the prices had been changed! That's hard to believe, isn't it? For four hours, some people got the bargain of a lifetime and others were swindled. When these pranksters changed the price of every item in the store, they were really changing the value of every item in the store.

The ironic thing is that people do the very same thing every day across our land. Every day, we see the things that used to be valuable peddled for pennies and the things that used to be dirt cheap are sold for enormous amounts of money. To the student of the Bible, this is not surprising because God predicted days such as this when He said, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isa. 5:20-23).

The values that built our nation are now all mixed up. Pleasure and entertainment are going for top dollar, and the value of human beings is at an all-time low! Today, people are valuable only if they produce, if they are pretty, skinny, can sing, knock the cover off a horsehide sphere or run up and down a football field with a zipped-up bag of air under their arm.

Somewhere along the way, someone broke into the store and exchanged all the price tags. We used to believe that everyone had value, not because of what they do or what they have done but because they were made in the image of God. The next time some prankster tries to put a bargain basement price tag on you, remember who you are and Whose you are! You are valuable — period — no matter what anyone else says!

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It's not complicated

The ability for the devil to complicate and confuse the plans and programs of any church is real. Paul told the Corinthians to not allow him to lead them astray from the “simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” It is not that difficult to know how God wants you to behave and what He wants you to be doing. Unfortunately, it seems that way too many believers do not know why the church exists and what their church is supposed to be doing. The biblical mandate is to go and make disciples. The New Testament has multiple examples of what the reproduction of disciples should look like.

Anything healthy reproduces! Many Christians consider themselves “mature” because of how long they have been saved or because of how much they know about discipleship, but the true mark of maturity is that you are reproducing. We ought to be seeing reproduction and multiplication in every aspect of our lives and our churches. Christians should be reproducing other Christians, small groups should be reproducing other small groups, leaders should be reproducing leaders, disciples should be reproducing disciples and churches should be multiplying churches.

Multiplication begins by one person simply caring about another person enough to share the love of Christ with them. Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, and His response was that there were actually two. Why did He say that? Because they are so closely connected that it is impossible to divide the two. First, you are to love God with all you heart and then you are also to love your neighbor as yourself. Yet, we no longer measure our love for God by how well we love others. It seems that we have produced a Christianity that allows a dichotomy between the two.

Can you actually say you are spiritually mature when you say you love God and do not love your church family as well? That is actually the easier part of the love equation because Jesus, in Matt. 5:44-45, went totally radical by saying: “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be the sons of your Father in heaven.” What really sets you apart as spiritually mature is your ability to

love your enemies. That is the simplicity of your devotion to Christ and the biblical standard of love. “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21).

Simple, not complicated, but that does not mean it is easy. Tony Evans, in *Kingdom Man Devotional*, says: “The problem we face in the church is not insincerity; it is the church focusing on the wrong assignment... The church does not exist for programs, projects, preaching and buildings; rather, it exists as the primary vehicle for believers to display God’s glory, impact the culture, restore lives and advance the kingdom.”

Once again, it just is not that complicated. You are not called as a leader to do the work of the ministry, but rather to train up the saints in the work of the ministry which will build up the body of Christ.

God’s simple plan is to make disciples. Are you making disciples who make disciples? If you are not, then get started. God’s simple plan is to love Him, love others as ourselves and to love your enemies. Are you growing spiritually in all three of those areas? Two signs of spiritual maturity are loving your enemies and reaching out to people who are far from God. Are you being obedient? Charles Stanley states the simplicity of following Christ as “Obey God and leave the consequences to Him.” If you are not careful, you will make things so complicated that it will only cause confusion. Remember that the devil is the author of confusion.

Simple, clear and concise should be your anthem for how you approach following Christ and leading your church. The early church was seeing exponential expansion that was unbelievable and undeniable. It was simple, and it was multiplying. Unfortunately, when the church was legalized, it became “excruciatingly institutional.” What had been a movement was now focused on establishing, stabilizing and maintaining. It was not long before the systems they had put in place fossilized and changed the focus and mission from reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ to oiling the machinery of the institution. It happens very easily.

Keep it simple, and do not over-complicate. Pray a lot, then pray some

LEARNED

(Continued From Page 1)

Kaela and Nicholas. She and Mitch are good parents, which gives us peace of mind. Our precious son, Greg, resides in Heaven. He is forever 21. He passed away in 1996 and we still grieve, but not as those who have no hope.

Over 40 of these years have been in the ministry. Rick quickly developed his own style of preaching. He’s my favorite preacher. It took a couple of years to realize that I needed to stop emulating other pastor’s wives and be myself. That was the smartest thing I did. Although I’m not as sweet and talented as many, I am simply me and it’s easier that way. I don’t have to worry about forgetting who I am supposed to be on any given day! I have learned that not everyone is going to like you. I’ve also learned that I am okay with that.

Half of our married life has been spent here in Kingsland, where Rick pastors Kingsland Baptist Church. We love our church family, and they have been very good to us. They’ve stood by us through some of the darkest days of our lives and some of the best.

I have learned that we are better at being grandparents than we were as parents.

I can’t imagine my life without the love of my life, my best friend and partner over the past 50 years. There is a saying that goes, “If you live to be 100, I want to live to be 100 minus a day because I don’t want to live without you.” That’s the way I feel about Rick, my soulmate, “the one my soul loveth” (Song of Solomon 3:4).

more. Is your church a church that prays or are you a praying church? The difference is found in whether you pray for those you are asked to pray for or do you pray without ceasing, continually, never stopping. Focus on obeying the Great Commission and realize that your church is not here to recycle dissatisfied church members but instead reach people who are far from God. That should not be hard because a new Gallup poll has stated: “For the first time since the late 1930s, fewer than half of Americans say they belong to a church, synagogue or mosque.”

