



Greg Hancock will head state's communications

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The election of a key member to its staff and review of another function assigned to it signified major actions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board during its annual December meeting last week in Middletown.

Gregory Lee Hancock, 38, pastor of Covington's Latonia Baptist Church for three years, was named to head the communications division established by the executive board in 1984. He will take office Jan. 1.

The communications division presently includes the Media Department. However, in answer to a question by a board member, KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall explained that the area of publications and promotion "which the communications committee has earlier approved" will be developed and added "at some future date." He indicated that other needs may arise later, but for now, promotion is all that has been defined.

Marshall also said some of the work of the communications division would be done through the use of student interns.

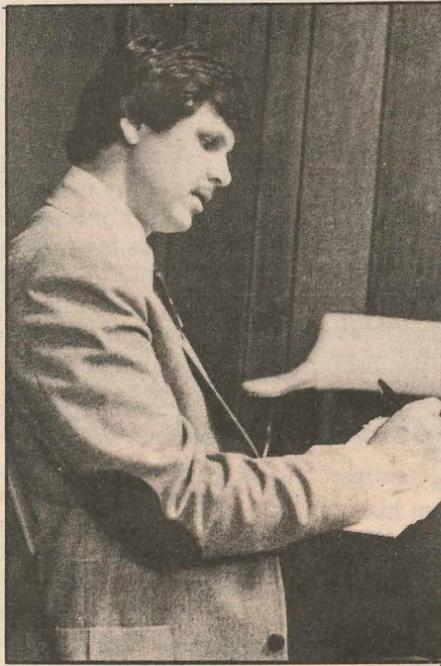
The executive board named a five-member committee to review the present relationship of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation with the executive board "for clarification."

The committee was assigned the task of meeting with appropriate parties in order to complete its study and bring a recommendation to the next executive board meeting May 5-6, 1986 at Cedar-moore Baptist Assembly.

In addition, the executive board requested the board of directors of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to delay recommendation of a new executive secretary-treasurer until the committee assignment is completed.

Appointed to the five-member panel by presiding officer Don Mathis of Corbin were John W. Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas, chairman; M. A. Winchester, Whitley City; W. Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg; Mrs. Peggy Hicks, Louisville; and Michael R. Duncan, Eminence.

In his report to the board executive



secretary-treasurer Marshall referred to "difficult economic times." While he noted that Kentucky is typical of most state Baptist conventions in experiencing less income in the first three

months of the present fiscal year than the same months a year earlier, he cautioned that "we need not panic." Marshall expressed an optimistic stance that financial receipts would brighten in the months to come.

Upon recommendation of its minister-church support committee, the executive board adopted a policy related to assisting an association in developing local counseling centers.

In other actions, the executive board adopted a number of recommendations from its business and finance committee, as follows:

- Increased travel reimbursement for executive board members and persons other than staff traveling on executive board business, from 15 to 18 cents per mile, effective Sept. 1, 1986
- Voted to transfer \$224,746 in excess of a state missions reserve requirement into an already approved "Mission Kentucky" account for new churches
- Agreed to distribute \$121,239 from unrestricted funds between the agencies and institutions of the convention
- Designated \$261,720 in unused executive board budget funds for four items—"Missions Kentucky," student

centers capital addition and improvements, two staff automobiles and an equipment replacement fund

• Increased hotel lodging rates at Cedar-moore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies by \$1 per day effective in 1987

New communications division director Greg Hancock is a native of Lexington and is married to the former Sharon Caldwell of Danville. They have two daughters, Emy, 7, and Meg, 5.

He is a graduate of Georgetown College (1973) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1975) with the MRE degree. He has completed two years of doctoral study at the latter institution.

His experience includes being a staff writer and journalism intern at Western Recorder (1975), director of communications services at the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care (1975-77), pastor of Stanford (Ky.) Baptist Church (1977-82) and in his present pastorate since.

He is a longstanding member of several professional organizations including the Kentucky Press Association, Baptist Public Relations Association and public relations council of the Girl Scouts of America.

Lindsay says Rogers selected as candidate

by Greg Warner

Adrian Rogers, whose election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979 signaled the beginning of a seven-year struggle between conservatives and moderates to control the SBC power structure, apparently again will be the candidate of conservatives when the two sides square off in Atlanta in June.

Although Rogers has not declared formally his candidacy, the Memphis, Tenn. pastor reportedly is allowing his name to be used in a campaign to enlist thousands of messengers to the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention. His intention to run was announced in a Dec. 6 meeting of about 200 conservatives at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville.

"Our candidate will be Adrian Rogers," Homer Lindsay Jr., copastor of the church, told the group of pastors and leaders. "He has given us the right to use his name. He is seriously praying and seeking God's face. As far as we know he will be the man to represent us in Atlanta."

Lindsay said he met in Atlanta Dec. 2 with 18 other conservative leaders who decided on Rogers' candidacy. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, apparently took part in the meeting, although Lindsay said he was not "at liberty" to name the participants.

Since Rogers' election in 1979 the conservatives have controlled the presidency and its appointive powers. In June of this year the conservative candidate, incumbent Charles Stanley of Atlanta, defeated a challenge from moderate Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Tex., in what is considered the closest and hardest fought election of any incumbent. Stanley, who is completing his second term, is ineligible to run in 1986, but Moore is expected to be a candidate again.

Lindsay said conservatives already are organizing in support of Rogers in many states, naming Alabama, Arkan-

sas and North Carolina. Lindsay is chairman of the steering committee in Florida, he said, adding, "Our goal is to have 5000 messengers go to Atlanta from Florida."

Lindsay said the Florida effort began with a recent meeting of 150 conservatives in Orlando, Fla. He and the other 21 members of the Florida steering committee who divided the state into an equal number of districts, will hold meetings similar to the one in Jacksonville, which was by invitation only.

Lindsay said he invited selected pastors from six Baptist associations in northeast Florida, as well as a few pastors from southern Georgia. He said other pastors whom "I felt would be uncomfortable" were not invited.

Another member of the Florida steering committee, Harold Hunter, pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, told the pastors how to prepare for the Atlanta convention in order to guarantee each of their churches has 10 messengers committed to the conservative candidate.

"I don't want anyone going from my church that I have questions about. If they're going to go, they're going to have to vote like I vote," he said, adding, "some of them may not be certain 'what it is to be led by the Spirit of God, but I'm certain. On this issue there is no doubt.'"

Lindsay echoed that certainty. "I'm not telling you how to vote," he said, "but if you do what God wants you to do, then we'll vote the same way. He's

not going to lead you to do one thing and me another."

Hunter urged the pastors to return to their churches and make a public commitment to the conservative effort. "Go public with it and be as political as you need to be," he said.

"Liberals are mean as snakes," Hunter warned. "Anybody who'd deny the Word of God doesn't even know God. If Jesus were standing here today, he would tell you his word is inerrant, infallible, verbally inspired, plenary, the Word of God. I am absolutely convinced of that."

Jerry Vines, who shares the pulpit of First Baptist with Lindsay and is on the SBC Peace Committee, recounted the now familiar charges of liberalism in the denomination. A 50-page paper allegedly documenting liberal beliefs among college and seminary professors and employees of the denomination was distributed at the meeting.

"There is theological departure from the faith to the point that if it is not faced and dealt with in this denomination we will face the demise of the greatest evangelistic force on the earth," Vines charged.

In addition, Vines said the SBC faces problems of political maneuvering, denominational insensitivity, ethical inconsistency and a loss of spiritual commitment.

All three speakers recalled earlier days when liberalism was either unknown or nonexistent.

After his address, Vines said he saw no inconsistency in a member of the Peace Committee addressing a clearly partisan meeting. "The committee agreed no one would be muzzled," he said, adding moderate members of the committee also are speaking out.

Vines said he was "cautiously optimistic" about the work of the committee. "The difficulty is in pinning down those who hold neoorthodox (theological) positions," he said. "They use our vocabulary, but not our dictionary."

(BP) [See related article, page 9]

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Jack D. Sanford

An insult to lay people

The page one news release about the possible candidacy of Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., contains an expression of a tragic philosophy which flies in the face of historic Baptist thought and insults every lay person in our churches.

Harold Hunter, pastor of the North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., is quoted as saying about messengers from his church to the Atlanta convention next June, "I don't want anyone going from my church that I have questions about. If they're going to go, they're going to have to vote like I vote . . ."

Homer Lindsay Jr., copastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., is also quoted in the same vein. Lindsay declared, "I'm not telling you how to vote . . . but if you do what God wants you to do, then we'll vote the same way."

It appears these brethren are claiming exclusive leadership of the Lord in a matter which touches all of us. If the pastor is the only person led by the spirit of God, then why even send lay people to Baptist meetings? All we need do to discover the will of God is ask those men who have God's ear. In this case it appears pastors Hunter and Lindsay seem to qualify as the only people in their respective churches who already know the Lord's will regarding the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention. If that is true then the possible 20 messengers from these two churches who will go to Atlanta are automatons without a mind of their own. This is the supreme insult to lay people.

