

SPECIAL SERVICES FROM RIDGECREST

(Recorded in the B.W. Spilman Auditorium (unless otherwise noted) while I served on the Staff)

1. Dr. Wayne Dehoney, former President of the SBC, Message: "About the World and Service," June 14, 1966.
2. Rev. C. Roy Angell, Campfire Meditation following the evening service in Spilman Auditorium: "We Need Three Advocates," at Lake Dew, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, 1966.
3. Rev. William M. Dyal, Jr., "Living My Witness." Youth Week, 1966, Spilman Auditorium, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.
4. Dr. J. P. Allen, three messages (Thurs, Fri, and Sat evenings) during Bible Week, 1968.
5. Dr. Donald F. Ackland, Sunday School Lesson, Music Week, 1966.
6. Dr. Kenneth L. Chaffin, Sunday morning sermon, "The Resurrection," Music Week, 1966.
7. Dr. Theodore F. Adams. (August 1966) Message: "Christianity, Communism, Secularism."
8. Rev. Billy Graham: speaks to the RBA Staff (August 1966), Rhododendron Hall, RBA.
9. Dr. O. William Rhodenhiser, Jr. (August 1966) Message: "About Man."
10. Dr. William W. Lancaster. (August 1966) Message: "About Salvation."
11. Dr. Dale Moody (Bible Week, 1966) Message: "The Deep Things of God."
12. Dr. William Perdue (Training Union Week, 1966) Message: "What is the Sin worse than Atheism?"
13. Dr. William Perdue. Message: "Have You Met Your Master?"
14. Dr. James L. Sullivan. Message: "Giants with Tender Hearts." July 14, 1967.
15. Dr. William E. Hull. Message: Bible Teaching, BSU Week, Friday, 1967.
16. Dr. J. Chester Durham. Message: "Unto the Campus," BSU Week, 1967.

17. Dr. Cecil Sherman. Message: "How to Handle the Stress of Life." Monday night, 1966.
 18. Dr. Cecil Sherman. Message: "Finding God's Will for Your Life." Friday morning, 1966. (He previously served on the Auditorium staff at Ridgecrest, 1947).
 19. Rev. Raymond Langlois. Message: "5 Steps in Finding God's Will." Pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Former member: SBC Sunday School Board.
 20. Rev. Raymond Langlois. Message: "Helps in Finding God's Will." Wednesday. (Note: Tape ended before end of message).
 21. Rev. Raymond Langlois. Message: "Characteristics Needed for Christian Service" Mark 14:50-52. Acts 15:36-40. Tuesday.
 22. Dr. Dodson M. Nelson, Jr. Message: "The Importance of the Bible." Sunday Morning Worship, July 13, 1977.
 23. Dr. Dodson M. Nelson, Jr. Message: "The Good News about Jesus Christ." Sunday Evening Worship, July 13, 1977.
 24. Dr. Herbert C. Gabhart. Message: "The Meaning of Prayer."
 25. Rev. H. Edwin Young. Message: "The Story of Jonah." (Tape 1)
 26. Rev. H. Edwin Young. Message: "The Story of Jonah." (Tape 2)
 27. Rev. H. Edwin Young. Message: "The Story of Jonah." (Tape 3)
 28. Rev. Berry. (date unknown).
 29. Dr. Harper Shannon. Message: "Farewell to Glory." (Bible Week).
 30. Rev. Jim Henry speaks to the Ridgecrest Staff, 1966. Hebrews 13:5-6. (He is a former Staffer at Ridgecrest).
- Dr. David R. Mace. Christian Life Conference, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, 1966; Crystal Springs Annex.

Information about the Featured Conference Speakers:

Wayne Dehoney



LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Rev. Wayne Dehoney, who was president of the Southern Baptist Convention for two terms in the 1960s and later became pastor of Louisville's oldest Baptist church, has died. He was 89. Dehoney, ill since a serious stroke in 1996, died Thursday, daughter Kathy Dehoney Evitts said. He began an 18-year ministry at Walnut Street Baptist Church in downtown Louisville in 1967, leading the church into its television ministry and the development of nearly an entire city block surrounding the church. His moderate stance on theological and social issues helped Dehoney become president of the Southern Baptist Convention for two consecutive years. There were 10 million members during his first term and 10.5 million members by his second year as president, the largest Protestant denomination in the country. He was pastor of the 2,000-member First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., at the time. Dehoney went on missionary tours around the world and had been president of the Southern Baptist Pastors Conference and a leader in the Baptist World Alliance, which focused on missions, human rights and religious freedom. Upon his retirement from Walnut Street in 1985, Dehoney was named a senior professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also had been a trustee of the seminary. (Source: Obituary: *November 19, 2007*)



Historical Vignette: Charles Roy Angell, 'pastor's pastor' - Florida Baptist Witness Historical Vignette: Charles Roy Angell, 'pastor's pastor'

C. Roy Angell served as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Miami from 1936 to 1962. He was probably the best-known Southern Baptist preacher in his day to serve in the state of Florida.

Angell began his tenth year at Central Baptist Church by preaching the first sermon he had preached in the church as pastor. The title of his sermon was "The Second Mile." In these ten years the Miami church had grown from 687 members to 4,110 members.

Central Baptist Church was the renamed church that organized as the Lemon City Baptist Church May 6, 1896. W. C. Stanton was the organizer of the church and later Stanton Memorial Baptist Church was named after him. The Lemon City Baptist Church changed its name to First Baptist Church of Miami, and then to Central Baptist Church.

Angell (1889-1971) was born at Boone Mill, Va., October 8, 1889. He was a graduate of the University of Richmond (B.A.), Pennsylvania University (M.A.), Crozier Theological Seminary (B.D.), and John Hopkins University (Ph.D.). He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Stetson University.

Broadman Press published five volumes of Angell's sermons (1953-1968). He wrote *Iron Shoes, Shields of Brass, The Price Tags of Life, God's Gold Mines, and Rejoicing on Great Days*. Angell was probably the greatest sermon illustrator that Southern Baptists have ever known. He read widely and his sermons reflected it.

Angell was a regular speaker at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly from 1937 to 1960. He served as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (1945-1946), president of the Florida Baptist State Convention (1949), and a trustee at the Baptist hospital in Miami and at Stetson University. In 1951 he preached the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Angell married Ilma Meade of Elizabeth City, N.C., October 8, 1915. They had three children; Charles Roy, Jr., Pattye Kathryn, and Ilma Louise. Before moving to Miami, Angell served as pastor at Elizabeth City, N.C.; First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va.; Fulton Avenue Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.; First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La., and First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.