The simple, but not easy, challenge is to Go, Make Disciples, Plant Churches and then repeat the process. Discern the voice of the Lord in how He is leading your church to simply obey, follow and carry out His mission. Our loyalty to Christ is non-negotiable, and as you follow Him, focus on making disciples, loving your enemies and praying without ceasing!

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If You Want to be Counter-Cultural, Put Down Your Phone

By Jason Pierce

I called in an order for some smoked pork at a local BBQ place near where I live and arrived early to pick up my food because I like it to be as fresh as possible when I get home. I’ve worked in a restaurant, so I know that “10 to 20 minutes” really means 10 minutes at the most (usually). Upon my early arrival, I paid for the food then took a seat in the lobby to wait for the waitress with my short ribs to find me.

As I waited, I noticed a couple sitting in front of me with no food on their table. They were waiting on their food also, but dining in. The man was watching Nascar on YouTube and the woman, I assume, was on social media by the swift and restless scrolling motion of her thumb — up and down, up and down. Her mind intent to stare at the digital world in front of her. Their food came, and they looked up to one another, nodding their heads in approval of the food that had been placed in front of them. Sharing eye contact and a head nod, they began to eat. Just moments after the first bite, the woman picked her phone back up and resumed scrolling. Following suit, the man stood his phone back up on the table and continued watching the big race.

Let’s name it — addiction!

For several years now, it’s been a widely known fact that social media companies hire “attention engineers” that use principles and tactics of Las Vegas casinos to get you as addicted as possible. They give you shiny rewards in return for your attention. These platforms track your data usage and contextualize your experience based on what items you click on in your feed. In this way, the algorithm tracks your activity and responds to what will most likely be your next move. This is manipulation, just like cigarette companies who put in deadly chemicals to keep you addicted to their product.

And just like cigarettes and slot machines, social media is addictive and can be dangerous. Like gambling addicts, those addicted to social media think they’re in control, but they’re not. It’s a problem, and it’s the big tech companies that have built this type of “free” model based on advertising. This business model is not ethical (to say the least), and it is changing the behavior and psychology of billions of people.

Another broadly known fact is that social media spikes our depression and makes us unhappy. It feeds us the dopamine we love to experience through “likes” and “shares” and then, like a double-edged sword, provides anxiety and stress. But even the anxiety is addicting. We want to see just how good someone else’s life is so we can become jealous about it.

Like the slot machine, we get funneled into a helpless, unhealthy cycle of punishment and reward. In addition to our behavior, our psychological makeup is being reprogrammed. The faster we scroll through a feed, the less we can keep our focus on anything for long periods. Our attention is being broken up so much that it’s becoming impossible to pay attention to anything.

As individuals, we were not made to function that way. Moreover, societies can’t survive like that. The fact that there are dials on the other side of our social media feed to keep us addicted to our phones is not ethical. As people of God, it’s our prerogative to be counter-cultural and to live against the current. For many of us, it means rethinking how we use these platforms.

A final thought is that no one who wants to accomplish anything significant in life will be thumbing away constantly at their phone. We’re people of the Bible and people of prayer. Can we do these things if we’re constantly checking our feed? If we’re not careful, we’ll consume social media like junk food and reap the repercussions as such. However, for those who belong to Christ, we’ll feast on the Bread of Life, and we’ll be satisfied.



By Executive Editor
Jeff Herring

God is Worthy of All Praise

Like most of you reading this, I enjoyed a great day worshipping our Risen Savior on Sunday as we celebrated Easter. At Antioch, we had our service outside on the parking lot and had a wonderful time having most of the church family back together for the first time in over a year. We can always praise a God who is the same no matter how messed up our world is.

At Antioch, Bro. Jason reminded us that because of our sin, we owed a debt that we had no way to pay. God loved us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to live as a man, yet without sin, so that He could pay our debt by dying on the cross. Praise the Lord, He did not stay in the grave — that would have been a tragedy! *‘And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins’* (I Cor. 15:17 ESV).

Jesus rose from the dead so we can also have the promise of being resurrected and reunited with those that have died in Christ. If you do not know Jesus as your personal Savior, please acknowledge your inability to save yourself, believe that Jesus died and rose again for you and confess Jesus as your Lord. (Rom. 10:9-10, 13). God is worthy of all praise for providing us the promise of salvation!

A Good Day in the Office

I recently shared about a week when the mail was not friendly in delivering the checks and payments we must have in order to keep this ministry moving forward. It seems that this week the opposite may be happening. Allan went to the post office on Monday and came back with a stack of payments and Special Emphasis offerings. In Monday’s mail we received enough donations that we more than doubled what we have received for Special Emphasis up to this point! God is good!

We are not there yet, but I believe God is letting us know that He is in control and, just as we learned a few weeks ago, we will continue to trust Him with the future of this ministry. Please continue to pray as we have begun our final month for our designated time of Special Emphasis.

Special Emphasis Update

Please continue to pray as we work together to “Build for the Future” ministry of the *Baptist Trumpet*. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like for me or Allan to come and share with your church or group meeting, please let me know.