For the past few years we have heard charges that certain brethren cover a blatant arrogance with pious talk. Few of our people, especially lay people, wanted to believe that our spiritual leaders could act out of power-hungry arrogance. But what are we to think in light of such statements as those made by Hunter and Lindsay? Can this sort of super-spirituality really be a cover for arrogance?

During more than three decades as pastor of various Baptist churches I never presumed to have exclusive insight to the manifest will of God. Of course, I was never pastor of a so-called "super" church, but that fact alone puts me in company with 99 percent of all Baptist pastors who ever lived. Maybe the "super" church pastors are God's specially anointed and all the rest of us just peons in the kingdom, without ability to discern the will of God on our own. That is an insult to every born again believer and a denial of the great truths of the Bible.

I hope my vote in Atlanta is in accord with the vote of my pastor and the lay messengers from my church. However, one thing is clear to me, I will vote my own convictions and will allow no person to tell me he knows God's will for me. I am capable of knowing the Lord's will for my life and would not presume to go beyond that. The same is true for lay people who are the church.

The concept of freedom and democracy, so precious to Baptists, has been eroded over the recent past and was dealt a severe blow during the business sessions last year at Dallas. We face an even greater erosion if we allow a select few, under cover of "God's will," control us. Then freedom as the people of God will be gone. If we, lay people included, sit on the side and permit a few people to dictate our course we deserve whatever we get in Atlanta, and our biblical heritage will suffer a terrible blow.

The conservatives, or whatever they choose to call themselves, certainly have the right to hold meetings, promote candidates, attempt to influence votes and make all the speeches they feel necessary. They even have the right to claim inspiration from the Lord. However, they show ignorance of Baptist history and the biblical doctrine of the priesthood of believers whenever they claim exclusive knowledge of God's will.

Jerry Vines, copastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, declared, "There is theological departure from the faith to the point that if it is not faced and dealt with in this denomination we will face the demise of the greatest evangelist force on the earth." Vines is correct, we do face "the demise" of our convention, not because of some alleged theological heresy, but because we are about to abdicate our responsibility to be a responsive people to our Lord. This is happening because some of our people are willing to allow a few leaders to think for them.

It is past time for lay people to assert their God-given responsibility to exert influence and leadership in Baptist affairs. Whenever preachers, for whatever reasons, assume full control of our institutional life we have moved away from our cherished congregational polity and have lost a significant Baptist distinctive historically expressed through lay people's direct response to God.

Every Baptist has the right to make decisions under the leadership of God. To give up that right in deference to anyone is to deny one important part of the faith. In the name of all that is right, don't allow anyone to think for you. Think for yourself—and act on your own as a child of God who has direct access to the Father through the Son. This is the Bible way and it is also the Baptist way.

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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3

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baptist forum

Reader applauds former pastor

I noticed in your September issue a very nice article about First Baptist, Lexington, and Bennett Hall. I was a deacon of this church before I entered Southern Seminary. Hall is truly a God-filled pastor. Could you run these few thoughts of kindness to him. He is well loved by his flock.

First Baptist Church, Lexington, recently lost its shepherd to retirement. He came when the flock was scattered and he found many of its flock and many lost sheep. He rebuilt a crumbling building, taught its people to love again, gave hope where there was none, and started new programs foreign to us, but growth came fast. He opened his heart to all kinds and colors of sheep and God blessed this old church again. What was once the largest Baptist church in Kentucky became the smallest and with his leadership and a loving congregation it has

doubled in size many times in three years. Its giving has tripled in three years. Its support to the local, state and world missions has started again. God has blessed his ministry and this church. First Baptist Church was at least 200 years old last year and maybe even older. The list of great pastors ring out from that old church with such names as: Jon Gano, Jeremiah Varde-man, R. T. Dillard, Silas M. Noel, William F. Broaddus, William M. Pratt, W. H. Felix, Lansing Burrows, J. C. Hiden, Preston Blake, J. W. Porter. Now the name of Bennett Hall is added to that list. I hope and pray the next name will be as great as the last.

Thank you Brother Hall from one of those sheep that was scattered.
David Ransdell, Louisville

Annuity Board has good response

The open enrolment period in the church insurance plans we administer at the Annuity Board closed Nov. 30, 1985. I thought you might like a report on this extraordinary marketing effort.

It appears that the applications from our Southern Baptist churches across the nation will total 8000! Originally we had informally set a minimum goal of 3000 and a maximum goal of 5000! The response has been nothing short of phenomenal as thousands of applications for the medical and term life insurance plans have poured into our office.

Darold H. Morgan, Dallas

Tapes on Hebrews available

I have just returned from a January Bible study conference on Hebrews at Cedarmore. This conference was sponsored by Long Run Baptist Association and Central District (Black) Association of Baptists through their joint committee for cooperative ministries.

The featured lecturer was Mack King Carter, pastor, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and previously pastor at Greencastle Baptist Church, Prospect, Ky.

I would like to know and also alert our KBC that the full six hours of the most moving and intensively inspirational and informational lectures are available on tape from Jim Corbett, Alpha Sound, Inc., Elizabethtown, Ky. Any Kentucky pastor or staff person who needs added materials to aid him/her in study and training for presenting the January Bible Study emphases on Hebrews would do well to avail themselves of these tremendous tapes. Carter is a most delightful and enthusiastically, scholarly speaker.

As one who was there I came away grateful for the contribution this black brother made to my further ministry in the vineyard of our Lord.

E. Paul Howerton, Louisville

Poem decries lottery

When I saw the headline, "The lottery is coming" I was too upset to read the editorial until some time after the following poem had been written. I call it, "The Way Out or A Dead End?"

"The lottery is coming"
That headline knocked me back
Are the majority so spiritually blind
That they will tolerate that?
Are we like the people
Who lived in Isaiah's time
Who called white black and black white
Because they were spiritually blind
Their sense of values was distorted
They called sweet bitter and bitter
sweet.
Isaiah tried to enlighten them
But their defenses he could not breach.
When God has his rightful place in our
life
We are right with our neighbor too
We don't put stumbling blocks in his
path
To interpret line me hew
The benefits of a lottery are an illusion
Like the pot of gold at the rainbows
end
Father, remove the veil from
Our spiritual eyes
Before your patience comes to an end

Nothing could be more unfair than a lottery. It robs the many to enrich one. And the material benefits the state would receive would be offset by the erosion of character.

No government is ever stronger than the character of its people.
Mary E. Renaker, Louisville

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baptist news in brief

CP receipts exceed last year's giving level

Just two months into its fiscal year, contributions through the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention are more than \$1.5 million ahead of last year.

November's voluntary contributions to the national SBC programs from the 37 state conventions affiliated with the SBC were \$10,770,854 which pushed the two-month figure to \$19,809,888. That represents an increase of \$1,513,675 (8.27 percent) over the first two months of the 1984-85 fiscal year.

It is the first \$10 million November in Cooperative Program history and is the third highest single month in CP history behind August 1985 (\$10,911,903) and January 1985 (\$10,812,419).

In order to meet the 1985-86 basic budget requirements of \$120.6 million, income for the present fiscal year must average \$10.05 million per month—an increase of \$3,073,309 (2.604 percent) over 1984-85 income. Income beyond that will be applied first to capital needs which were unfunded in 1983-84 of \$3,340,385, then to capital needs of \$4,500,000 for 1985-86. (BP)

Baptists enlarge witness as Colombians ask 'Why?'

The questions are inevitable when 25,000 to 40,000 people are killed after a volcano erupts: "Why us? Why, God?"

In countries where Roman Catholicism is prevalent, "people recognize the hand of God in things," said Southern Baptist missionary Dan Rupp. Colombia's Catholic bishops urged the nation to return to God after the Nov. 13 eruption and deadly mudslide which left a death toll roughly equal to the thousands of injured and homeless.

The bishops also cited the 28-hour shootout at the Palace of Justice in Bogota, Nov. 6-7. About 100 people

were killed as the army and national police regained control of the building seized by leftist guerrillas.

"What sin are we paying for?" a newscaster asked over a Bogota TV station. In the rural village of Guaya-bal, not far from Armero, an elderly Pentecostal pastor told of "the judgment of God for the sins of the people" as he visited with Southern Baptist missionaries Larry Booth and Howard Atkinson.

Adriana Robledo, a nurse from the Baptist Clinic in Barranquilla who traveled to Ibague to work with survivors of the mudslide, recounted, "They have asked so much, 'Why did something like this have to happen?'"

"I told them, 'Many times, we do not understand why these things happen. There's a God who can give us strength and power. We can hold on to him and he will hold on to us and help us,'" said Robledo, a member of Barranquilla's Genezaret Baptist Church. Christians cope better than non-Christians in tragic times, said Rupp, of Bogota. "They realize how God can work through the tragedies."