C. Roy Angell was a preacher's preacher. He knew pastors and pastoral work. He spoke to the heart and led Central Baptist in beginning many mission churches in Miami. His emphasis was communication and people understood him when he preached.

Florida Baptists can feel and express pride in the preaching and pastoral legacy of Dr. Angell and his work in the Miami area.

(Source: May 18, 2004 obituary,
JERRY M. WINDSOR, Florida Baptist Historical Society)

William M. Dyal Jr., was director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian



Life Commission, graduate of Baylor University. He was also President of the American Field Service International/Intercultural Programs, Inc. He later served as President of St. John's College, Annapolis, MD.

J. P. Allen, 1963-1969



On January 6, 1963 the pulpit committee recommended that J. P. Allen, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, be called as Broadway's 15th pastor. During his nearly seven years as Pastor he carried on a vigorous and successful ministry and participated widely in state and national Baptist affairs. Broadway's Activities Building and Youth Education area were constructed under Allen's leadership and the Baptist Center was established. He resigned effective December 28, 1969 to accept a position with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Dr. Donald F. Ackland is former editor of "Open Windows" devotional magazine for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; also wrote "Broadman Comments" Sunday School lesson commentaries for teachers, for many years. A native of London, England; editor Baptist Sunday School Board, 1949-1968; former editor of Open Windows; author and speaker. He discusses the day's Sunday School lesson, and explains why Sunday School teachers must go beyond the scripture lesson and show how it applies to the students.

Rev. Kenneth Chaffin

Baptist luminary Chaffin dies

By Marv Knox

Editor, Baptist Standard

HOUSTON--Baptist pastor, professor, evangelist and strategist Kenneth Chaffin died Jan. 3 of

leukemia. He was 74.



Chaffin enjoyed one of the most varied and influential careers of any Baptist minister in the 20th century. He taught at the Southern Baptist Convention's two largest seminaries, served as pastor of two influential inner-city congregations, directed the convention's evangelism efforts and worked with international evangelist Billy Graham.

He first taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, where he was instructor in preaching, 1957-59, and associate professor of evangelism and head of the evangelism department, 1960-65. Later, he taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he was associate professor and held the Billy Graham Chair of evangelism, 1965-69, and professor and held the Carl Bates Chair of preaching, 1984-87.

Chaffin led Southern Baptists' outreach efforts as director of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board, 1969-72. His long association with Graham included serving as dean of the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, held in conjunction with crusades around the globe, 1967-83.

He was pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, 1972-84, and Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, 1988-92.

Chaffin also was known for his denominational leadership. He was a member of the Southwestern Seminary board of trustees and served as its chairman. He has been a trustee of Houston Baptist University and also served on the Executive Board and Administrative Committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Chaffin provided leadership for moderate Baptists, particularly during the 20-year controversy between so-called conservatives and moderates.

He was a leader of the "Gatlinburg Gang," a group of pastors who organized the first resistance to the "conservative resurgence" in the SBC in the late 1970s and early '80s. The group pleaded with SBC agency leaders to join in the resistance but was criticized by moderates and conservatives alike for "politicizing" the convention.

A decade later, after conservatives gained control of the national convention, he helped organize the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a para-denominational organization for moderates disaffected by the emerging SBC leadership.

News of Chaffin's death prompted admiration from Baptist leaders who have known him for decades.

"I would call him one of those watershed people in Baptist life in the South who saw transitions in the old Southern Baptist Convention and spoke about them before a lot of people did and who paid dearly for it at times," said historian Bill Leonard.

"He was not only an outstanding pastor, but he was a grand teacher," added Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's divinity school and a former colleague of Chaffin's at Southern Seminary. "I'll remember him as a person who mentored several generations of students in Texas and Kentucky."

Leonard said one thing he loved about Chaffin is "there was not a passive-aggressive bone in his body."

"He said it straight and direct, but gently. You always knew where he stood," Leonard said. "And that terrified some people."

Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, noted how Chaffin shaped his own life, both as a professor and a friend.

"Dr. Chaffin helped me greatly in his class on personal evangelism," said Wade, who was a student of Chaffin's in the 1960s. "He was a man of enormous conviction and courage. Baptists everywhere have lost a great friend."

Words that describe Chaffin's life and ministry include "calling, commitment, creativity, courage, compassion and consistency," said Roy Honeycutt, former president of Southern Seminary.

"He bound all life together with unswerving commitment to Jesus Christ and his church," Honeycutt said. "He was a man for all seasons, a Renaissance person for a generation in transition."

A native of Oklahoma, Chaffin was a graduate of the University of New Mexico and Southwestern Seminary, where he earned two degrees.

He wrote six books, including volumes on evangelistic witnessing, marriage enrichment and biblical commentary.

In retirement, he became a published poet and wrote devotionals for "The Daily Guidepost." He also founded a Sunday School class for young couples at South Main Baptist Church.

Chaffin is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Houston; two daughters, Nancy Chaffin of Boulder, Colo., and Ellen Wavro of Houston; a son, Troy, of Austin; and a grandson, Daniel Wavro, of Houston.

Funeral services were held Jan. 7 at South Main Baptist Church in Houston. He was buried Jan. 6 in a cemetery adjacent to the family farm, Windy Hill, near Brenham.

Dr. Theodore F. Adams, former Pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond, VA.



Rev. Billy Graham, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: came over from Montreat, N.C., to speak to the RBA Staff.



Oscar William "Bill" Rhodenhiser Jr.



Obituary

Oscar William "Bill" Rhodenhiser Jr., 83, of Richmond, died on Friday, June 3, 2005. A native of Wise County, Va., Dr. Rhodenhiser was a 1944 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Richmond and received his doctorate from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in 1957. He was professor of religion at the University of Richmond for 37 years, serving as chairman of the department, the George and Sallie Cutchin Camp Professor of Bible, and the Solon B. Cousins Professor of Religion, and being elected Professor of Religion Emeritus upon his retirement in 1992. He also served on the board of directors of Baptist House at Duke University and was an officer of the International Society of Neoplatonic Studies. He ministered as pastor of Baptist churches in Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina, and as interim pastor at more than 20 other churches. He fully engaged life beyond his local endeavors as well, studying and teaching world religions and meditation techniques, traveling extensively in India and Eastern Europe, and befriending and housing students and acquaintances from around the world. He found rest and renewal at the family retreat in Highland County, Va., and brought to all of his pursuits a flair for the unusual and a zest for learning and new ideas. He was preceded in death by his parents, O.W. and Grace; his sister, Mary Alice and her daughter, Caroline; and his grandson, Atticus Verlander. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Nancye Haymes Rhodenhiser; two sons, Bill (wife, Mary) and James (wife, Jayin); two daughters, Linda and Ann Verlander (husband, Paul); nine grandchildren, Will (wife, Chelsea), David, Giles, Elijah, Hannah, Emma, Joseph, Emily and Benjamin; and his brother, Bob (wife, Bib). Dr. Rhodenhiser was a member of Grace Baptist Church, where the family will receive visitors on Monday, June 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. Memorial service will occur on Tuesday, June 7, at 2 p.m., with reception following. Memorial gifts may be made to the William Rhodenhiser Memorial Fund at Grace Baptist Church, 4200 Dover Road, Richmond, Va. 23221.