2021 Special Emphasis • Goal - \$45,000

Previous Balance (March 31)	\$6,066.74
Calvary, White Hall	\$1,400.00
Gum Springs, Arkadelphia	\$249.00
Oak Park, Little Rock	\$140.00
Crockett’s Bluff, DeWitt	\$1,000.00
James Stauber	\$800.00
Marvin Delk	\$300.00
John & Karen Trafford	\$150.00
Bill Hoggard	\$300.00
Pleasant Valley, Greenbrier	\$1,500.00
Calvary, Morrilton	\$125.00
Springhill, Greenbrier*	\$225.00
Total	\$12,295.74

*Have given previously



By Executive Editor Jeff Herring

18 States Support Religious Liberty and School Choice

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge led an 18-state coalition urging the United States Supreme Court to protect religious liberty in school-choice

programs. Rutledge filed a brief arguing that the U.S. Constitution forbids state school-choice programs from discriminating against religious schools.

“States do not need to discriminate against religious schools to have suc-

cessful school-choice programs,” said Attorney General Rutledge. “The Constitution requires respect for religious liberty and parents must be empowered to make the best educational decisions for their children, whether it be a public or private school, secular or religious, and their choice should not be limited by their family’s financial capabilities or zip code. It certainly must not be limited by their faith.” (arkansasag.gov)

House Committee Passes No-Fault Divorce in Arkansas

On March 30, the House Judiciary Committee passed H.B. 1697 by Rep. Ashley Hudson (D/Little Rock), Rep. Andrew Collins (D/Little Rock), and Sen. Greg Leding (D/Fayetteville). This bad bill permits no-fault divorce in Arkansas.

Under current law, couples in Arkansas can divorce in cases such as infidelity, abuse, following a lengthy separation and other circumstances. H.B. 1697 would permit divorce due to irreconcilable differences, discord or conflict of personalities regardless of if the husband or wife is at fault.

Arkansas already has a high divorce rate. We should pass laws encouraging people to stay married, rather than making it even easier to end marriages in our state. The bill now goes to the entire Arkansas House of Representatives for consideration. (familycouncil.org)

Arkansas Senate Passes Informed-Consent Bill

On March 30, the Arkansas Senate passed H.B. 1572 by a vote of 29 to 6. H.B. 1572 is a good, pro-life bill by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R/Springdale) and Sen. Scott Flippo (R/Mountain Home). The measure previously passed the Arkansas House of Representatives. H.B. 1572 outlines the informed-consent process for chemical abortion drugs like the RU-486 regimen.

Arkansas’ already has some of the best informed-consent laws for abortion of any state in the country. However, current laws are geared primarily for surgical abortion procedures. With the rise in chemical abortion drugs like RU-486, Arkansas law needs to address drug-induced abortions as well. H.B. 1572 will help ensure women get all the facts about chemical abortion — including its risks, consequences and alternatives. H.B. 1572 will save the lives of unborn children by helping women know their options besides abortion. The bill now goes to the governor to become law. (familycouncil.org)

Faith Family Freedom Acts

On April 5, Ark. Attorney General Leslie Rutledge introduced legislation aimed at strengthening American patriotism in schools throughout Arkansas called Faith Family Freedom Acts. The first of these acts is called the “Star-Spangled Banner Act” and will require each public school to play The Star-Spangled Banner at the start of school-sanctioned sporting events.

See NOTES, Page 8

Arkansas Faith And Ethics Council



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Legislative Issues Update

This listing does not contain all the bills we are monitoring, interested in and dealing with at some level. However, they are some of the major ones. If you have questions about any of these, please contact us.

Alcohol-Related Bills

• **House Bill 1148:** If this bill became law, it would virtually gut the Local Option Election laws and take much of the authority away from residents of counties in determining whether alcoholic beverages can be sold in their communities. We have strongly opposed this bill. The bill was defeated in the House Rules Committee. There has been no recent legislative action on this bill.

• **Senate Bill 32:** This bill will allow liquor stores to deliver alcoholic beverages to private residences in wet counties. We opposed this bill but, unfortunately, it has passed and is now law.

• **House Bill 1062:** This bill, which we supported, will increase the time from 5 years to 10 years that a court may use a previous DWI conviction to impose an enhanced sentence for a repeat offender. This bill passed as is now law.

• **House Bill 1228:** This bill will allow entertainment districts in dry counties that have private clubs. We have staunchly opposed this bill from its inception. It passed in the House, but lost the vote in the Senate. It is possible that another vote can be taken in the Senate. We will let you know so you can contact your state senator, asking them to oppose the bill.

• **Senate Bill 76:** This bill will allow excursion (tourist) trains to serve alcohol during their trips. This bill has been approved by the legislature and is now law.

• **House Bill 1341:** We opposed this bill, which would have removed the ban on selling or serving alcohol on Christmas Day. It was defeated in the House Rules Committee, and it is unlikely that we will see it again this session.

• **House Bill 1748:** This bill, which we opposed, would have permitted a city council or quorum court by ordinance to call an election to permit Sunday alcohol sales. Under current law, only voters can call such an election by submitting petitions with 15% of the city or county’s registered voters’ signatures. The bill failed in the House Rules Committee.

See UPDATE, Page 8

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Master's Builders Retreat And Report

By Nelda Malone

The Master's Builders Retreat was scheduled for January, but due to COVID-19 concerns, it was decided to reschedule the retreat for March 11-13. It would be at Daniel Springs, which is where our first job of 2021 would start on March 15.

We had a great attendance of 32 or so and were blessed to welcome Rick and Angie Morris of Waxahachie, Texas to our group. There were several of The Master's Builders who could not attend because of health or COVID concerns, but we did get to visit with Joyce and James Chamess of Lufkin, Texas. It was so good to see them!

We always enjoy our time together just relaxing. There is a lot of eating, talking, eating, game playing, laughing and did I mention we do enjoy eating!