"Certainly history shows that people respond in a quest for faith, a desire to know God, in the wake of disasters," said Booth, also in Bogota.

Southern Baptist relief funds allow Baptists to respond quickly and effectively to crises, while missionaries with many other groups have no such resources, said James Giles, the Colombia mission's disaster relief coordinator. For example, missionaries spent \$25,000 to help the Colombian Red Cross fill acute shortages in medicine, medical supplies, portable power generators and powdered milk.

Disaster relief "opens doors that would never be opened in any other way," said Giles, who also is president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali. To the injured and homeless and to Colombian government officials and relief workers, Baptist disaster response gives "depth to what being a Baptist means," Giles said. It shows Baptists are "willing to respond

to physical suffering as well as spiritual needs." (BP)

'Mark of the beast' appeal loses in Supreme Court

Ezra Eli Borntrager, a Kansas City, Mo. attorney who refused for religious reasons to divulge his Social Security number in an application for admission to the bar of the U. S. Supreme Court, has lost his final appeal at the nation's highest tribunal.

Borntrager believes Social Security numbers are the 'mark of the beast' mentioned in several passages of the New Testament book of Revelation. Although he acknowledged in a written appeal to the high court that he was assigned a Social Security number years ago, he has stopped using it since discovering the references in Revelation.

Borntrager argued that unlike other numbers assigned to him—such as those on his driver's license and financial accounts—his Social Security number is different in that it is "mandatory, omnipresent, (and) a universal identifier." (BP)

WMU, SBC, adds staffer; loses two to Tennessee

Women's Missionary Union, SBC, has named Jennifer Bryon Owen products group manager. Carrol Kelly and Donna Maples, past communications

group manager and training design group manager, respectively, have been elected to the Tennessee WMU staff.

Mrs. Owen is the first to hold this position. She will be responsible for managing the work of the products editors, editorial assistants and artists relating to the WMU administrative magazine Dimension and to products development.

Prior to coming to national headquarters, Mrs. Owen owned a public relations and marketing firm. For 13 years, she was employed at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., working in the book store division and for Broadman Press.

Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Maples, both native Texans, will assume their positions Dec. 9. They will assist executive director Katharine Bryan in designing, planning and implementing activities for all WMU mission organizations in Tennessee. (BP)



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mountains to



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Singing with grace

Christmas is a time for singing. Music has become a vital part of the celebration of our Lord's birth. Luke does not say that the angels sang on that blessed night, but one wonders how they could refrain from singing. Is. 35:10 states that, "the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs." The Chronicler recites that it was "when they began to sing and praise" (2 Chron. 20:22) that the Lord gave a great victory.

David was a skillful musician (1 Sam. 16:18), and it is the Song of Solomon. Music accompanied the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:4) and Psalms 150 emphasizes the role of musicians in worship.

Music is the universal language of mankind (Longfellow) which needs no translation. It is the only sensual pleasure without vice and an expression of emotions beyond speech. It is the best, most beautiful and most perfect way that we have of expressing a sweet concord of mind to each other (Jonathan Edwards). Surely music is the speech of angels (Carlyle) and the handmaiden of the gospel.

Music is a vital part of the life and worship of the Clear Creek family. There is no singing on the earth like the singing of a Clear Creek chapel service. We teach and admonish each other "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Col. 3:16). We allow the word of Christ to dwell in us richly, "singing with grace" in our hearts to the Lord (v. 16b).

Our campus choir, handbell choir and Clear Creek Ensemble also sing praises unto the Lord in words beautiful beyond measure! And all of our singing is to the honor and glory of God. Join us for our Christmas concert at First Baptist Church, Pineville, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1985, and see if your heart is not blessed and made to sing with grace.

"Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, / God of glory, Lord of love; / Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, / Praising Thee their sun above. / Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; / Drive the dark of doubt away; / Giver of immortal gladness, / Fill us with the light of day. / Mortals, join the mighty chorus, / Which the morning stars began; / Father-love is reigning o'er us, / Brother-love binds man to man. / Ever singing march we onward, / Victors in the midst of strife; / Joyful music lifts us sunward / In the triumph song of life." —Henry Van Dyke

personnel

Charles Nelson is retiring at the end of December from the pastorate of Cuba Baptist Church, Mayfield, Graves County Association. He will be living near Sharon Baptist Church, Mayfield.

Billy Gardner announced his resignation as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mayfield, Graves County Association, effective the last of December. He has not been called to another church yet.

Kristie Conn was appointed to the staff of Crestwood Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, as minister to children.

Miss Conn has a BA degree in music education from Eastern Kentucky University and plans to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She is a native of the Fern Creek area and presently resides with her parents.

John Porry has been called as pastor of Chenoweth Park Baptist Church, Jeffersonton, Long Run Association. He formerly pastored Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Anderson County Association. His first Sunday was Dec. 1.

Mary Anne Whitten Poe has begun duties as associate pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church, Shelby County Association.

Miss Poe, a native of Memphis, Tenn., holds an MA degree from the University of Louisville and an MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. While at the seminary she worked in student services as assistant to the vice president.

Bobby J. Touchton has begun duties as minister of youth and education at Chapel Park Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association. Touchton is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Before coming to Louisville he was minister of youth at Southside Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C. while he attended Wake Forest University.

Calvin Bryant, pastor of Ohio Valley

Baptist Church, West Union Association, has moved to Bolivar, Tenn. to pastor Walnut Grove Baptist Church.

Marvin E. Hines Sr. is retiring at the end of December from his pastorate at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn. He has been pastor there 14 years.

Hines has pastored several churches in Kentucky, Illinois, Mississippi and Tennessee. His latest pastorates in Kentucky were Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Lewisburg, and Trinity Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

He attended Western Kentucky Baptist Bible Institute, Georgetown College and Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

Joe Estes of Paducah began duties as a bivocational pastor of Grace Baptist Church, West Union Association, Nov. 24.

Wallace Ray Purvis Jr. became minister of youth and associate pastor at Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association.

Purvis is a native of Alachua, Fla. and a graduate of the University of Florida. For two years he has been a journeyman with the Foreign Mission Board in Korea.

He is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

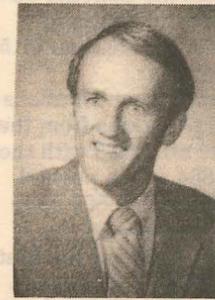
George DeWayne DeRousse has resigned his duties as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, West Union Association, to accept the pastorate of Catron (Mo.) Baptist Church.

Don Pippin resigned the pastorate of First Baptist Church, LaCenter, West Union Association.

Larry Lindsey has accepted the call to New Hope Baptist Church, West Union Association, and resigned as pastor of Bell City Baptist Church, Graves County Association.

A. W. Landis has resigned the pastorate of Sedalia Baptist Church, Graves County Association, to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Brookport, Ill.

Glenn Orr will begin duties as pastor of Westside Baptist Church, Murray, Blood River Association, Dec. 22.



England



Siler

Kenet Scott has been called as pastor of Adaburg Baptist Church, Ohio County Association. He is from Owensboro.

Jim England (see photo) has accepted the pastorate of Deer Park Baptist Church, Long Run Association, and will move to Louisville in January.

England is presently pastor of Salem Avenue Baptist Church, Rolla, Mo. In the past he has had several Kentucky pastorates, including Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Stamping Ground; Hopewell Baptist Church, Lacie; and First Baptist Church, Maysville.

He holds a BA degree in sociology from the University of Kentucky and an MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He is currently working on a DMin degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

His denominational accomplishments include writing Sunday school lesson commentaries for the Missouri Baptist paper and three recently published articles in Proclaim, the Southern Baptist journal of biblical preaching.

Don Schossler has been named minister of music at First Baptist Church, Prospect, Long Run Association.

Schossler is a native of Baltimore, Md. and has served churches in West Virginia and Maryland. He is a graduate of Alderson-Broadus College, Philippi, W. Va., with a BA degree in music education and applied piano performance.

He is presently enrolled in the church music program at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Bob Gray has been called as pastor at Blue Ball Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Severns Valley Association, after being interim pastor about six weeks. He is married to the former Deanne Hornback of Elizabethtown.

Larry Purcell has accepted the pastorate of East Hickman Baptist Church, Fulton Association. He is a 1984 graduate of Mid-Continent Baptist College, Mayfield, and has previously been a pastor in Paducah.

Jimmy Cowan has been called as pastor at Whispering Meadows Baptist Church, Morgantown, Ohio Valley Association.

Jerry Lester has been hired as minister of music, youth and education at First Baptist Church, Danville, South District Association.

The Harrodsburg native is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has held similar positions at Gano Avenue Baptist, Georgetown; First Baptist, Frankfort; Bellepoint Baptist, Frankfort; and Bruner's

BAPTIST HOME MISSION BOARD BUILDING



Two Kentucky directors of missions—Calvin Wilkins [l] of Graves County Association and Don McGuire of Enterprise Association—participated in a recent basic leadership seminar sponsored by the Associational Administration Department of the Home Mission Board.

the mississippi

Chapel, Harrodsburg.