Published in Richmond Times-Dispatch on June 5, 2005

Dr. William W. Lancaster: former Assistant Pastor, First Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S.C.; Pastor, First Baptist Church, Orangeburg, S.C.

Dr. Dale Moody:



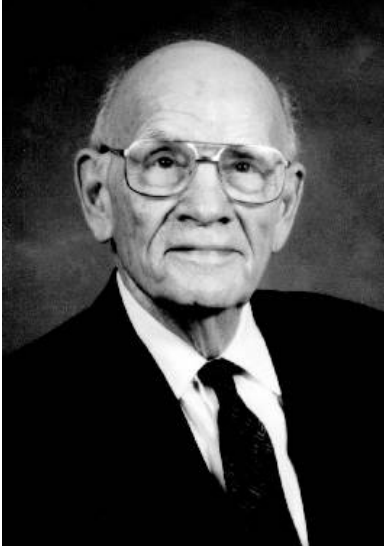
Dale Moody, professor of theology 1948-1984, was born in Stanford, Texas in 1915. In his youth, he attended a Landmark Baptist church and made a profession of faith when twelve years old. Beginning to preach at sixteen years of age, Moody pastored his first church, Coppell Baptist, the following year. In 1933, he entered Baylor University to study New Testament. Moody left Baylor before finishing his B.A. to study at seminary.

Moody enrolled in Chafer (now Dallas Theological) Seminary. In 1937, Moody switched seminaries, beginning work at Southern. Upon completion of his Th.M. classes, Moody did not immediately receive the degree since he had not yet finished his B.A. at Baylor. In 1940, Moody returned to Texas to finish his B.A., earning the degree and his Th.M. in 1941. Moody then began doctoral studies at Southern but left the school in 1944 in order to serve as a teaching assistant to Paul Tillich at Union Seminary in New York. Moody returned to Southern in 1947 and received his Th.D. after finishing his dissertation on *The Problem of Revelation and Reason in the Writings of Emil Brunner*. Moody later studied with such notable theologians as Brunner, Karl Barth, and Oscar Cullman. He also received a D.Phil. from Oxford for studies that produced a dissertation on baptism.

During his career at Southern, Moody taught a wide variety of courses in theology. At one point, his pedagogical responsibilities included systematic theology, Old Testament theology, New Testament theology, historical theology, and philosophy of religion. Moody wrote avidly, with *The Word of Truth*, *Spirit of the Living God*, and *Letters of John* among his acclaimed texts. His urging of Southern to change the *Abstract of Principles* and conflicts with Southern Baptists on the issue of apostasy led to his early retirement in 1983. A member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Moody passed away in 1992.

Dr. William M. Perdue, 72, Oct. 10 in Canyon Lake. Perdue, pastor of Cranes Mill Church in Canyon Lake for the past five years, had been in the ministry 52 years. Among other churches he served as pastor are Mildred Baptist Church, 1949-52; Stone Church of Willow Glen, 1959-1962; Grandview Church in El Paso and Baptist Temple in San Antonio. A naval veteran of World War II, he had served as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board and as chairman of the State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He is survived by his wife, Charlene; sons, William, David, Robert and Jimmy; daughter, Judy Ann; brother, Kenneth; sisters, Nancy and Faye; and 17 grandchildren.

Dr. James L. Sullivan



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--James Lenox Sullivan, Southern Baptist statesman and retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), died Dec. 27 at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tenn., following a brief illness. He was 94.

A private burial service for the family will be conducted Thursday morning. Visitation is at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church of Nashville, followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m.

Sullivan served as president of the Sunday School Board, the denomination's ministry enrichment, education and publication entity, from 1953 until his retirement in 1975. He was widely known as an authority on Southern Baptist polity and had been actively involved in denominational service since his first pastorate in 1932.

"He was president at one of the most crucial times at the Sunday School Board during the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s," said LifeWay Christian Resources president James T. Draper Jr. "He led in production of materials promoting the biblical view of human worth, regardless of race, and modeled his beliefs by providing an equitable work environment for a multicultural staff.

"He was my friend and supporter, and a great statesman. His counsel, wisdom, knowledge of Baptist history and of the Southern Baptist Convention was incomparable. As we have worked to strengthen the institution, he has given generously of his experience and insights to encourage us. Today our staff continues building on the foundation he laid.

"In a time when there are not many heroes, he has certainly been one of my heroes. I have lost a great friend."

He served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Texas; as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and as trustee of numerous Southern

Baptist universities, seminaries and hospitals. He also served as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Sullivan served one year as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, being elected in 1976.

Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, called Sullivan a "consummate minister" and "denominational statesman."

"As pastor, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and president of the Sunday School Board, his contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention have been remarkable and invaluable," Chapman said. "His years as president of the Sunday School Board were pivotal in the Board's spiritual and business development.

"He was a wise and decisive leader, a captivating storyteller with a genuine zest for life. His delightful humor was artfully woven into his preaching and soon found its way into his conversations. His books about the history and polity of the Southern Baptist Convention will guide generations to come. His life was shaped by his love for and devotion to Christ. He is one of the few individuals you meet along the journey of life about whom can be said, 'He was a great man.'"

Grady C. Cothen, who succeeded Sullivan as president of the Sunday School Board from 1975 to 1984, said Sullivan's death marks "the end of a long and significant era in Baptist life."

"He pioneered new methods and made endless contributions to the religious life of Baptist people," Cothen said. "He built and maintained a great institution. His generous spirit made possible the sharing of the enormous resources of the Sunday School Board with Baptists of the world. Southern Baptists will never know the debt they owe to Sullivan for his courage under fire, for his humorous defusing of many critical situations. His passing leaves us all poorer."

Following his retirement Sullivan taught as a guest professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce Bible School (now Boyce College) in Louisville, Ky., and at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. A football player and captain for Mississippi College from 1928-32, he was inducted into the institution's Sports Hall of Fame.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention named him "Clergyman of the Century" in 1985.

Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., said Sullivan's impact was enormous.

"Dr. James L. Sullivan will go down in history as one of Southern Baptist's most profound leaders, intellects and visionaries," Welch said. "He was the ordinary man's statesman with all it took to be a leader among so many but he used the language that all persons loved and understood.

"He was the pioneer for Southern Baptist Convention organizations as he brought about modern business reorganization for the Baptist Sunday School Board that not only catapulted them into the future but led the entire Southern Baptist Convention in the same direction.

"His understanding of not only how the convention worked but how it should work and could work made him one of the few most influential leaders of our history."

Sullivan wrote many articles and books, including "Your Life and Your Church," with a distribution of more than a million copies, and "Baptist Polity: As I See It," published by Broadman & Holman in 1998.

"He was a personal friend and faithful mentor," said Lloyd Elder, president of the board from 1984 to 1991. "He was truly a man of God, a man of his times by being ahead of his times, a peerless leader, fearless prophet and caring servant. Dr. Sullivan developed the Board into a profoundly Christian, Baptist denominational ministry, based on sound business principles and practices. At a personal level, he was forever learning and participating with others."

A graduate of Tylertown (Miss.) High School, Sullivan's higher education included a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in Clinton; a master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and a doctor of divinity degrees from Mississippi College and Campbell College in Buies Creek, N.C.

"His unwavering commitment to the Cooperative Program and the principles behind it stands as a lasting reminder for all Southern Baptists of the necessity of pursuing God's Kingdom together," Chapman said. "We praise God for the life of James L. Sullivan, and for the rich legacy and example he leaves with us."

Sullivan's wife, Velma Scott Sullivan, preceded him in death in 1993. His daughter, Martha Lynn (James) Porch of Tullahoma, Tenn., died in 1999.

Sullivan had known his future wife since childhood, and often said he knew she had been the right choice because she was "the only girl I ever dated," adding that they had dated only five times. The couple married in 1935.

"We have been doing our courting since our marriage," his wife would explain.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Beth Taylor of Nashville; a son, James David Sullivan of Columbus, Miss.; seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be given to one of the following charitable organizations: First Baptist Church ("Door to the Future"), Nashville; Alive Hospice, Nashville; or LifeWay Christian Resources (the chapel at Camp Ridgecrest, N.C., for Boys), Nashville.

William E. Hull is research professor at Samford University and theologian in residence at Mountain Brook Baptist Church, both in the suburbs of his birthplace, Birmingham, Alabama. Prior to these positions, Hull pursued dual careers in the church and the academy. Pastor of four congregations for twenty years, he has preached continuously in a wide variety of denominational and ecumenical settings. A professor of New Testament Interpretation for twenty years, he also served as provost at Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The author of twelve books and contributor to twenty-four others, Hull has lectured widely on college and seminary campuses in addition to being deeply involved as a civic advocate in the cities where he has worked.

Southern Baptist Group Names Samford's Hull 'Outstanding Educator'



Dr. William E. Hull, University Professor and former provost of Samford University, has received the Charles D Johnson Outstanding Educator Award presented by the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Hull was honored for his "significant contribution as author, lecturer and educator to Southern Baptist-related higher education" during the organization's annual meeting in June, held this year at Baylor University, Waco, Tex. The award honors the memory of Johnson, who served as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission from 1932-53.

Bob Agee, executive director of the ASBCS, praised Hull's "invaluable contributions to the lives of countless educational and religious leaders," including his own. Agee is a former Hull student.

Hull served as Samford provost (chief academic officer) and University Professor from 1987 until 1996, when he retired as provost to teach full-time. He was instructor, professor, dean and provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., during 1954-75.

A graduate of Samford and Southern Seminary, Hull is the author of five books on theology, chapters in 17 other books and numerous articles in scholarly and denominational publications. His latest book is "The University Through the Eyes of Faith," published in 1998.

The theologian has delivered 11 lectureships and spoken on "The Baptist Hour" radio program and at numerous state, national and international Baptist conventions. An ordained minister, he was pastor of Shreveport, La., First Baptist Church during 1975-87.

J. Chester Durham, Director of Student Work, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, KY.

Dr. David R. Mace, Christian Life Conference, RBA, 1966.



David and Vera Mace

David R. Mace, a teacher and marriage counselor, died Dec. 1 at a retirement center in Black Mountain, N.C. He was 83 years old and had lived in Black Mountain since retiring in 1982.

Dr. Mace died after a number of strokes, a spokeswoman for the family said.

Dr. Mace founded the National Marriage Guidance Council of Great Britain, based in London, in 1942, and became its executive director. In 1949 he moved to the United States.

From 1949 to 1959 he was a professor of human relations at Drew University in Madison, N.J. He then taught marriage and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

With his wife, the former Vera Chapman, he was founder and president of the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment in Winston-Salem from 1973 to 1980.

He and his wife also collaborated on 33 books including "Marriage East and West"

(1960; Doubleday), and "The Soviet Family" (1963; Doubleday).

Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, E. Sheila Jagan of Mallorca, Spain, and Fiona Patterson of Harrisburg, Pa.; a sister, Gladys Dawson of Maidstone, England; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. David Mace was named Professor of Family Sociology from 1967-1977 at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He became Professor Emeritus and co-director of Marriage Enrichment Training in the Department of Pastoral Care of North Carolina Baptist Hospital from 1977-1983. In between this time he founded and was Co-President of the ACME (Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment) from 1973-1980. Dr. David Mace wrote and co-authored with wife, Vera Mace, 33 books and also went on extensive international travels with Vera while performing teaching assignments on behalf of marriage and the family.