At our business meeting, we learned that we have a job starting April 12 at Stoneridge Baptist Camp in Smithville. This work was planned for last April, but was canceled, so we plan to travel there and do whatever is needed. We look forward to seeing Scott and Myrtie Small and family.

Following our "Weekend Retreat"

at Daniel Springs Camp, The Master's Builders were rested and ready to begin work on their first job of 2021 at Daniel Springs. This would be the 169th job that The Master's Builders would have the privilege to work on. Camp Director Jason Prewitt always has a list of projects ready for our men, and they were ready to get after them!

The following is what the men got done in our two weeks there:

- The General Store and Bookstore — Doubled the size of the room, cut through cinder blocks to put in a door to connect the offices, ran electrical, put in sheetrock, installed doors and installed the tin on outside.

- The Summer Staff's breakroom — made it stationary, built a porch on it, put in flooring, cabinets, appliances, trim, ran electrical and put in lights.

- Guard shack — put in flooring, trim and ran electrical.

- Tabernacle — fixed broken chairs.
- "Urban Skills" course — built one outside. (There is one inside already.)

- Built eight mobile "sandwich boards" to place around the camp to display information.

- Built mobile cabinets and storage bins for sound equipment and archery "urban skills" equipment.

- Tore down an old bridge and built a new one over the creek.

I'm sure I've missed some things, but you get the idea. We did whatever we could to build whatever was needed.

The women helped with a few projects. There is always sweeping to be done and blocks or boards to move to keep the work area clean, but we also stained the bunk extensions that were done several years ago in the Daniel Dorm.

We enjoyed the Jacksonville College Choir and leader Randy Decker one night. We always enjoy the fellowship we have with them every year. They are spoiling us!

Holly Greer, granddaughter of Wayne and Leona Wimberly, one of our Builder couples, came and shared her ministry in Haiti with us where she works with children. She shared how from an early age the Lord has burdened her heart and how she now has several children she mentors and cares for. She has named her work "Kingdom Kids!" What a blessing she was.

Thank you to Jason and Jessica Prewitt and Morgan Sandifer for all you do! These are hardworking, kid loving, God-called servants of the Lord! We love you and thank God for you!

There are so many more things I could share about our time there, but you can keep up with The Master's Builders and read about our "daily doings" on Facebook! Like us at "The Master's Builders" (church arbor logo).

If you have questions about our ministry or if your church had building needs, contact: Eddie Sikes at (479) 462-1675, Mike Green at (972) 935-3877 or David Axe at (903) 918-0720.



Southwest District GMA Meets

By Harmonie O'Neal, Corresponding Secretary

The Southwest District Girls Missionary Auxiliary (GMA) met at First Baptist Church in Taylor on Saturday, March 20 with 24 present and 5 churches represented. President Riley Johnson opened the meeting, and the welcome was given by First Baptist Church, Taylor with the response by Pleasant Springs Baptist Church of McCaskill. Brooke Hanson led in the GMA song, and Anna Wilson and her father, Josh sang the song "This Is What They Meant."

Our theme for this year is "Angels," and our theme verse is Psalm 91:11. Riley Johnson did a devotional about Michael the Archangel from Rev. 12:7-9. She described how Michael is a protector/warrior angel.

The minutes were read by Lilly Medlin. We didn't have a meeting in January due to COVID-19.

Our new Jr. Miss is Emilee Glass.

We raised \$2,194 for our 2020 project, "The Darlene Christian Academy" in the Philippines. Our new project is "Project of Hope," a special needs home in Nicaragua and the goal is \$1,000.

The state meeting will be a virtual meeting on Saturday, April 24 at 10 a.m. We will meet at Taylor together on that day and have a potluck lunch. Our next district meeting will be with the WMA on July 13 at First Baptist Church in McNeil.

GMA camp is June 15-18. President Riley adjourned the meeting, and our dismissal prayer was given by Lisa Rust.



Mitchell Ray Colbert, 34 of Magnolia, passed away April 4. He was a member of Antioch West Baptist Church.

Janis Gail Millican, 59 of Magnolia, passed away March 30. She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Rodney Thayer Chambers, 84 of Magnolia passed away March 29. He attended First Baptist Church.



Hot Dogs and Hot Rods, May 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; proceeds benefit Water for Christ; LifeSong, Greenbrier.

CBC Scholarship Gala, June 5, 6 p.m., Conway Expo Center. Contact Amy Reed for more info at areed@cbc.edu.

BMA Camp, June 21-24; Chis Vines, camp speaker, Doug Mickan, worship leader; Budd Creek Camp, Greers Ferry.

National Galilean Camp, June 25-28; Stoneridge Baptist Camp, Smithville, Arkansas.

SOAR 2021, July 6-8; Hilton Anatole, Dallas, Texas; visit soarconference.com for more info.

Fresh Grounded Faith Women's Event, Aug. 6-7, 7 p.m. Fri., 12:30 p.m. Sat.; Antioch, Conway.

Ark. Ladies Retreat, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Meadowside Baptist Church in Pittsburg, Kan. is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact Greg Hardister at (620) 704-6860.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Wynne is seeking a full-



Beacon, Taylor welcomed one by baptism; Kerry Easley, pastor.

Lemonwood, Whitehall gained one by letter; Ronnie Johnson, pastor.

Spring Lake, Texarkana rejoices over two by baptism; Randy Shepherd, pastor.



Jonesboro District WMA, April 10, 10 a.m.; Yalanda Young Merrell, guest speaker; Prospect, Jonesboro.

Mt. Vernon District WMA, April 10, 10 a.m.; Rondo, Lexa.