Lester has been an executive board member and music director for Elkhorn Association and secretary-treasurer of Jessamine County Ministerial Association.

Harry Neal has resigned as pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Russell County Association, to accept the call to a church in Ohio.

Richard Steel, a junior at Campbellsville College, has begun duties as pastor of Welfare Baptist Church, Jamestown, Russell County Association.

Paul Cannon has accepted the call to pastor Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ohio River Association. He is presently pastor of First Baptist Church, Barlow, and will be moving the first week in January.

congregations

First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Mt. Zion Association, honored former congressman Eugene Edward Siler Sr. (see photo) on Sunday Nov. 17. The congregation celebrated Gene Siler Day at its morning and evening services.

Siler, 85, was extolled as a Christian example, a loyal Baptist, a faithful steward, a lifetime deacon, a Sunday school teacher and a church trustee. A plaque recounting these congregational relationships was presented by Jerry Hodges, deacon chairman.

The evening program featured James M. Boswell, president emeritus of Cumberland College, who paid tribute to the congressman.

Siler is probably best known among state Baptists for his two-year tenure, beginning in 1953, as moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now Kentucky Baptist Convention). His father, Adam Troy Siler, filled that post for two years during the 1940s.

He worked on the church board of trustees for 27 years, having succeeded to the place held by his father on this three-member group.

During 1948-49 Siler was judge on the court of appeals, when it was the high court of the state. His terms in the House of Representatives of the U. S. Congress began in January 1955. He filled that post for the next 10 years.

Crestwood Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, dedicated its new piano Oct. 27. The piano, a 5'7" Steinway grand, was purchased as a result of a fund drive which began with memorial gifts and culminated with a special offering. The theme of the drive was "Make Our Worship Grand."

Mrs. Betty Jean Chatham of Shelbyville gave the dedication concert, playing various styles of music from classical to her own arrangements of familiar hymn tunes. James K. Abernathy is pastor at Crestwood.

First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, Nelson Association, celebrated what the members called "Harvest Sunday." It was a concerted effort to "harvest" all of its members in one big service of celebration and Bible study on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving.

Members were assigned other mem-

bers and prospects to call by phone or visit. The office staff sent letters to members who had missed Sunday school for several Sundays. As a result of these efforts "Harvest Sunday" was a success with Sunday school attendance reaching 359, the highest in over 20 years.

The pastor is Stephen B. McSwain.

East Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association, held a groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 3 on a site where they plan to build a new auditorium and educational space. Projected completion date is June 1986.

James O. Green is pastor.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, held a Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions rally Dec. 2.

Harrold L. Lewis, foreign missionary to Surinam, was guest speaker for the rally.

First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Enterprise Association, completed a Sunday school enlargement campaign in November with Carlton Winters, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Visitation by church members resulted in over 200 prospects for Sunday school. Super Sunday was observed the following week with an increase of more than 50 in Sunday school.

Second Baptist Church, Clinton, West Kentucky Association, recently moved into its new \$100,000 auditorium. The church was organized as a mission in 1954 with the help of First Baptist Church, Clinton.

C. W. Barnhill became pastor of Second Baptist Church in 1978. Since that time he has helped the church grow from the congregation of less than 20 to an average attendance of 108 in Sunday school.

ordinations

Jimmy Oliver will be ordained as deacon by Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, Caldwell-Lyon Association, Sunday night, Dec. 29.

David Royalty is pastor of Northside.

Nathaniel Garrow Mayhill III, recently called by Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Elkhorn Association, as minister to students and media, was or-

dained Nov. 17 by the church.

Mayhill, a native of Richmond, graduated from Union University, Jackson, Tenn. and received the MRE degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and the MA degree from the University of Denver.

J. Dan Cooper is pastor at Calvary.

Jim Schook and Will Bockoven were ordained as deacons by Hillcrest Baptist Church, Louisville, Dec. 15.

Jim Williams was ordained by First Baptist Church, Ashland, Greenup Association, as deacon.

Bill Messer is pastor at First, Ashland.

Phillip Duncan was ordained to the ministry at Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Catlettsburg, Greenup Association.

Phillip Potter is pastor at Oakland Avenue.

Roger Marshall was ordained as deacon by First Baptist Church, Flatwoods, Greenup Association.

Ken Holden is pastor.

L. D. Jenkins and Charles Thomason were ordained as deacons Nov. 24 at Guptons Grove Baptist Church, Quality, Logan Association.

deaths

Sarah L. Richardson, wife of Darrell C. Richardson who pastored Baptist churches in Ft. Mitchell and Auburn, died during November.

W. L. [Bill] Moore, member of New Hope Baptist Church, Little River Association, died Oct. 18 after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 72 and a native of Trigg County.

In the past he had been Training Union director, Brotherhood director and Sunday school teacher. At the time of his death he was chairman of deacons and also an executive board member of Little River Association.

revivals

Buffalo Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, held a revival Nov. 18-24 with E. K. Judy as evangelist. There was one profession of faith and one person joined the church by baptism.

David Beeler is pastor at Buffalo.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Double your pleasure

It's a good feeling when something good happens. It's an ecstatic feeling when one good thing precipitates a second.

That's exactly what's happening among Kentucky Baptists right now.

In my first few weeks in the Baptist Building I pondered why similar state conventions our age and size maintained full time public relations offices and Kentucky did not. The answer I was given was, "The time is not yet."

My good friend Jesse Stricker was faithfully doing all Kentucky Baptists asked of him. As director of the Stewardship and Promotion Department, he filled the dual role of leading us to greater heights in Cooperative Program giving while carrying the part time assignment for PR. The executive board later added the role of liaison coordinator of Christian education to Jesse's duties. In all of it, Jesse responded splendidly.

Never have I seen as much practical help offered as in statewide communications conferences he conducted in 1979, 1981 and 1983. He has also dispatched news releases, a weekly radio program and handled other PR-related matters in detail. I am so grateful Jesse has been there.

Back to the original premise: a full time office with full time people devoting full time attention to communications and public relations.

The subject was broached to those in leadership positions. A year ago, the structure began to fall neatly into place. The executive board created a communications division, at the suggestion of executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall. In time, someone would be named to lead it.

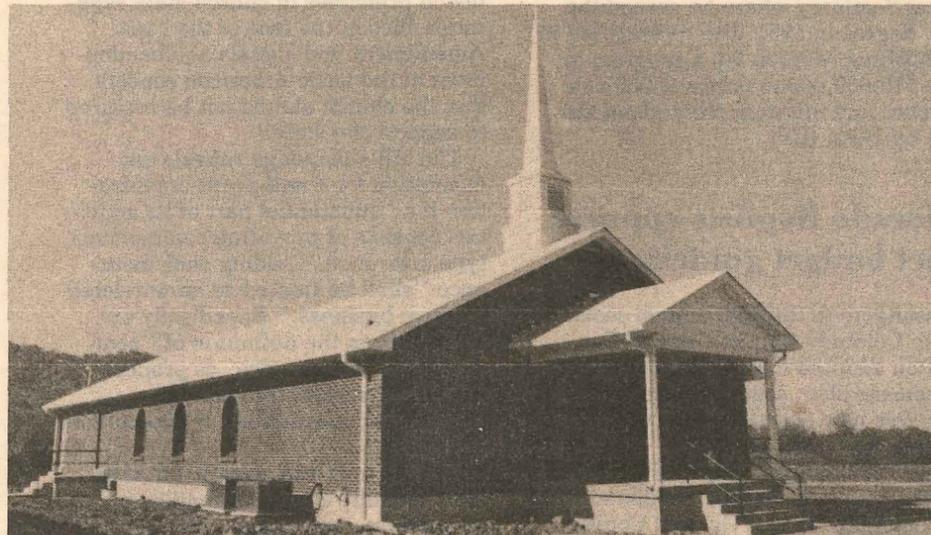
The second good thing occurred last week.

To have the person who gives every evidence of being God's man, with all the professional skills demanded, is icing on the cake. I've worked with Greg Hancock in 11 annual Baptist conventions; traveled with him across thousands of miles; collaborated with him on writing, photography and PR projects. He and his dear wife and two daughters are precious people.

Greg Hancock is a product of Western Recorder. He started his "Baptist career" as an intern here. He "graduated" to Homes for Children as PR director. He moved to the pastorate. His family maintained newspaper and publishing interests and Greg kept an active hand in it. After two successful pastorates in the state he's coming "full circle" to his roots.

All Kentucky Baptists will benefit from his gifts, his love for people, his insights and commitment.

Welcome Greg! We've surely been waiting for you a long, long time.



Bardstown Junction Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, Nelson Association, dedicated its new sanctuary Nov. 10 after six months of construction. Tim Maynard is pastor of Bardstown Junction.



Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
10901 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

Don't miss it!