OBITUARY FOR VERA MACE, CO-FOUNDER OF ACME Vera Chapman Mace died on July 22, 2008 at the age of 106 in Burlington, VT. She was born on January 24, 1902 in Yorkshire, England. After excelling in school, she persuaded her parents to let her go to a teaching college an unusual step for women at that time. Once graduated, she taught children for a few years in a slum area in Yorkshire. At that point she was offered a job in London as Secretary (Director) of the Girls League, a national young women¹s organization sponsored by the Methodist Church. It was through this work that Vera met a young Scottish Methodist minister, David Mace. They were married on July 26, 1933. David continued his church work in several parishes around Gloucester and then in London while Vera had two daughters, Sheila in 1935 and Fiona in 1938. In 1940 as war moved across Europe, David and Vera faced the agonizing decision of getting their children out of harms way. Based on an offer from Whitney & Janet Trousdale (he a friend of David¹s from Cambridge University days), they decided that Vera would take the children to the U.S. Seasick all the way across, they traveled to New York City on one of the last ships available for non-military personnel before German U-Boat bombings stopped that method of transport. Vera took the children to Olean, NY, where Whitney Trousdale was a Presbyterian Minister and, once they were settled, she decided to go to Drew University in NJ to work on a Masters degree in Religion. Fearful that David, who was serving as an Air Raid Warden, as well as a minister, in London would not survive the war, Vera felt that she must prepare herself to support the family. After completing the degree and making frequent visits to the children who she felt were doing very well, Vera returned to England to be with David. Following the war and reunited with the children, Vera and David were active in starting the National Marriage Guidance Council in England and introducing marriage counseling to all parts of that post war country. This launched a new and eventually international career for the Maces in trying to strengthen marriages. Immigrating as a family to Madison, NJ in 1949, where David began teaching sociology and marriage at Drew University, the couple also soon became joint Executive Directors of the then American Association of Marriage Counselors (now AAMFT). Soon after, they began

traveling extensively around the world for various organizations, including the UN Institute for the Family, providing international training seminars on five continents. The Maces wrote more than 30 books. In 1973, as part of a celebration of 50 years of marriage, Vera and David founded the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME) through which strong marriages have been promoted in the U.S. and beyond. In addition the Maces were involved in starting Highland Farms Retirement Center in Black Mountain, NC where they subsequently lived, David until his death in 1990 and Vera until she moved from its nursing home to Burlington, VT in 2003 so that she could be closer to family. It was in Vermont that she celebrated her 106th birthday in January, 2008. Vera is survived by two daughters, 5 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. In appreciation for the loving care they provided Vera for her final four and a half years, Memorial Donations can be made to the LNA Education Fund, Birchwood Terrace Healthcare, 43 Starr Farm Road, Burlington, VT, 05401.



Dot and Cecil Sherman

(My Mother was a Seminary classmate of Dot)

The Rev. Cecil Sherman was leader of moderate Baptists' group

By SAM HODGES / The Dallas Morning News samhodes@dallasnews.com

Published: 20 April 2010 10:31 AM

Updated: 26 November 2010 02:52 PM

If moderate Baptists had a Mount Rushmore, the Rev. Cecil Sherman would probably be one of the faces.

Sherman, a Fort Worth native, was a leader of theological moderates in their losing battle with conservatives for control of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Moderates formed an alternative group, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, in 1991, and the next year made Sherman its first coordinator, or top official.

Sherman, 82, died Saturday in a Richmond, Va., hospital, of complications from a heart attack.

"You may have disagreed with him now and then, but you could never question his spiritual integrity," said the Rev. George Mason of Dallas' Wilshire Baptist Church, an affiliate of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. "I am grateful to have served alongside him in such interesting times in Baptist life."

Sherman earned degrees from Baylor University, Princeton Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

After serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of College Station and working in evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Sherman spent 20 years as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C. He saw the church through integration and the election of female deacons.

Sherman moved from Asheville to Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, serving that large, moderate congregation as pastor from 1985 to 1992.

Baptist conservatives - who stressed biblical inerrancy and opposed women in top church leadership - began to gain control of the SBC in the late 1970s.

Sherman was a leader of the moderate opposition as well as part of an unsuccessful SBC peace committee.

The Associated Baptist Press reported that when Sherman started with the CBF, the organization had three staff members and took in about \$4.5 million annually from 391 churches.

When he retired in 1996, there were 25 staff members, and nearly 1,500 churches were contributing almost \$15 million a year.

The number of CBF-supported missionaries had grown to more than 100.

In retirement, Sherman served as an interim pastor, taught at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., wrote a memoir and Christian commentaries, and became caregiver to his wife, Dot, who had Alzheimer's disease. She died in 2008.

Sherman had his own health struggles in recent years, but he preached as recently as last month.

"Cecil Sherman's soul was as unmovable as his jut jaw," Mason said. "He spoke in characteristically short sentences - crisp quips with strong nouns. His faith remained dependable to him to his dying day, but his theology was always open to new insights, as he himself remarked in the wake of his wife's Alzheimer's disease."

Sherman is survived by his daughter, Eugenia Brown, of Madison, Wis.

Cecil Sherman 'stood on a higher hill' than his

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP) -- A self-described "comrade in arms" in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy in the 1980s remembered Cecil Sherman as one who "stood on a higher hill" than other moderate Baptist leaders.

"Cecil Sherman was right more times on more occasions on more issues than anyone else in the fundamentalist/moderate controversy," Walter Shurden, retired director of the Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer University, said April 23 at a memorial service honoring the first coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C. "He stood on a higher hill than the rest of us, and he saw more."



Cecil Sherman preached during the General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina on March 19, 2010. (Photo courtesy CBFNC and Doug Broadway.)

"He was plain spoken," Shurden said. "If you heard Cecil Sherman speak and you did not understand it, either one of two things had gone wrong. One, you didn't understand the English language or number two you had grown hard of hearing. He spoke so that he could be heard."

"Because of his plain-spokenness, especially in the blue flames of controversy, he was often accused, even by his friends, of being shrill and at times harsh and at other times brash," Shurden said. "I honestly never thought he was. I thought the way Cecil spoke truth intimidated his adversaries and scared the daylight out of his friends."

The Asheville memorial service capped a week of tributes to the moderate Baptist leader who died April 17 at age 82 from complications of a massive heart attack he suffered two days earlier. Sherman was pastor of First Baptist Church from 1964 until 1985. During his ministry he led the church to accept African-Americans into membership, supported the NAACP after the assassination of Martin Luther King and led the congregation to select women deacons in 1981.

Sherman's memorial service coincided with a visit to Asheville by President Barack Obama and his family, snarling traffic in the city and complicating travel for those seeking to attend the service.

Guy Sayles, the current pastor of First Baptist Church, noted at the beginning of the service that the cover photo on the order of service program was taken during Sherman's time in Asheville at the request of the local NAACP to recognize his leadership in the area of civil rights.

"It seems right that our gathering here coincides with the arrival of our nation's first African-American president in our town," Sayles said. "Complications aside, I think Cecil would have delighted in the irony of it all. He would have encouraged us to stand at the overpass to greet Barack Obama and then to gather for this service."

-Bob Allen is senior writer for Associated Baptist Press.

Founding CBF Coordinator Cecil Sherman passes away after massive heart attack

By Carla Wynn Davis
Saturday, April 17, 2010

ATLANTA – Cecil Sherman, longtime leader of free and faithful Baptists and one of the central figures to help give birth to the renewal movement known as Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, died from complications of a heart attack April 17 in Virginia.