Greenbrier District WMA, April 15; 10am meeting, program & lunch; LifeSong, Greenbrier.



Victory, Hampton, April 19-21, 7 p.m.; Ruben Weaver, evangelist; Robbie Duncan, pastor.

Temple, Fordyce, May 9-12, 7 p.m.; Jim Moss, evangelist; Lance Hollis, pastor.

Liberty, Stamps, June 6-9, 7 p.m.; Donnie Edward, evangelist; Adam Rogers; pastor.

Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw, Sept. 12-17, 7 p.m.; Jimmy Walker, evangelist; Lane Garner, pastor.



Bodcaw #1, Bodcaw, July 25, 10:30 a.m., John Ed Dorman (devotional); Taylor Bruce (message); potluck lunch and singing; Lane Garner, pastor.

time pastor. For more information, call Britt Johnson at (870) 588-1667 or Scott McClintock at (870) 208-3243.

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The Equality Act's Potential Impact on Christian Organizations

The societal issues that the Equality Act seeks to address are often ones that are prone to controversy. Regardless of your ministry's individual perspective related to the Equality Act, it's important to understand the implications that the Equality Act may have on your ministry if it becomes law.

Religious Freedom Rulings in 2020

Before addressing the status and potential impact of the Equality Act presently being considered by Congress, it's important to note that 2020 saw a few new and generally positive developments in the area of religious freedom. The United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of religious institutions in several cases. For example, in *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*, the Supreme Court reinforced the broad application of the ministerial exception that permits religious institutions to make employee hiring and firing decisions based on their sincerely held religious beliefs.

A new federal initiative making its way through the legislative process may, however, challenge certain religious freedom protections for individuals and religious organizations. This federal legislation is known as the Equality Act.

What is the Equality Act?

The Equality Act is a comprehensive federal bill that has been introduced in prior sessions of Congress, and was re-introduced Feb. 18 as HR 5. Although this bill is not yet law, President Biden has made passing the act a top priority. As of March 2021, the Equality Act had been approved by the House of Representatives but had not yet been approved by the U.S. Senate.

If enacted, the Equality Act would include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classes within several federal anti-discrimination laws. This approach would expand on the Supreme Court's ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County* in 2020. In *Bostock*, the Supreme Court held that employment discrimination based on an employee's sexual orientation or transgender status violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This case presented questions regarding the ability of religious institutions to operate in accordance with their sincerely held beliefs.

Because the Equality Act would amend several different federal anti-discrimination laws, each of which having varying coverage requirements

(such as employers meeting minimum size requirements, educational institutions receiving federal funding, etc.), the Equality Act would likely apply to a variety of different religious institutions.

The Equality Act would also expand the definition of places of "public accommodations" to include: "any establishment that provides a good, service or program, including a store, shopping center, online retailer or service provider, salon, bank, gas station, food bank, service or care center, shelter, travel agency, or funeral parlor, or establishment that provides health care, accounting or legal services."

This expansion could potentially subject religious organizations to the Equality Act's definition of public accommodation to the extent that a religious organization serves the public in these capacities.

The Equality Act also would make the following changes:

- Adds elements to the definition of "sex" to include "sex stereotypes," "sexual orientation or gender identity," "sex characteristics, including intersex traits" and "pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition."

- Exempts itself from the requirements and protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA).

The Equality Act has the potential to reduce many religious freedom protections that individuals and business owners were granted under the RFRA, but non-profit religious institutions should still maintain many broad protections under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, as well as under various state constitutions.

How Will the Equality Act Impact Christian Organizations?

Depending on the sincerely-held beliefs of faith-based institutions, the Equality Act could create various challenges, pitting the anti-discrimination purpose of the Equality Act against federal First Amendment protections related to the free exercise of religion. If enacted, there is likely to be litigation regarding provisions in the Equality Act that could unconstitutionally restrict the free exercise of religion as protected by the First Amendment. For example, some religious organizations are concerned about the Equality Act's impact on the sanctity of life, as well as the impact of redefining traditional gender roles involving activities such as college and university athletic programs.

With the act's expansion of the definition of what a place of public accommodation is, Christian organizations may need to reevaluate their practices with respect to renting or lending facilities to outside organizations. It's a good idea to require that facility use be tied to the organization's religious mission and purpose. This step may help avoid being classified as a place of public accommodation. Brotherhood Mutual provides a Facility Use Continuum graphic that can help your organization understand safer versus less safe approaches to take when offering facilities for use to outside organizations.

In addition, according to the 2020 *Bostock* ruling, the principles that would be expanded by the Equality Act, religious institutions should exercise caution when hiring a staff member who does not serve a clear religious function (such as a custodial staff member or a groundskeeper), as these types of employees may not be subject to the protections of the ministerial exception.

Although the Equality Act creates some challenges to religious freedom, it should not affect various religious exemptions to federal anti-discrimination laws for religious organizations. Indeed, religious institutions have traditionally enjoyed strong protections in relation to discrimination claims. For example, the Fair Housing Act provides certain exemptions for religious institutions, allowing these institutions to give preference to those who share in their faith when selling or renting a dwelling. Likewise, certain religious institutions, including Christian churches, schools, universities and related ministries, are permitted to show employment preference to individuals of a particular religion who perform work in positions that serve a religious function.

How Can Christian Organizations Prepare and Protect Themselves?

- **Update governing and organizational documents.** To prepare for potential future challenges to religious freedom, it is important for religious institutions to document their sincerely held religious beliefs in writing to be able to reference them if challenged. Below are some suggestions designed to accomplish this goal:

- Include a purpose statement in governing documents (i.e. bylaws and/or constitution) that outlines the organization's foundational beliefs.