Few experiences in life are more tragic than missing something important when there was no need to miss it. Yet, that is the experience of many. Occasionally I have a frustrating dream in which I am enrolled in college or seminary and realize the semester is half over and I have failed to attend a class and it is too late to catch up.

Multitudes miss Christmas. It is not that they do not know about it. There is the music, some of the most beautiful in the world. Beautiful decorations are seen, and even the story of Christmas is told. But many still miss Christmas. It has always been that way.

The innkeeper in Bethlehem missed the first Christmas. We do not know his name. He was there, but in the hustle and bustle of business he missed the most important birth of history. He was so close, but he missed it because he was too busy.

King Herod missed the first Christmas. There is nothing likable about Herod. He was a sly old fox, a murderer and a cynic. Even so, he should not have missed Christmas. He was in Jerusalem and the news reached him. But because of his greed and self-interest he missed it.

The religious leaders of the first century missed Christmas. The chief priests and scribes had the prophecy, but they missed Christmas. Their pride, lack of spiritual depth and lack of hunger for God caused them to miss it.

But there were some who did not miss the first Christmas. The lowly shepherds did not miss Christmas. Although they were not highly thought of and could not testify in court, they saw the angels, heard the singing, went to Bethlehem and saw. The wise men, not even Jews, saw the star, followed and believed. They did not miss it. Simeon and Anna were poor, but they were a godly couple looking for the promise of God and they certainly did not miss the first Christmas.

I hope you won't miss this Christmas. Let us acknowledge our need for God, and in humility receive God's gift, Jesus Christ. We can join with the shepherds, the wise men, Simeon, Anna, and multitudes of others who will not miss Christmas. We will honor him with the gift of ourselves and the gift of our possessions. Then Christmas will truly be Christmas.

baptist news in brief

North Carolina meetings focus on hunger, peace

Kentucky Baptists with an interest in the issues of world hunger and peace with justice have been invited to meet with other concerned Southern Baptists Jan. 20-22 in Charlotte, N. C. for back-to-back conferences sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Jan. 20-21 conference on peace with justice and the Jan. 21-22 conference on world hunger will feature major addresses, theme interpretations and workshops on a variety of topics. Both meetings will be held at Charlotte's Providence Baptist Church.

Speakers who will deliver major addresses at the peace conference are Adm. Eugene Carroll (Ret.) of the Center for Defense Information, Washington, D. C.; E. Glenn Hinson, David T. Porter professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; and Father James Hug of the Center of Concern, Washington, D. C., a Catholic moral theologian with expertise in economics and peace.

Special registration rates are available for church groups and for persons who attend both conferences. Rates for individuals are \$10 for each conference or \$15 for both conferences. Group rates for three or more persons from one church are \$30 per conference or \$45 for both conferences.

To register or to request additional information, contact Larry Braidfoot, Christian Life Commission, 901 Commerce, No. 550, Nashville, TN 37203-3620.

Robert Lee sets retirement in 1986

Robert L. Lee, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention since 1956, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 1, 1986. He was assistant executive secretary of the convention 1953-56.

Lee was 70 years old in October. He was reared in Mobile, Ala. and had a career as an insurance executive in Mississippi before entering the Baptist ministry. He was pastor of churches in Mississippi and Louisiana before joining the LBC staff.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned the DTh degree in 1951. Lee recently led in establishing Mission 90, a program to raise \$10,000,000 to organize 250 new churches and missions throughout the state by 1990. (BP)

Colorado Baptists approve strict budget guidelines

Messengers to the 30th annual session of the Colorado Baptist General Convention adopted a \$2.3 million budget, a business plan, seated messengers from five new churches and received another for watch care.

The 1986 budget projects \$1,189,242 in receipts from churches affiliated with the Colorado Baptist General Convention and \$1,152,503 from other sources including the Home Mission Board (\$1,124,000) and the Baptist Sunday

School Board (up to \$44,270).

The percentage of local church income which will be passed on to worldwide mission and educational efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention through the national Cooperative Program was set at 29 percent.

Last year's approved budget designated 28.5 percent to go through the national Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget. However, severe shortfalls in income forced the convention to cut the percentage to 10 percent the last six months of the year. The budget crisis formed the background for the development and approval of the budget plan.

The business plan adopted divides the budget into basic and advance and limits each year's basic budget to the actual income the convention received "for the 12 month period immediately preceding the beginning of budget preparation," from its affiliated churches and outside sources such as the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board. (BP)

Tax reform bill threatens Annuity Board exemption

A proposed tax reform bill endorsed by the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee and currently awaiting floor action would strip the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and other church pension groups of their federal tax-exempt status.

Annuity Board president Darold H. Morgan, who also is chairman of the multi-denominational Church Alliance—an organization of church pension organizations—declined immediate comment, telling Baptist Press he was trying to sort out circumstances that led to inclusion of the provision stripping tax exemption. Morgan and other church pension board executives were meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. to assess provisions of the bill impacting their organizations and to plan strategy for seeking changes in the measure.

But Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs executive director James M. Dunn, expressing concern about the church-state implications of the proposal, warned: "The taxing of church pension boards engaged properly in insuring their ministers and denominational employees is tantamount to taxing the churches themselves.

"This legislative tinkering with time-tested principles of church-state separation flies in the face of the First Amendment and signals an abandonment of the basic American concept that the church should not be required to support the state."

The bill's language repeals tax exemption for a non-profit organization if a "substantial part of its activities consists of providing commercial-type insurance," adding such insurance "shall be treated as an unrelated trade or business." Specifically exempted from the definition of "commercial-type insurance" is property or casualty insurance provided by churches or conventions or associations of churches.

But the measure specifies further that "annuity contracts shall be treated as providing insurance." If passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Reagan, groups such as the SBC Annuity Board would

lose their tax exemptions Dec. 31, 1985. (BP)

Education Commission selects Jerry Self

Jerry M. Self, public affairs and Christian life consultant with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, Tenn., has been named assistant director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission, said Self's major duties will be as liaison with denominational agencies in coordinating programs and establishing relationships defined in the program statement of the Education Commission and to provide staff support for the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Self, 47, also will aid in developing means for communications of the educational needs of Baptist conventions to pastors, church workers and denominational leaders.

The Wichita, Kan., native has a BA degree in psychology from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex. and a PhD in ethics from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. Prior to joining the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 1978 Self was pastor of Austin Heights Baptist Church, Nacogdoches, Tex. He also was pastor in Ada, Okla. and Hillsboro, Tex.

He will assume the position Jan. 2, 1986. Self succeeds George E. Capps Jr., the former associate director of the commission who died of a heart attack in June. (BP)

Eula Mae Henderson, missions leader, dies

Eula Mae Henderson, 70, a Texas Baptist mission leader for more than three decades, died Dec. 5 at her home in Garland, Tex. following a lengthy illness.

Services were Dec. 6 at First Baptist Church, Dallas, where pastor W. A. Criswell officiated. Charles McLaughlin, director of the state missions commissions of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, brought the message. She had been a worship leader in an elementary Sunday school department at First Baptist Dallas for more than 30 years.

Miss Henderson was executive director-treasurer of Texas Woman's Missionary Union from 1947-80 after being young people's secretary for Texas WMU in 1946. Following her retirement she spent more than two years as a Mission Service Corp volunteer for the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio. The seminary honored her for significant contributions to Hispanics by naming a chapel for her.

The Oklahoma native attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. and received honorary doctor's degrees from Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Tex. (1956) and Mary-Hardin Baylor, Belton, Tex. (1970). In 1984 she received the Texas Baptist Elder Statesman Award for distinguished service to Texas Baptists. (BP)

United Methodist officials lose high court appeal

A controversial Methodist clergyman fighting his forced retirement will have his day in a civil court following U. S. Supreme Court refusal to block such proceedings.

Rejecting an appeal by a United Methodist bishop and a former district superintendent, the high court let stand a lower panel's ruling that William E. Alberts is entitled to take his complaint against the two church officials to a civil court.

Alberts, former pastor at Old West Church, Boston, Mass., was forced to retire in June 1983, after bishop Edward G. Carroll and then-district superintendent John E. Barclay recommended the move to other district clergy. The 300-member body then voted to place Alberts in what is called in the United Methodist Church a "retired relation." That category stops short of stripping a member of the clergy from his credentials but has the effect of forcing retirement.

Alberts' difficulties with church officials came into the open in late 1972 and early 1973 when the embattled clergyman first broke off psychiatric care he was undergoing, then performed a wedding for two homosexual men against Carroll's expressed wishes.

Following that highly-publicized event Carroll and Barclay went to Alberts' former psychiatrist seeking information on the pastor's mental state. Alberts' lawsuit charged the officials with violating the confidential physician/patient relationship he enjoyed with the psychiatrist.