Sherman, the founding coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, suffered a massive heart attack April 15 and died two days later at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, Va. He was 82.

A worship service celebrating his life will be held at 2 p.m. April 20 at River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. A second service will follow at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., on April 23. More details on the arrangements are forthcoming.

"Baptists have lost a great champion, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has lost its founding coordinator and I have lost a friend," said Fellowship Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal. "But I celebrate his fruitful life and the resurrection hope we have in Jesus Christ."

Born Dec. 26, 1927, Sherman was a native of Fort Worth, Texas. He graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J.

Sherman served as pastor of several churches including First Baptist Church of Chamblee, Ga. (1956-1960); First Baptist Church of College Station, Texas (1960-1962); First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C. (1964-1984); and Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas (1985-1992). He also served at Baptist General Convention of Texas as staff associate in the evangelism division from 1962-1964.

As fundamental-conservative leadership shifts began to occur within the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979, Sherman was among those who recognized and fought against the change, paving the way for the formation of the Fellowship in 1991. He was then unanimously selected by the Fellowship's first Coordinating Council to become the new organization's first coordinator. He began serving on April 1, 1992, and served until his retirement in 1996.

"Cecil had the courage and capacity to look reality in the face and make hard decisions. His leadership was widely recognized," said Jim Slatton, who chaired the search committee that recommended Sherman for the CBF role. "Cecil is a genuine churchman, who has a real life-wish for the local church and for the Baptist denomination and for Baptist principles."

Clarissa Strickland, the Fellowship's networking specialist, was among the two Fellowship employees when Sherman joined the staff. "Cecil presided over the nascent Fellowship with the utmost integrity and with an enormous life-wish for the organization," she said. "Cecil was unstinting in his willingness to spend his energies as he traveled throughout our constituency, building the base of CBF during those early years. And he did so with the full support of his beloved wife, Dot."

Sherman met Dorothy "Dot" Hair in 1950, and the two were married on Dec. 23, 1953, in Greer, S.C. After 54 years of marriage, Dot died Aug. 1, 2008. Just days before her death, Sherman was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and underwent repeated treatments at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

At the time of his diagnosis, Sherman was serving as a pastor of Westover Baptist Church in Richmond, where he had lived for several years. He had also served as interim pastor of several Richmond churches including Chamberlayne Baptist Church, Westhampton Baptist Church and River Road Baptist Church.

Sherman's cancer treatments had been largely successful, and he was able to continue serving as a visiting professor of pastoral ministries at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR), a CBF partner seminary where he has taught since 1996.

"His devotion to his students was nothing short of legendary. He saw himself preparing a new generation of ministers for local church ministry," said Ron Crawford, the seminary's president. "His service at BTSR

has made a grand contribution to students. It is a contribution that will pay dividends in the lives of ministers and churches for decades to come.”

Also an author, Sherman’s writings include a 2008 memoir, “By My Own Reckoning,” and the Formations Bible study commentary series for adult Sunday school classes. Recently, he had been writing a new book, which had not yet been published.

Sherman is survived by family including his only child, Eugenia Brown of Madison, Wis.; a brother, Bill Sherman of Nashville, Tenn.; a sister, Ruth Hamm of Edmond, Okla.; and a grandson, Nathaniel Brown.

CBF is a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. The Fellowship’s mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.

Dr. Dodson M. Nelson, Jr.

Served Churches in Virginia, Missouri, South Carolina, and Alabama. He served as a Navy Chaplain for 2 years during WW II.

Belmont Chancellor, Former President Dr. Herbert C. Gabhart Passes Away

‘Heart and soul’ of Belmont leaves 50-year legacy of leadership

Dr. Herbert C. Gabhart, 95, chancellor and retired president of Belmont University, passed away early this morning in Nashville. Dr. Gabhart served Belmont University for 50 years, leading as president of Belmont College from 1959-1982 and inspiring the campus as chancellor for the past 26 years.

“On behalf of the entire Belmont University community, I want to express my sincere condolences to the Gabhart family,” said Belmont President Dr. Bob Fisher. “Dr. Gabhart represented the heart and soul of Belmont for the past 50 years, and we will miss him deeply. However, his legacy of love for this institution and the people here will live on. We all recognize that Belmont’s successes today come from standing atop his shoulders and building on all that he first achieved. His words, his life



and his vision will continue to inspire and guide Belmont into the future.”

Dr. Gabhart served as president of Belmont College from 1959 until he retired in 1982 and began his term as chancellor of Belmont, a position he held for 27 years. During his tenure as president, Belmont experienced phenomenal growth in enrollment and physical space. When he arrived at Belmont College in 1959, the school’s enrollment was 360 students. When he retired as president in 1982, Belmont’s student population had grown by 500 percent to more than 2,000. He oversaw a budget increase from \$480,000 to \$8 million, and the campus also saw physical expansion with the addition of nine new buildings, including the Massey Performing Arts Center, Wheeler Humanities building, Hitch Science building, the library, and more. Belmont also expanded academically by adding many majors and degrees, including music, nursing, business and more.

Dedicating 50 years of his life and career to Belmont University, Dr. Gabhart’s fingerprints are evident across the campus, including in the Gabhart Student Center named in his honor. Under his leadership, Belmont forged numerous relationships with community leaders—including Jack C. Massey and the Maddox family—that brought the institution to new heights. Dr. Gabhart also guided the college through significant challenges in its early history as a four-year institution, including a fire that destroyed an academic building and several periods of financial strain.

Upon his retirement as president of Belmont in 1983, Dr. Gabhart said, “Every day I live I will say a good word and do a good deed for Belmont,” a promise he more than fulfilled. In a 1999 email to campus, Dr. Gabhart congratulated the Belmont community on its growth and reflected on his 40 years of service at that time: “The university is on the shores of the unknown future, of an ocean of unseen miracles. With vision, courage and faith, the impossible can become possible. It will therefore sail on and on, pursuing an upward course.”

He is survived by his wife Dr. Norma Baker Gabhart, daughters Betty Fay Gabhart Smith (Nashville) and Jo Ellen Gabhart Aleshire (Pittsburgh, PA); four grandchildren Jennie Lee Aleshire (New Orleans), Jonathan Daniel Aleshire (Elon, NC), William Timothy Smith, and Matthew Conway Smith (both of Nashville); and his sister, Helen Louise Gabhart Hayden (Evansville, IN). He is also survived by two sons-in-law, James Randolph Smith and Daniel O. Aleshire, and nieces and nephews: Robert Alan Hayden (Hilton Head, SC), Daniel Riley Hayden (Evansville, IN), Charles M. Ashburn (Westminster, MD), Bill Ashburn (Ft. Wayne, IN) and Becky Ashburn Clark (San Diego, CA).