- Incorporate specific belief statements into governing and organizational documents.

- Include specific references to Scripture in support of sincerely held religious beliefs.

Although these steps may not offer an absolute protection from liability, they can go a long way toward helping religious organizations strengthen their legal position in this area. Brotherhood Mutual has developed a resource page for Religious Freedom Protection that may be helpful to your organization.

- **Consider adding Religious Freedom Protection Coverage.** In



Utility COVID-19 Disconnection Moratorium Ending

The Arkansas Public Service Commission (PSC) announced on March 26 the COVID-19 disconnection moratorium for its regulated utility services is ending on May 3. Consumers with past due balances will now begin receiving disconnection notices to their mailing addresses from their utility companies providing at least a 35-day grace period before shut-off notices will be sent. This applies to customers of Entergy, OG&E, SWEPCO, Liberty Utilities, CenterPoint Energy, Black Hills, Arkansas Oklahoma Gas and the Electric Cooperatives.

"We are over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic and Arkansas is recovering in more ways than one," said AG Leslie Rutledge. "I want folks who are going back to work, but still struggling to pay their bills, to know they have options."

Rutledge released the following information for consumers who receive a notice from the utility company:

- **It is important to take action immediately to seek assistance to avoid disconnection.** Verify what you owe directly with your utility company. Information, including what is owed, must be provided in writing to each customer with a past due balance.

- **Contact the utility company and discuss a payment plan if your bill is unaffordable.** Utility companies are required to provide information regarding available payment options on their website and social media platforms and offer plans which provide a minimum of 18 months to repay any past due balances with no down payment required. They must also provide information regarding funds that may be available through assistance agencies or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

- **Don't fall for fake calls about utility bills!**

- **Verify the status of your account directly with the utility company.** You should contact them. Do not assume that someone who contacts you works for the utility company. It could be a scam.

- **Make all payments directly to the utility company.** Drop off the payment at the utility company's office or an authorized payment location, pay online on the utility company's website with a credit card or call the company directly. Consider participating in an automated bank account draft system if it is offered or mail the payment to the utility company directly.

- **Remember, a legitimate utility company will not pressure you to pay through a wire transfer, gift card or prepaid debit card.**

The Public Service Commission does not regulate municipal utilities or private water companies, and customers of those utility companies are not affected by the PSC's order.

For more information and tips to avoid scams and other consumer-related issues, contact the Arkansas Attorney General's Office at (800) 482-8982 or OAG@ArkansasAG.gov or visit ArkansasAG.gov.

light of changing religious, legal and cultural trends, Christian organizations are encouraged to add religious freedom protection coverage to their property/liability insurance policy. Brotherhood Mutual offers broad Religious Freedom Protection Coverage that provides innovative protection to religious institutions in relation to their belief-based decisions and communication. This includes coverage for emotional injury claims that result from alleged discrimination, religious communication or religious activities. The endorsement also offers funds to help respond to targeted actions by government agencies, as well as tax-exemption challenges.

In addition, for colleges and universities, Brotherhood Mutual offers a Religious Freedom Protection Coverage Educational Institution Extension that protects faith-based educational institutions from threats related to:

- Acts that would be considered discrimination under Title IX or any other applicable federal, state or local statute, ordinance or law.

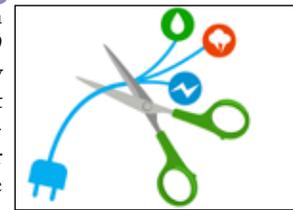
- Your ability or your students' ability to receive federal financial aid under Title IV.

- Your ability or your students' ability to receive financial aid or scholarships through federal, state or local programs (other than Title IV).

- Accreditation challenges.

Of course, coverage is determined at the time of a claim, subject to all terms, conditions and exclusions.

— *The information provided in this article is intended to be helpful, but it does not constitute legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice from a licensed attorney in your area. We strongly encourage you to regularly consult with a local attorney as part of your risk management program.*





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PAUL WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have You Only Looked, Or Have You Actually Seen?

Each holiday has a message, and Easter is no exception. To celebrate this holiday, the secular world has given us the Easter Bunny and all the things that go along with him. You know that there is something wrong with this picture — what's an egg got to do with a rabbit? The answer of course is nothing!

While there is nothing wrong with children hunting colored eggs, please don't let them think that's what Easter is about. If you haven't already done so, set your family down and tell them the story of Easter.

What is the message of Easter? The answer to that question is found in our text: *"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you"* (Matt. 28:5-7). There are four words in this text which I feel sum up the message of Easter. The four words are imperatives. They are commands, **not** suggestions — **come, see, go and tell.**

The one I want to draw your attention to today is "**see.**" I'd like to differentiate between the words "look" and "see." When I look at something, I may not grasp what I'm looking at. I may not comprehend or understand. *"Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?"* (Mark 8:18).

But when I truly "see" something, I grasp, comprehend or understand it. I believe that is what the angel wanted the women to "see" or grasp, understand and comprehend — that **the tomb was empty**, and that Christ had risen from the dead.

"And he turned him unto (his) disciples, and said privately, Blessed (are) the eyes which see the things that ye see" (Luke 10:23). I believe God wants us to "see" that Christ is risen from the dead and is alive forever.

How can we go about this? *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"* (Rom. 10:9-10). Perhaps it needs repeating: take a closer look at the empty tomb and **see** it is empty.

From Our Missionaries

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, "What an incredible week we enjoyed here at Connection Point. On Wednesday, our ladies had an Easter potluck with lots of food and fun. They exchanged 'empty' gifts and talked about the empty tomb.