A key factual dispute in the proceeding has been whether Alberts first sought to resolve the matter before a church tribunal. In their written appeal asking the Supreme Court to review the case, church officials stated Alberts refused such a hearing. But Alberts claimed bishop Carroll ruled out of order a motion made immediately after the forced retirement vote to submit his case to a church trial. (BP)

Tax plan would restore clergy housing benefits

A new tax reform plan drafted by the House Ways and Means Committee would reinstate a clergy housing policy allowing ministers to claim mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions as well as tax-exempt housing allowances.

The Tax Reform Act of 1985, which is expected to go to the House floor within days, would amend current tax law by exempting a person receiving a parsonage allowance from being denied a deduction "for interest on a mortgage on, or real property taxes on" his home.

In 1983 the Internal Revenue Service ruled to reverse a 20-year-old policy and disallow mortgage interest and property tax deductions for ministers to the extent the deductions were attributable to a tax-exempt housing allowance. A subsequent IRS ruling delayed the effective date of Rev. Rul. 83-3 from June 1983 until Jan. 1, 1985, for ministers who occupied their residence or had a contract to purchase one by Jan. 1, 1983.

Since that time Congress twice has delayed the effective date of the ruling. The latter delay extends through tax year 1986.

The Ways and Means Committee's tax reform package also would make the revocation of 83-3 retroactive,

meaning that ministers unable to claim mortgage interest and property tax deductions for tax years 1983 and 1984 may file amended returns. (BP)

Hotels for St. Louis convention listed

Hotels which will be reserved for use by the housing bureau at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis have now been listed, said Tim A. Hedquist, SBC convention manager.

Hedquist said 20 hotels—involving an estimated 5200 rooms—will be included in the housing bureau block, releasing other rooms for reservations by individuals or groups. He added release of the other hotels is "earlier than in the past, but we are ahead of schedule in convention preparation."

He said the list is being released because some of the hotels already are being bombarded with requests for reservations for the mid-June meeting in 1987.

The SBC retains about 4500 to 5200 rooms for use by the housing bureau. Those rooms are assigned by drawing from requests mailed Oct. 1 or 2 of the year preceding the convention, Hedquist said. The system was established to allow individuals an opportunity to obtain rooms for the annual meeting.

The hotels reserved for SBC use, he said, are:

Adam's Mark/St. Louis, Bel Air Hilton, Best Western, St. Louisian, Clarion, Embassy Suites, Holiday Inn Market Street, Holiday Inn Riverfront, Marriott's Pavilion, Mayfair, Omni International, Radisson St. Louis, Rodeway Inn Downtown, Sheraton St. Louis, The Chase, Cheshire Inn & Lodge, Forest Park, Howard Johnson Midtown, Inn At The Park, Quality Inn-St. Louis and University Plaza. (BP)

Rogers confirms candidacy request

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. has confirmed a Dec. 2 meeting in Atlanta with conservative leaders who asked him to be a candidate for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986.

Rogers was elected president in 1979, but declined nomination in 1980 for a second one-year term because of pressing church and personal responsibilities. "I certainly have not decided to run and certainly have not encouraged anybody to support me as SBC president," Rogers told the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector Dec. 9. "I am praying about it," the Memphis pastor added.

Rogers said he met with 18 other conservative leaders in Atlanta Dec. 2 and "the consensus was I should run," he stated. "When these friends met, they seemed to have a spirit of unanimity and asked me if I would be willing to be nominated again for president."

Rogers said he felt the group asked him to be a candidate because the "moderate wing already has a candidate with a face and a name," explaining that "from all the straws in the wind, it appears that Winfred Moore will be a candidate." Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex. was elected first vice president of the SBC in Dallas last June, after being defeated by Charles Stanley for the SBC presidency.

Emphasizing he has not given anyone permission to nominate him at this point, Rogers stressed he is not seeking the SBC presidency, as he did not seek it in 1979. Rogers said it was a

"tremendously difficult decision," noting that Bellevue Baptist Church is "in the midst of a tremendous program of relocating the church" from the downtown area to a tract in west Memphis.

The former SBC president said a number of people and pastors across the convention had urged him to allow his name to be placed in nomination at the 1986 SBC in Atlanta June 10-12. "I am committed to seeing our convention take a conservative course," Rogers said. (BP)

Joe Ford named pastor of North Phoenix Church

Joe L. Ford, associate vice president of the SBC Home Mission Board's evangelism section, has been named pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church.

Richard Jackson, pastor of the Phoenix church for the past 18 years, said he and Ford will share pastoral responsibilities of the 16,000-member church. Jackson will be senior pastor and Ford will be pastor, moving to Phoenix Jan. 12.

Jackson said the unusual staff structure at North Phoenix would enable the church to double the effectiveness of the pastor. He said the pastor-senior pastor arrangement of shared responsibilities was different from other churches which use a "copastor" structure in which two pastors are on an equal love. "Joe will do everything I do and I will do everything he does," sharing responsibilities as equals, Jackson said. But as senior pastor, "the buck stops on my desk," Jackson explained.

Jackson said the load of leading the largest Southern Baptist church in the western United States had become so heavy he realized he could not continue without either limiting growth of the church, killing himself, or sharing the burden. He came to the conclusion a shared responsibility with a pastor who does everything was the best approach for their situation.

Ford, 37, has been on the staff of the Atlanta-based Home Mission Board evangelism section for the past 11 years. He came to the board as director of evangelism for young adults, later became director of the board's evangelism development division, and was acting vice president for evangelism for almost a year after C. B. Hogue resigned from that position in 1982 to go to a pastorate in Tulsa, Okla. (BP)

baptist forum

Don't publish top CP givers

I had to say "amen" to the letter from John Mitchell of Louisville (Dec. 3, 1985 issue) concerning the per capita giving contest that you promote each year by listing who the "biggest" givers are to the Cooperative Program. This seems to be similar to the "best dressed list" published by Hollywood each year, etc.

As an added incentive why not publish a list of the 200 churches that gave the least to the Cooperative Program during the year? I would think that churches would increase their giving significantly to avoid being on that list.

If the purpose of ranking churches by the amount they give is to motivate givers to be more generous, I think a more Christian way to "test their horns" should be found by these churches and not one supported by

Projections indicate declining growth rate

Slow progress in membership and giving coupled with decreases in some programs last year (including baptisms) paint a rather tentative—not bold—picture of Southern Baptists, according to 1985 statistical projections.

One of the bright spots is the anticipated 1.0 percent, or 78,573, increase for Sunday school, which has just completed a five-year enrolment emphasis. The new enrolment total should be more than 7.9 million, the fourth consecutive record high. The gain is almost double the 1984 increase.

Membership in Southern Baptist churches is projected to increase by a slower rate in 1985 than in any year since 1926, when churches in the Baptist Missionary Association were dropped from Southern Baptist records. The projected increase of 0.7 percent, or 100,448, would bring the new total to 14,450,105.

In the 1950s, annual membership increases were in the three and four percent range, followed by two percent average gains in the '60s and gains averaging below two percent in the '70s. The percent increases have dropped four of the five years in the 1980s, even though the total membership has increased every year.

Baptisms in the denomination are predicted to decrease in 1985 by 6.9 percent, or 25,670, from the 1984 total, to 346,358. Slightly lower totals were reported in 1977 and 1978, which were the lowest since 1949. The record for baptisms in the denomination was 445,725 in 1972.

Church music enrolment provided another bright spot, with an increase predicted for the 20th consecutive year. The number of musicians participating in Southern Baptist churches is expected to go up by 0.6 percent, or 10,0004, to a new total of more than 1.67 million.

Although total receipts and mission expenditures for the denomination increased faster than the rate of inflation, the percentages were lower than for the past several years. Mission expenditures, estimated to increase by 6.7 percent, or more than \$38 million, are projected to total \$606,119,138 for the year. This would be the lowest increase since 1971.

Total receipts are projected to increase by 5.7 percent, almost \$209 million, to a new high of more than \$3.8 billion. This would be the lowest percentage increase since 1966. (BP)

Western Recorder.

Don Daniel, Lebanon Junction

Reader disagrees with LaHaye

After reading in two different national publications of Tim LaHaye's statement that "the only way to have a genuine spiritual revival is to have legislative reform" I realized that my translation of 2 Chron. 7:14 was all wrong! The passage should have been translated "... and my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray, and seek legislative reform and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven. . . ." (My apologies to the NASB.) Come to think of it, does this mean I am sinning in leading my church to participate in the Good News America God Loves You simultaneous revivals . . . or are we just too early for the effort?

Ed Mitchell, Brandenburg



Barkley Moore
President
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oneida journal

The U-shaped table

My home is on a high cliff overlooking our campus. The cliff is directly above the bend in the river where the South Fork of Kentucky River begins its northward journey. From a window or the front porch I can see where Red Bird Creek and Bullskin Creek mingle with the waters of Goose Creek to make the South Fork.

It is always a thrill to awaken, thank the Lord for another day of life and the opportunity to serve, and then to look out the window onto our campus. The 18 major buildings and staff housing that can be seen are a testimony to the love and faith and hard work of literally thousands of people over the years. People like you, dear reader.