Dr. Herbert Conway Gabhart was born on August 19, 1914 in Morganfield, Ky., and was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Helen Ashburn Gabhart (1999), his eldest daughter, Diana Ruth Gabhart (1994), and two siblings, Elizabeth Lorene Gabhart and William Royal Gabhart.

Prior to coming to Belmont, Dr. Gabhart served pastorates at First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, KY and McClean Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. Dr. Gabhart was past president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools and the chairman of the Affiliated Independent Colleges of Tennessee. He also served on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and was a long-time member of the Nashville Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce and Belmont Heights Baptist Church and a current member of First Baptist Church Nashville. In addition to being honored as a Distinguished Alumni of Carson-Newman College, Dr. Gabhart was also honored in 1985 with the prestigious Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and received the Ralph Brunson Spiritual Aims Award, a lifetime achievement honor, from the Kiwanis Club in 1996. He received a B.S. from Carson Newman College and a Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After serving as a church pastor for several years, Dr. Gabhart accepted the job of president of Belmont in 1959. In addition to his 50 years of service and leadership at Belmont, Dr. Gabhart also authored more than 16 books.

Dr. Gabhart’s grandchildren will serve as pallbearers, and honorary pallbearers will include members of the Dynamo class of Belmont Heights Baptist Church, members of the Sojourners class of First Baptist Church, the greater Belmont University family, Downtown Kiwanis and the Palaver Club of Nashville.

The family will receive visitors Saturday from 2-5 p.m. at Belmont University's Gordon E. Inman Center (fourth floor). A memorial service will be conducted at the First Baptist Church Nashville on Sunday at 2 p.m. followed by a private family burial. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, sympathy be expressed by donations to the Herbert C. Gabhart Scholarship Fund at Belmont University.



Harper Shannon

Born– July 7, 1931, in Birmingham, Ala. Parents– John Roy and Ruby (Harper) Shannon. Married– Elsie Lou Bateman, June 5, 1953. Children– Two. Education– Samford University, B.A., D.D.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, B.D. Ordained 1949; pastor in Birmingham, Ghent (Ky.), Montgomery, and Dothan; evangelist 1957-1959; taught at Baptist Seminary in Louisville and at Howard College Extension of Samford University.

Source: Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1973.

Publication(s): Beliefs That Are Basic. Grand Rapids, Mich.; Zondervan, 1969. Riches in Romans. Nashville; Broadman, 1969. Trumpets in the Morning. Nashville; Broadman, 1970.

From a Newspaper article:

Dr. Harper Shannon is a native of Birmingham, married and father of two children. He is a graduate of Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. An honorary doctor of divinity degree was conferred upon him by Samford University.

Dr. Shannon has held pastorates at Harmony Baptist Church, Birmingham. First Baptist Church, Ghent, Ky., Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Montgomery, and First Baptist Church, Dothan. He has been pastor of Huffman Baptist Church since 1973.

Before going to Eastern Hills, he was in full-time evangelism for two years.

for two years.
 Dr. Shannon is a past president of Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors Conference and served as second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He has spoken in evangelistic conferences in 20 state conventions.

Dr. Shannon is the author of three books: Trumpets in the Morning, Riches in Romans, and Beliefs That Are Basic. He is also the author of articles in several religious publications.

He is immediate past president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, serving two years. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Shannon is author of "Trumpets in the Morning," "Riches in Romans," and "Beliefs That Are Basic." He holds the honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Samford, the Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts from Samford. He is a past president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, past vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference.

Former SBC President Jim Henry Still Mentoring, Doing God's Work Jim Henry

June 24th, 2009 by Jim Allison

This article appeared in the Western Recorder's special June 23, 2009 edition marking the 152nd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at Louisville's Kentucky Exposition Center.



Retired now for more than three years after 28 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, the Rev. Jim Henry is busier than ever...mentoring, speaking and listening. He's also in his third interim position since – First Baptist of Ocala, FL, having the distinction. “I am not retiring,” said the former SBC president with a laugh from the Henry summer home near Asheville, NC. “I am re-deploying!”

Now that he doesn't have the full-time church duties, Henry said “things I enjoyed as pastor I'm getting to do more of now.” That would include deacon/pastor retreats, wives retreats, pastor conferences, church dedications and pastor anniversary speaking engagements.

Recently, he had the pleasure of delivering the high school commencement address at Nashville's Donelson Christian Academy with grandson “Trey” (Jim Henry, III) among the graduates. And, he's especially looking forward to co-teaching a pastor/staff retreat in August with Bob Russell, the retired, longtime pastor of Louisville's Southeast Christian Church, at Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove (Asheville).

“I really enjoy mentoring the younger guys,” Henry said. “Sometimes I will just listen to their challenges on the phone.”

He encouraged just that when he spoke at the Georgetown College Ministry Reunion in 2006, a first for his alma mater. The '59 graduate enjoyed seeing Ken Mahanes, the Vice President of Religious Life at Palm Beach Atlantic University – a '65 graduate he got to know after College. And, he got to reconnect with a number of alumni who are “special in God's work” such as retired foreign missionaries Bill and Alice Marshall, who retired to Louisville and co-founded the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College.

In a 2007 interview for Georgetown's alumni magazine, Henry said he was “still digesting” the institution's new, working relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He said at the time, “The way it was handled was as well as it could be. I pray that it will play out in the future, but history will tell.” This is especially important to Jim because Georgetown is also where he met his wife, Jeannette Sturgeon Henry, Class of '60.

Asked how he feels about Georgetown's direction these days, Henry said earlier this month, “I haven't heard a lot – and that's good news. My take on it is President (Bill) Crouch is keeping the College's Christian heritage strong.”

Henry is well known for preaching Christian unity. After giving the keynote speech at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Pastor/Deacon/Spouse Retreat in Bowling Green in February '07, he told the Western Recorder, "Unity is the highest expression of Christian faith. When they see unity in a world that is disunified, it's like a magnet drawing people to Christ."

In a large retirement feature in the Orlando Sentinel in 2006 celebrating the career of Henry, Mark Pinsky wrote: "A key to his success and longevity, experts and congregation members agree, has been his uncanny ability to clothe conservative Baptist theology – with its rural and small-town roots, and straight-laced values – in the more casual attire of the modern Sunbelt."