"Saturday, we held our annual Community-wide Egg Hunt. This year we held the entire event outside. God blessed us with an amazing turnout. We had hundreds and hundreds of people. We even had vans and buses full of people show up. We sang a couple of fun songs, then we shared with them the real story of Easter and talked to everyone about Jesus. After that, we set them loose, and they picked up around 6,000 eggs in about 3 minutes. It was a great day, and we met hundreds of families.

"Sunday was Resurrection Sunday, and we enjoyed an amazing day of worship. We had more than 100 in worship, which was by far our biggest crowd since COVID. We had great offerings and people at the altar praying.

It was a beautiful and amazing day! Thank you, Lord. We pray that your church enjoyed a great Resurrection Sunday, as well."

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, "We had a great Easter service this week. Our attendance was up again. We are blessed with some faithful folks that can be counted on.

"Sunday after services, we had an Easter egg hunt for the kids followed by a cookout. Some of our members said that this was one of the best days they had had in a long time. Christian fellowship is an awesome experience.

"We baptized one young man Sunday, using our portable hot tub. The weather was very cooperative, and everyone was blessed by being there for this young man. It is always exciting to see a teenager making commitments to the Lord. Pray for this young man to make an impact on his world.

"We would not be here if not for your prayers and financial support. You have a hand in changing people's lives here in Crawford County. Thanks, and God bless the BMA."

Misión Creciendo en Cristo (Growing in Christ), North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, "It is sad to observe how the fervor for the commemoration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has been lost. The emphasis of this occasion has remained as a family activity to hunt for eggs full of sweets. Except for the mentions in our church and special meetings, I believe our congregation would not have been exposed to the sacrifice and victory of Christ on the cross.

"This is not something unique to the United States, it is happening all over the world. In Honduras, my country-of-origin, the emphasis is on enjoying a long weekend starting on Thursday, and many take the opportunity to go to the beach or visit family in their cities of origin.

"What joy and satisfaction it gives me that our congregation had the opportunity this week to review in greater detail the events commemorated. On Friday, we had a study on the crucifixion of Jesus. Saturday we saw the movie *Life and Ministry of the Lord Jesus*, and on Sunday, we studied the resurrection of our Savior. We hope, with God's help, to continue to impact the lives of our congregation members. Please pray with us for that."

Life Journey, Fort Smith: Darrin Smith writes, "We took it to the streets" this Easter weekend. We met for worship on Good Friday at noon, and after the service, we went out and had a prayer walk through our neighborhoods. We put flyers on over 250 homes. The flyer reminded people how 'Easter Changed Everything' and then invited them to come to our service on Sunday.

"On Saturday, we had a churchwide yard sale and our parking lot was full. We gave tours of our building, handed out invitations and prayed with people who wanted us to. Saturday evening, we went out to three different apartment complexes handing out invitations and sharing Christ. We had one to trust Christ as Savior!

"Sunday morning, we had a wonderful worship service and had a few first-time visitors. All-in-all, we handed out 400 invitations, made a lot of contacts and are looking forward to following up with them."

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, "Easter Sunday is my favorite Sunday of the year. There is always much anticipation throughout

Jacksonville College is Seeking Applicants for President

Jacksonville College is a vibrant, faith-based, liberal arts institution. Founded in 1899, the college is located in Jacksonville, Texas and is affiliated with the BMA of Texas and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

The college is currently accepting applications for the office of president. Applicants must have an earned Doctorate degree, with Education or related disciplines preferred. This confident, well-spoken leader must be a conservative, growing Christian with deep experience in institutional development, fundraising and administration. Pastoral ministry-related experience is a plus.

For consideration, please send a cover letter; a personal resume which includes family information, your history of work experience, your personal testimony of faith; contact information for three references to dpage@hillcrestbc.com.

Apply by April 10, 2021 for full consideration.



the week preceding Easter Sunday regarding sermon preparation, wondering how many people will attend, how many new people we will get to meet at church, and how to ensure that I, as a pastor, am properly prepared for the Lord's work on this wonderful Sunday. In mission work, the excitement around having new people is among the greatest anxiety in the lead-up to Easter Sunday.

"While we had a great service at Grace Baptist Mission celebrating our resurrected Lord, we did not have any new faces worshipping with us. After our service, our congregation had lunch together at my home, and we had an Easter egg hunt with the children. We spent the entire afternoon together in friendship and fellowship. Everyone who attended worship together came over for lunch! We have great comradery together and enjoy being friends as well as family in Christ.

"I am extremely grateful for the friendships we share at Grace, and pray that God will bless us with more people to share our friendships. Please pray with us as we strive to be what God wants us to be for and with the people of Carroll County."

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, "We had a wonderful time at our service Sunday. We were there from 6 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. We remembered the seven words of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary and their meaning. I thank God for the meaning of Christ's resurrection. He was not left in a grave; Christ lives! We also participated in the Lord's Supper. After our resurrection service, we had breakfast. It was a good time to share food and have fellowship. I love the enthusiasm at Ebenezer, and their willingness to serve.

"We also had a good time in the

Berean Groups (cells). On Monday, I led Chenal's group, we had a birthday celebration and we started with new material.

"Thanks for your prayers. This week Rubencito (Little Ruben) has his annual appointment with his neurologist, and I am making an appointment to have a root canal.

"To God be the glory!"

Faith Chapel, Flippin: Johnny Shew writes, "We had a wonderful week at Faith Chapel. Easter is such a wonderful time!

