

the CrossRoads

Bungling Baptists

Over the summer, we met many people: artists, writers, preachers, storytellers, teachers, etc. Although dramatically different, there was one thing they all had in common: their surprise that I am a Baptist! I guess because I live in a Baptist domain and possess a Baptist mindset, I take the time to explain how I, as a historical Baptist, differ from “those other kinds of Baptists.”

A few short days after arriving home, however, there was an article in The Birmingham News (August 10, 2007 to be exact) about a new twenty-three hour “academic” program in homemaking that will begin at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary this fall.

“...the main focus...is on hospitality in the home, teaching women interior design as well as how to sew and cook. Women also study children’s spiritual, physical and emotional development.”

The President of this Seminary is Paige Patterson. He has served as President of the Southern Baptist Convention as well. He has been quoted as saying, “The New Testament is crystal clear that pastors are to be men,” and he helped to revise *The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message* so that it plainly states the same. This degree in homemaking appears to be Patterson’s proverbial “line in the sand” that shows women exactly where their boundaries and proper place should be.

I am beginning to ask myself why I waste my breath to explain the vast differences between Baptists. I think, however, that the larger, more important question to ask is: why are Cooperative Program dollars, sacrificially given by faithful stewards, being invested in a program that has nothing to do with the mission of a Seminary, which is the theological education of those preparing for ministry? (And sadly, the definition of “those” is limited only to men by this seminary. This premise is so strongly held at Southwestern that a tenure-track female theology professor was fired by Patterson. Now with a pending federal lawsuit, the Seminary is faced with accusations that they said this professor was “a mistake that the trustees needed to fix.”)

After fuming for days, I did finally have, what I thought, was a redemptively brilliant idea! As the pastor’s “wife,” perhaps Lloyd would want to receive this new degree! But when I approached Big Mama about the possibility of enrolling, he graciously submitted to my authority. (Well, at least in the areas of cooking and sewing.) And besides, this “degree” is only offered to women, a direct slap in the face to men who are wonderfully nurturing and do their part to make homes. Sorry Fellas! Welcome to my world!

Now I originally wrote this article in August while embarrassed by the decision of Southwestern Seminary. Then, Chris Hamlin emailed me from out of town to say that USA Today had covered the story. (September 24, 2007) It stirred the pot one more time and tempts me to say: Please carefully consider where your missions gifts will be sent as you sign a pledge card this year. But I know you are wise about these things, so I won’t say it.

With appreciation for the opportunity to serve alongside of you, I am
Sincerely yours,

September 27, 2007
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**Baptist Church of the
Covenant**
Where Faith Comes
to Life

A Resolution

Whereas, the Baptist Church of the Covenant, having been blessed with a beneficence to its pastor, the Reverend Sarah Jackson Shelton, to permit her to take leave for a season in this Year of Our Lord Two-Thousand and Seven of her regular pastoral charge in order to enjoy a measure of spiritual and corporal refreshment for the future benefit of all, and

Whereas, those pastoral responsibilities would continue to need to be met by the church in her absence, and that body would be in requirement of interim pastoral leadership, and

Whereas, there had stood at her side heretofore in the performance of certain of these duties the Reverend John Duke, Minister of Education and Ministries, already versed in aspects of many of these, and

Whereas, the Reverend Mr. Duke, did therefore accept with a willing spirit the taking upon himself of certain additional responsibilities in order that necessary tasks be fulfilled in order to maintain during this time the full ministry of the church,

Therefore, be it resolved that the congregation of Baptist Church of the Covenant hereby expresses its gratitude to the Reverend Mr. Duke for the extent to which he has sensitively and selflessly performed extra ministerial tasks entrusted unto him during this time, and extends to him all due appreciation and commendation for such service.

Invitation to Join Us

The Pathways Class has started viewing and discussing a new video series called "Jesus and the Gospels." The presenter on the video, Luke Timothy Johnson, is looking at what we can learn about Jesus from the gospels as opposed to engaging in a study of the "historical Jesus". This is a long study which will last a few months. Anyone wishing to join in viewing and discussing this video series is welcomed to join the class, which meets in Room 206 of the newer building.

The New Baptist Covenant

Living in a diverse and segmented world, it is heartening when opportunities arise that bring us together for prayer, inspiration and conversation. The Celebration of the New Baptist Covenant will be such an event in Atlanta, Georgia in January of 2008. As a preparatory session to The New Baptist Covenant, Alabama's Co-operative Baptist Fellowship is sponsoring a worship service (10:00 a.m.) and luncheon (11:30 a.m., \$7 per person) on October 9, 2007 at Baptist Church of the Covenant. Congressman Artur Davis, Dr. Daniel Vestal and Dr. Emmanuel McCall will be our guests in this worship experience. Over 400 invitations are being sent to encourage racial diversity specifically among pastors in the state of Alabama.

Because our church is the host, you are welcome to attend this event. We are also in need of volunteers to greet, usher, and handle parking. We have permission to use Southern Research's parking on University Boulevard and Temple Emmanu-El's parking deck (which will involve using the van to transport folks back and forth). Judy Bridgers is coordinating the luncheon with Robbie Yarbrough, but help in the kitchen is always welcomed. How can you help? Call Ann, 328-0644, and let her know where you would best like to serve and/or that you plan to attend.



Ordination Service ***Sunday Morning, October 7***

Our congregation will have the privilege of ordaining Alisha Damron to the gospel ministry. Plan to be a part of this special service wherein we celebrate Alisha's calling and share in communion together.