On this particular morning I noticed something different. The lights were on in our new and smaller dining room.

That reminded me it was Thanksgiving morning and we were planning our noon meal in the new dining room. Normally we eat cafeteria style, but this special day we were to eat family style with the tables arranged in a U-shape around the room.

Arriving at the dining room shortly before noon I found that six of our cooks and our food supervisor, Mrs. Celichowski, had done their job well.

In each of the large windows of our new dining room were baskets of small colorful gourds. I learned these had been donated to us for the occasion by the Mennonite folk who butcher the beef and pork we raise.

On this day approximately 450 of our Oneida family of students and staff were elsewhere for Thanksgiving. But

115 sat down at our U-shaped table, all dressed in their Sunday best. We bowed our heads for prayer.

We had so much to thank the Lord for. Just since Thanksgiving a year ago the following has been accomplished:

(1) a 4500 sq. ft. brick addition to our dining area complex including the new dining room, a 60-seat grill, large dish-washing area, food supervisor's office, two more restrooms, older and larger dining area also bricked and totally renovated, and kitchen air-conditioned;

(2) 1320 x 21 ft. blacktop track poured and the entire athletic field reworked and enlarged to provide for separate soccer, baseball and softball fields besides the new track;

(3) \$10,000 potato house to replace one used for 35 years, and the most bountiful potato, corn and hay crop in years;

(4) more staff housing, five staff residences reroofed and other major improvements made, and new \$30,000 heavily insulated sloping roof for our girls dorm, our largest building;

(5) drafting department equipped on campus handling up to 48 students daily;

(6) band nearly quadrupled and more than \$10,000 more instruments added; choir nearly tripled in past year and music storage room added as well as a larger band equipment area; portable risers for choir added in chapel;

(7) more equipment added to our print shop, computer lab, further improvement of water and sewerage treatment plan, and capacity of reservoir increased five-fold;

(8) piano lab added with seven new pianos and approximately 50 students per day getting an hour of practice with a teacher's supervision;

(9) art department tripled in area with a pottery room with kiln nearby;

(10) home economics department doubled with much new equipment;

(11) advanced placement program added to curriculum with "top" students doing college level work;

(12) academic team organized and competing with other schools, and undefeated thus far in our region;

(13) with the blessing of the Holy Spirit nearly 200 souls won.

Yes, and we thanked the Lord for you, our friends, who make it all possible for each child and staff member. We prayed for our world, our nation and president, for loved ones and friends.

We thanked God for life itself, the opportunity to serve, for Jesus.



H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Baptist School,
Pineville, KY 40977

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 22, 1985

Life and Work Series

Solving the sin problem

Isaiah 11:1-4 Isaiah predicted the messiah-king would be born of the seed of David, son of Jesse. This prophecy was written when the fortunes of David's house were at their lowest ebb. Nothing was left of that family tree except a stump from which was to come forth a fruitful shoot. Since the Holy Spirit would rest upon him in his seven-fold completeness, he would be well equipped to rule.

Matthew 1:20-25 While Joseph thought seriously and prayerfully about what he should do, after having been informed Mary was to become a mother, an angel appeared unto him in a dream and delivered to him a message from the Lord as to what he should do. This message removed his doubts, calmed his fears and caused him to rejoice again in the love of his betrothed. When the angel proclaimed "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost," Joseph was convinced Mary had not transgressed and his heart was filled with gratitude for the revelation.

This wonderful prophecy, which was spoken by the Lord through Isaiah more than 700 years before: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bare a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel" (7:14) had to be fulfilled in God's own time and manner. Only by the divine

act of incarnation, which was God becoming man, was it made possible for the messiah or son of God to redeem, to regenerate, to cleanse and to sanctify.

International Series

The visitors from afar

Matthew 2:1-2 The scriptures do not disclose the number of the wise men, their names or the particular country from whence they came. They were students of astronomy and kindred sciences. They were also men of rank, wealth and influence. Their earnestness of purpose was revealed by their long and dangerous journey to Jerusalem in search of a heavenly king. **Matthew 2:3-6** When they inquired about the newborn king, Jerusalem was troubled. Herod the Great was greatly disturbed lest he should lose his throne. Primarily, both Herod and the people were troubled on account of their sins. When Herod inquired of the chief priests and the scribes where Christ should be born, they answered him from Micah 5:2.

Matthew 2:7-8 Troubled by the news a king had been born, Herod proceeded to work out a scheme to do away with the heralded king. Feigning respect and love for him, Herod instructed the wise men to locate him and return with the information. Herod's real desire was to put the child to death, but God thwarted his evil purpose.

Matthew 2:9-10 The wise men started immediately to Bethlehem in search of the young king. As they left Herod, the star which they had seen in the east again appeared to them, and led them to the very spot where the Lord Jesus was.

Matthew 2:11-12 The wise men were filled with joy when they stood in the presence of the young child and his mother. After they had worshiped him in whom the living God had become incarnate, they opened their treasures and presented to him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They brought and gave to Christ the very best they had.

Instead of returning and reporting to Herod, the wise men heard the words of God who gave them a personal and secret commission which thwarted all the wicked plans of the cruel Herod. Enraged at their departure, Herod ordered all male children in Bethlehem under two years of age to be put to death, but the Lord Jesus was not slain. Mary and Joseph took him to Egypt and resided there for a time.



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on mission together

From Slightly Soiled Saints

In many of the selections of his very "readable" book, *Slightly Soiled Saints*, Franklin Owen draws from a deep reservoir of pastoral ministry. Such a time as ours fosters almost merciless stresses upon those whom God calls and congregations employ as their ministers.

The following article from Owen's new book (p. 169) still has a timely word for minister and congregation.

"The pastoral ministries of the church require far more strength and work than one person can have or perform. The whole church needs to share

in its pastoral ministries through helpful Christian service and prayer support for each other and the pastor.

"The pastor, himself, needs more than one person's normal reserves of spiritual strength. The bedside ministry to the sick day after day, the death situations, funerals, tragedies, administration among often sensitive people, the spiritual demands of preaching—these all take their toll.

"The pastor's reservoirs of strength include the larger congregation. The sometimes unnamed faces of good encouraging listeners who lift his spirit as eye-span makes repeated contact. This broad-based sense of support from the membership generally helps him carry on in other ways as well as in preaching.

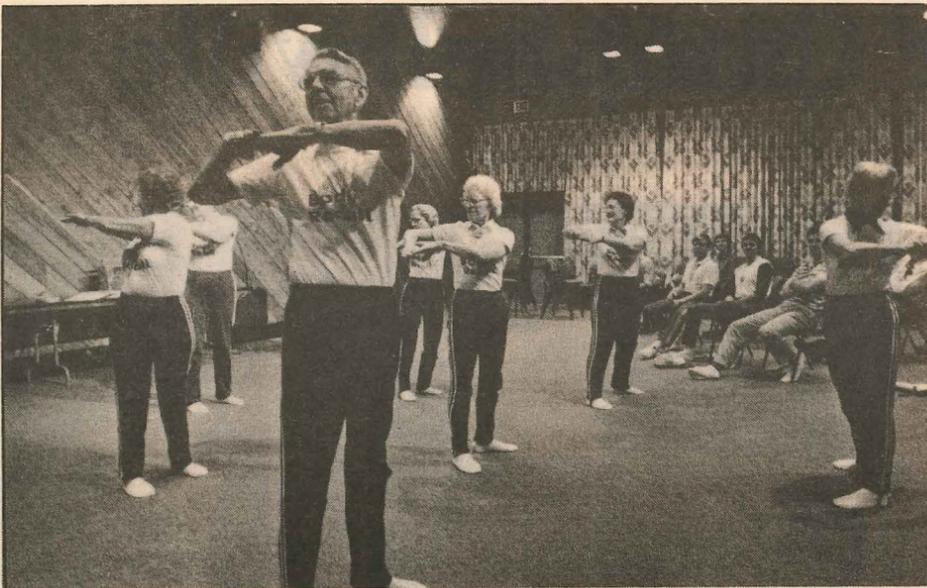
"There is a huge reservoir of strength also in a minister's inner circle of friends and associates. This includes his staff and office personnel in the larger churches and his family in both large and small congregations. The

support of those with whom he most lives and works is very strengthening. Conversely, he is bled weak through the open wounds of his feelings of non-support from his immediate environment.

"Above all, the pastor must have inner strength. This resides to great extent in his own self-knowledge as one of integrity, basic honesty, and commitment to all that is good. (Sir Launfall's strength 'was as the strength of ten, because his heart was pure.')

"But when all this is exhausted there must be yet a further source beyond oneself. We cannot pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps. Inner strength beyond the limits of human beings must ultimately come from God. The psalmist prayed "Oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." (Ps. 10:14)

"Pray for your pastor. Support his ministry. Make him strong. Pray for yourself, pastor, to have an ever renewed heart and to be always 'a good minister of Jesus Christ.' (1 Tim. 4:6)."