"This week, my message was from I Peter 1:3-9, because it reminds us that because of God's abundant mercy, what Jesus did on the cross and His resurrection from the grave that we, who are born again, can look forward with a living hope, a confident expectation and assurance, to our inheritance in Heaven.

"And no matter what we are going through in this life — even our pain and sickness and distress — we can rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory because we will soon realize our eternal life with Him and will hear Him say; 'well done' if we are but faithful to Him and His calling on our lives. Praise God, He is risen!

"Thank you for your prayers — they strengthen us."

Not Alone, Springdale: Clinton Morris writes, "Another emotionally impacting week as I drove to Wisconsin to celebrate the passing of my grandma Jane Mitchell into glory. She was one of my spiritual pillars — always encouraging, praying and ministering. I am going to miss her so much; my loss is Heavens gain.

"Easter was quiet because my daughter, Cat threw up all Saturday night. The family and I are mentally refocusing for the weeks to come."

Ark. Ladies Retreat 2021

By Kelly Williams, Second Vice President • Arkansas WMA

We had such big plans for last year's retreat, but COVID. We are very excited to give you details about the 2021 Ladies' Retreat that will be held at CBC on Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Cooper Complex. We have so much planned for you to enjoy!

Our theme for the retreat comes from I Peter 2:5-7, "Add to **your** faith," and our speaker will be Jaclyn Rowe. She blessed us so much two years ago, and we look forward to what God has for us through her.

Our worship leader is Angela Wisely from First Baptist Church in Magnolia. She has such a sweet spirit and great voice; I know we will be blessed through her leading.

We plan to have four breakout sessions after lunch. Continuing with our theme, we will offer add to **your** faith through discipleship (Judy Wallace leading); add to **your** faith through Bible Study (Valarie Fish leading); add to **your** faith through missions (Holly Meriweather leading); and add to **your** faith through... (we are working on this one!)

We will be having a book swap led by Ark. WMA Third Vice President Robin Tyler. Bring any book(s) to the retreat and take home different ones.

In the place of a silent auction, we plan to have a Pound in a Purse auction during lunch. This is a fun way to raise funds for our projects. Bring a purse with a pound of something in there, then we will bid on them and see what we bought. Sounds super fun to me!

There will be a Friday night fun time for anyone who wants to come. We have several ideas on what this will look like, but will let you know in the next couple of months.

This will be an amazing time with ladies and the Lord. Please plan to attend. More on registration and further details are coming but **save the date!**



Free E-Trumpet

Any active BMA military personnel is eligible to receive the Trumpet free. Please send their name, address or email address to P.O. Box 192208, Little Rock, Ark. 72219; or editor@baptisttrumpet.com.

UPDATE

(Continued From Page 4)

• **Senate Bill 592:** This bill, which we oppose, will permit the sale of beer with increased alcohol content from 5% up to 12% for off-premises consumption. This bill has cleared the Senate committee and is awaiting a vote in the full Senate.

Other Bills or Measures

• **House Bill 1100:** This bill will expand the category of those who must report child abuse and neglect. We support this bill. The bill was approved by the House and is awaiting a vote in the Senate. We believe it will pass there.

• **House Bill 1211:** This bill will protect religious liberties. We supported this bill. It has cleared both the House and Senate and is now law.

• **House Bill 1020 and Senate Bill 3:** These bills are identical proposed hate crimes laws. We have opposed hate crimes bills in past legislative sessions. It is expected that these bills will undergo significant changes and be controversial and polarizing, so we will monitor them. No legislative action has been taken on either of them yet.

• **Senate Bill 6:** This bill will prohibit all abortions in Arkansas, except those to save the life of the mother. We supported this bill. It has passed the Senate and the House and

is now law.

• **Senate Bill 289:** This bill will protect the rights of medical workers to decline to provide services or care that would violate their consciences. We supported this bill. It was approved in the Senate and the House and is now law.

• **House Joint Resolution 1024 and Senate Joint Resolution 14** are mirror-image proposed state constitutional amendments to protect religious freedom. They are versions of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that was passed into statutory law a couple of sessions ago. Making this law a constitutional amendment will strengthen the protections for religious liberty. We strongly support these joint resolutions.

The next measures I will list all have to do with prohibiting the placement of a casino in Pope County. We support all of them. These may not prove easy to get approved, but the objectives of the proposals are well worth the effort. They are House Joint Resolutions 1010 and 1011 and House Bills 1454 and 1473.

• **Senate Joint Resolution 16 and Senate Bill 354:** Both of these measures, which we support, are intended to prohibit transgendered individuals from participating on school teams that are not designated the same as their biological sex. SB354 has passed both legislative chambers and is now law. We will report on the status of

SJR16 as it works its way through the legislative process.

• **Senate Bill 347:** This bill will ban gender reassignment services for minors. The prohibition would include hormone treatments and/or surgery intended to change the minor's physical sexual characteristics. We support this bill.

• **House Bill 1570:** This bill, which we support, will ban transgender services, such as hormone treatments and surgeries for minors. The bill has passed the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature to become law. (*Editor's Note: Governor Hutchinson vetoed this bill on April 5.*)

Please contact us if you have questions or need more information.

NOTES

(Continued From Page 4)

The second piece of legislation would make public schools observe a moment of silence following the daily Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

"America is the greatest country in the world, yet cancel culture is trying to stamp out the foundation of our republic despite the generations of Americans and Arkansans who have fought and died for our country, and we must never forget their sacrifice," said AG Rutledge. "This legislation is just one way we can honor those who put their lives on the line for our freedoms in America and Arkansas." (arkansasag.gov)

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