During his tenure, FBC Orlando added a contemporary service featuring a rock band, and Henry welcomed gays into his congregation even though he had earlier campaigned against the gay rights ordinance passed by City Council. In the late '70s, Henry nominated a female member to represent the state on the SBC's national executive committee. And, while SBC president for two terms (1994-96), he got to introduce Rev. Billy Graham at the sesquicentennial anniversary; he also opposed the Baptist boycott of the Walt Disney Co. (over family values issues) because he feared foremost that Disney employees in his congregation would be negatively affected.

Did he enjoy being a bit unpredictable for the betterment of society as he saw it? In '07 he answered, "That's who we are as God's children. I asked the Holy Spirit what to do and I tried to do the right thing."

Today, he looks back at the aftermath of the Disney World resolution the SBC passed as a difficult time. "But it was also a challenging opportunity," he recalled. "God opened some doors...and that turned out to be good."

Another challenge as president that gives him reason to be proud today was leading the SBC in a resolution of racial reconciliation acknowledging the complicity in slavery and lack of support for civil rights for African Americans. "I go places now and have African American preachers talk about that and thank me still," Henry said.

Bill Marshall, who served on the Foreign Mission Board 1964-83 and as KBC Executive Secretary, 1983-97, is grateful for Henry's friendship even though the two haven't always seen eye-to-eye. "Jim and I became friends at Georgetown in the 1950s and have remained such through our mutual interests and participation in foreign missions, the Baptist World Alliance, SBC committees and meetings," he said. "Though we both knew we differed on some of the denomination's politics, it was never a source of fracturing our relationship. He is a well-known and multi-gifted pastor whose warm heart and outgoing personality accompanied his genuine passion for 'lost or wandering sheep'."

Said President Crouch, "I am so proud to call this true man of God and integrity – Jim Henry – a Georgetown College graduate."

Ridgecrest Conference Center (formerly called Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly) is owned and operated by LifeWay (formerly the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention). The conference center presents programs dealing with every phase of the denominational program and ranging from the inspirational to the practical.

South Norfolk Baptist sent young people, adults, staff, and senior adults on a regular basis every summer, to Ridgecrest.

The idea of a summer assembly for Southern Baptists was first conceived by Bernard Washington Spilman when he was beginning his work as Sunday School secretary in North Carolina in 1896. In 1907, the Southern Baptist Assembly was chartered for a location near Asheville, North Carolina. The following year, a group of stockholders met, and the corporation was organized and plans made for beginning construction. In 1907, the Southern Baptist Convention endorsed the assembly without assuming any financial responsibility. The Education Board of the Convention administered the assembly from 1921 – 1928. When the Education Board was dissolved and its work transferred to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, this committee requested the Sunday School Board to assume responsibility for the program and maintenance of the buildings and grounds. In 1944, the title to all the properties was transferred to the Board. In cooperation with other Baptist agencies and organizations, conference programs are provided for training and leadership for Sunday School Church Training, Woman's Missionary Union, Baptist student work, church music, church media library, Centrifuge, and every phase of Baptist life. Under conference center supervision, Camp Ridgecrest for Boys has been in operation since 1930. Camp Crestridge for Girls was opened in 1955.

For additional information on the history of Ridgecrest see:

Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists.

McAneer, Kenneth. *Ridgecrest: Mountain of Faith*, 1982.

Middleton, Robert Lee, *A Dream Come True: A History, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, 50th Anniversary*, 1957.

Moore, Hight C, *Story of Ridgecrest*, 1950.

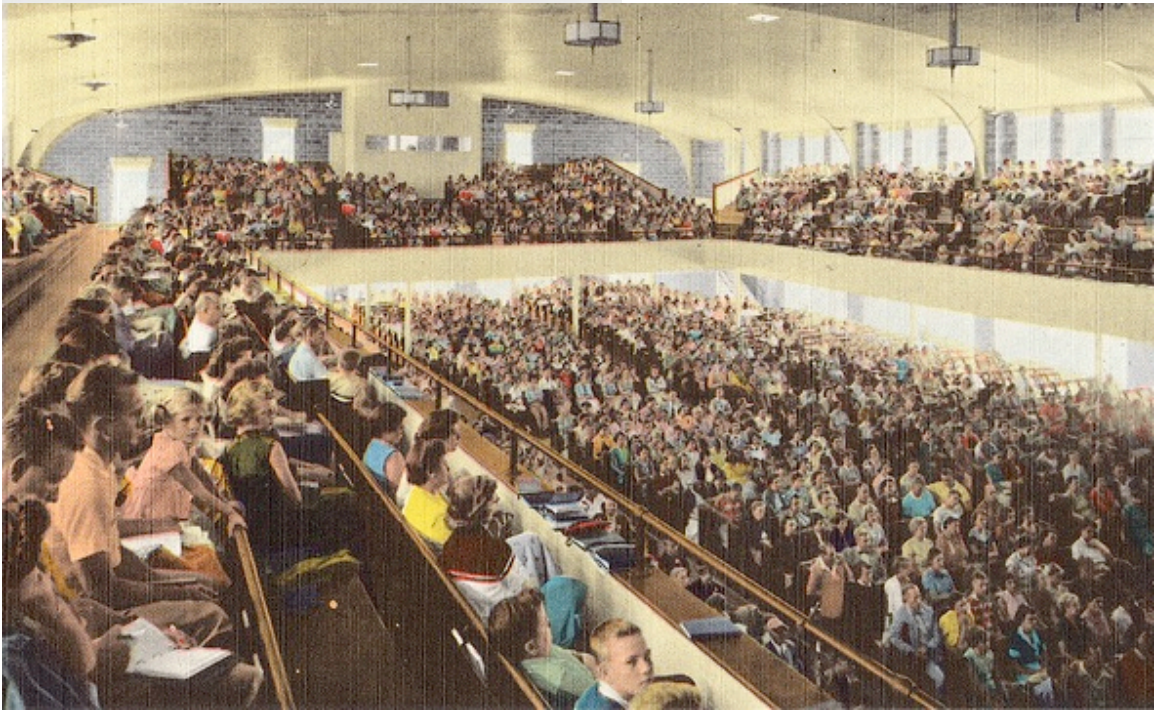
Spilman, Bernard W., *Ridgecrest: Past-Present-Future*, 1928.

Additional manuscript collections dealing with Ridgecrest include:

Allredge, E. P. Papers, AR 795-134.

Moore, Hight C. Collection, AR 69.

Spilman, B. W. Papers, AR 795-157.



B. W. Spilman Auditorium, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly



Aerial View of Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, 1925



Ridgecrest today: (courtesy of the Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center website)