A team of older adults from Berea demonstrates a "Body Recall" routine during Rec Lab in Cadiz.

Senior adults can have fitness through 'Body Recall' exercises

Dorothy Chrisman considers herself as mission with a message! There is physical fitness to be found in motion.

A physical education instructor at Berea (Ky.) College, Mrs. Chrisman has developed "Body Recall," a new approach to exercise for adults 55 years and older, that emphasizes painless movement using gravity and motion to reclaim an adult's fitness.

Mrs. Chrisman demonstrated and explained her fitness system during Rec Lab at Lake Barkley State Park, Cadiz, Ky.

"The lack of exercise messes up the quality of life, and when it affects the quality of life, it messes up everything," she explained.

According to Mrs. Chrisman, fitness programs are appropriate for everyone in a church, not just the young.

"'Body Recall' is a new look and feel to exercise. It is just the opposite from the 'no pain, no gain' view," Mrs. Chrisman explained with the zeal of an evangelist.

"Move what you can and start from there," she said. "If you can manage one arm, you might be able to manage two, and before long you will find you can manage the whole thing."

According to Mrs. Chrisman, "Body Recall" is a message of hope for older adults that they can be physically fit, giving them the opportunity to be involved in other forms of ministry.

"You are either working for fitness or you are losing it," she said.

Accompanying Mrs. Chrisman at Rec Lab was a Berea, Ky. demonstration team with an average age of 76 years.

Mission needs recognized at missions teleconference

Eyes and hearts were tuned to crying needs of other countries as Southern Baptists viewed the second Foreign Missions Teleconference.

The teleconference originated in Birmingham, Ala. Nov. 23 and was broadcast over the Baptist Telecommunication Network (BTN). Viewers at more than 200 sites participated in this missions program, and had opportunities to call in questions to missionaries and missions agency leaders concerning the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. More than 40 calls were phoned in.

Responding to questions called in by viewers were agency heads R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president; James Smith, Brotherhood president; and Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC, executive director. Bill O'Brien, FMB vice president, served as moderator throughout the telecast.

Segments of the teleconference focused on the critical needs in Ethiopia and Colombia, as well as Southern Baptist developments in China and Grenada. Accounts of work being done in the U. S. concerning foreign missions were highlighted in portions of the program.

In Ethiopia where thousands of people are starving to death, foreign missionary Jerry Bedsole works as a veterinarian, giving medical attention to dying and malnourished farm animals.

Most importantly, the Bedsoles and other Southern Baptists are sharing the love of Jesus Christ with unbelievers. "It's hard for someone that's starving to death and having physical problems to hear the gospel," said Bedsole. Meeting physical needs is the first priority, then sharing God's love.

Christian brothers and sisters are working diligently in grief-stricken

Colombia to minister to survivors of the recent volcano eruption. "Southern Baptists have given power plants for cities without electricity, and food, medicine and clothing to survivors who otherwise would not be getting well," said missionary James Gile in a live report from Colombia.

Carter and Charlotte Davis explained how their foreign missions work in Grenada is moving ahead. Baptists are responding to problems caused by the American invasion by meeting human needs and giving physical support in rebuilding homes, buildings and even a dam.

"If we really pray and know what's going on, we'd have the motivation to give."

Not only is Baptist involvement growing in Grenada, but China as well. As the China government is anxious to upgrade its country, American Southern Baptists have more of a chance to share their faith. They can't "recruit" Christians but are allowed to witness to those who come to them, reported Vi Marie Taylor, foreign missionary to China now furloughing in Texas.

Cornette Nettles of First Baptist Church, Lumberton, N. C., pointed out that it was because of her pastor's missions stamina that her church doubled their LMCO goal and gave over \$50,000 to foreign missions.

In order for more missionaries to be able to go to the foreign missions field, more money is needed to send them, Parks said.

"If we really pray and know what's going on, we'd have the motivation it takes to give," said Parks.

Southern Baptists' skimpydipping is caused by scandalous lack of missions knowledge

Skimpydipping has become so widespread among Southern Baptist church members that it is creating a scandal nationwide, a new report suggests.

"The most distressing habit of the skimpydippers is that they often perform their act in public, frequently in the presence of children and unsaved persons," states the report, which was compiled by an unidentified writer working with an unspecified Southern Baptist agency.

"Skimpydipping" is defined as dipping only skimpily into missions information from the denomination, and not taking the trouble to get the full facts either on world needs or what state and SBC agencies already are doing to meet those needs. The problem is judged to be a significant roadblock to the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust aspirations.

Public skimpydipping occurs in virtually all phases of Southern Baptist life, the report states, but is most noticeable during church business meetings when budgets are being discussed.

"It is here that skimpiness of understanding quickly becomes apparent," the report states, "Because

skimpydippers don't know about world conditions or mission programs, they have no realistic concept of the actual expense of actually reaching the world."

Several major facets of the skimpydipping phenomenon were outlined:

[1] Skimpydippers often are found in groups.

"One skimpydipper usually will not divest himself of distorted information in public, but when two or more are gathered together, watch out! Half-truths, rumors and ill-founded opinions will begin flying," the report stated.

[2] Incredibly, some Southern Baptist pastors are skimpydippers.

"Skimpydipping pastors have a major influence on those about them and thus help perpetuate the practice," the report expressed. It noted that readership studies show lay subscribers to missions magazines read articles in the publications more than pastors.

[3] The skimpydipping phenomenon is growing.

"The tremendous increase in the flow of information of all types has strongly affected Southern Baptists.

Because of the nature of our convention structure, we depend heavily on getting accurate missions information so we can know best how to proceed. But the average church member today knows less about missions than he or she did 20 years ago.

"If the trend continues, in a few years we can expect to see more skimpydippers across the nation, walking around in public places, such as churches, positively naked of truth and accurate information on missions," the report continues.

[4] To their credit, skimpydipping is seen much less often among members of Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood.

"These organizations are to be commended for many reasons, but study shows they are a main obstacle to the growth of skimpydipping," the report stated.

Their programs, publications and particularly their education work with young people were praised as key ways to stamp out skimpydipping among young Southern Baptists. "Their strong work against skimpydipping is a major reason more Southern Baptists need to be in

these key organizations," the report stated.

State Baptist newspapers also were praised for their historic role in stopping the practice of skimpydipping.

[5] Because of the widespread implications in skimpydipping, the report called on the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and other Southern Baptist agencies to study the phenomenon and suggest possible preventive measures.

According to the report, readership figures show that too few Southern Baptists are receiving or reading magazines and other publications from the two boards. "Obviously, if Bold Mission Thrust is to succeed, we must have an equally bold thrust in communication about missions," the report observed. [6] Although not put forward as a formal recommendation, the report suggested appropriate themes might be incorporated into Southern Baptist Convention planning in the future.

One suggested theme: "Don't be a skimpydipper! Get all the facts on missions!"

Editor's note: Careful checking has revealed the author of the preceding is Mike Creswell, associate editor of the Foreign Mission Board magazine, The Commission, writing with tongue parked firmly in cheek.

Homecoming at Campbellsville

Homecoming '85 was one of the "greatest homecomings Campbellsville College has ever known," said K. J. Miller, Student Government Association president.

"A Salute to Disney" was the theme for the week-long celebration that ended with Audra Wilcox of Madisonville as homecoming queen.

Week-long events included a Hawaiian luau, an Old-Fashioned Hoedown, the annual faculty/staff vs. students volleyball game and a pep rally. Both the Tigers and Lady Tigers won their homecoming basketball games.

Jerry Clower, the popular country humorist, entertained a sold-out crowd of about 665 persons at the annual alumni banquet. About 110 alumni were at the alumni luncheon during which members of the classes of 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975 and Golden Heritage—those who attended here from 1934 and earlier—were honored.

W. R. Davenport, president of Campbellsville College, told those at the luncheon, "The mark of a college is to a very large degree in its alumni."

Virginia Flanagan, director of alumni, told the group, "We have the nucleus for a strong alumni association here today."

New Campbellsville College alumni association officers elected included: Everette Lee of Campbellsville, president; Ray England of Winchester, president-elect; Hollis Mitchell Jr., of Cincinnati, Ohio, vice president; Karen Manakee Pickerell of Louisville, secretary, and G. Dennis Smith of Campbellsville, treasurer. They represent the classes of 1942, 1974, 1941, 1980 and 1937, respectively.



[Clockwise] Brenda Mowery [1], a senior from Lancaster, Oh. and Joyce Rose, a junior from Campbellsville, work on Sigma Zeta's float for the homecoming parade. W. R. Davenport, president of Campbellsville College, meets two Disney characters at the alumni banquet. "A Salute to Disney" was the theme for the homecoming activities. Audra Wilcox, a sophomore from Madisonville, was crowned homecoming queen. Jane Buchanan Roution, who attended Campbellsville College in 1962, was among those who got autographs and talked with country humorist Jerry Clower following his performance at the alumni banquet.