Teachers' Meeting
Sunday, October 7
11:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
Lunch included

FINANCIAL REPORTS

<i>Week of September 16</i>		<i>Week of September 23</i>	
Budget	\$4,959	Budget	\$6,888
Bld/Property Purchase	250	Bld/PropertyPurchase	4,265
Youth Activities	45	Gardner Fund	242
Internationals	100	Rogers Fund	60
Organ Fund	50		
CBF Missions	1		

YTD – August 2007
YTD Receipts - \$323,659.89
YTD Expenditures - \$336,971.58
YTD Budget Requirements - \$370,556.64



Church-wide Ministry Opportunity Wednesday, Oct. 31, Halloween "Trunk-or-Treat" at BCOB

Get creative and join in the Halloween celebration! With Halloween on a Wednesday night, we are gearing up for food, fun and guests. A quick dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. So that our children and children of the neighborhood may have safe Trick or Treating experiences, we are asking adults to:

- * dress up in family friendly costumes
- * decorate your car's trunk with games and candy
- * if you don't want to decorate a trunk, bring candy/balloons/face painting/games for the Fellowship Hall
- * be a door monitor
- * clean-up crew
- * escort SouthTown children
- * van drivers to pick up children.

Invitations are being given to SouthTown, Jessie's Place, First Light, StarLight, Internationals, Beloved Community Church, and Birmingham Hospitality Network. There will be signs in our community as well. So join us for this outreach event!

Questions and volunteers need to contact Kit Heifner-
kit@heifner.org.

At Home
 Linda Scott
 Marnie Fisher-Ingram



Mexico
 Rosalia Marquez
Rehabilitation and Healthcare
 Jerry Martin
 2728 South 10th Avenue, 35205
Hong Kong
 Jerry and Ruth Moyo
Peace Corps, Benin, West Africa
 Charles Reeves



October

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1-Tatyana Sewell | 5-Sarah Young |
| 2-Karen Henderson | Rajeanna Brown |
| 3-Carolyn Henshaw | 12-Brennan Ponder |
| 4-Ina Sims | John Yarbrough |
| Houston Foreman | Matthew Gardner |



Mollie Claire Ingram
 9-20-2006

Congratulations to the proud parents,
 Marnie and Daniel!

Fifth Sunday PotLuck and Singing

We will sing your favorite hymns of faith,
 as collected by Milburn Price.

Sunday, September 30th, 5:30PM
 Fellowship Hall

Prepare your best fall dish.

Bring plenty to share!

We'll eat at 5:30 and sing after dinner.

PLEASE bring your dishes prepared and ready to be served in disposable containers or remember to take your dishes home with you that night.

~ Thanks

The Congregational Life Committee

**Mark your calendar for our
 Church Picnic, Crestwood Park
 Sunday, October 14.**

Week of September 30

Deacon of the Week: Jean Thomason 822-6743

Sunday, September 30

VSP Pickup - Elaine Peterson, Tex Hawley
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Lobby Monitor - Bob Duffy
Ushers - Youth
Greeters - Youth
Offering - Youth
Preschool - TBA
Offering Counters - Faye Wilson, Cindy Ponder
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship - Denise Gardner, Jill Holley
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson
Preschool 3 - Julie Burge
Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner
VSP - Bill Smith
Sack Lunches - College
Building Lockup - Bob Duffy
5:30 p.m. - Covered Dish Dinner
6:30 p.m. - 5th Sunday Hymn Sing in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 1

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
7:00 p.m. - Internationals

Tuesday, October 2

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, October 3

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper
Menu: Pasta Bar with Marinara Sauce, Grilled Chicken Strips, Italian Sausage, Meatballs, Italian Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Lemon Ice Box Pie
Clean Up: Jack Brymer, Mary Hines, Susan Richardson
6:00 p.m. - Children - Music (4 yr olds-K) Missions (1st-6th grade)
6:15 p.m. - Youth Program
6:25 p.m. - Children - Music (1st-6th grade) Missions (4 yr olds-K)
6:30 p.m. - Baptist Center for Ethics Study: *Always...Therefore*
Lockup: Joe Dean
7:15 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal
Choir Lockup: Tex Hawley

Saturday, October 6

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: Kathy Grissom

Week of October 7

Deacon of the Week: Rick Traylor 995-9963

Sunday, October 7

VSP Pickup - Elaine Peterson and Tex Hawley
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship: Communion Sunday
Ordination of Alisha Damron
Lobby Monitor - Don Yates
Ushers - Deacons
Greeters - Deacons
Offering - Deacons
Preschool - Jill Holley, Katie Ponder
Offering Counters - David Henderson, Pam Baggett
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship - Chuck Rogers
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson
Preschool 3 - Julie Burge, Eleanor Traylor
Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner
VSP - Elaine Peterson
Sack Lunches - Seekers
Building Lockup - David Young
11:45 a.m. - Teachers' Meeting
11:45 a.m. - Staff Committee

Monday, October 8

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
7:00 p.m. - Internationals

Tuesday, October 9

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

Wednesday, October 10

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous
5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper
Menu: Beef Tips with Rice, Steamed Broccoli with Cheese Sauce, Black Eyed Peas, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Cookies and Brownies
Clean Up: Larry FitzGerald, Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, Mary Oswald, Gayle Watts
6:00 p.m. - Children - Music (4 yr olds-K) Missions (1st-6th grade)
6:15 p.m. - Youth Program
6:25 p.m. - Children - Music (1st-6th grade) Missions (4 yr olds-K)
6:30 p.m. - Baptist Center for Ethics Study: *Always...Therefore*
Lockup: Joe Dean
7:15 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal
Choir Lockup: Rick Traylor

Saturday, October 13

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry



**Baptist Church of the Covenant
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