

November 2, 1961

Hobbs Names Baker  
To Direct Music

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Clifton A. Baker, minister of music at First Baptist Church here, will direct the music at the 1962 session of the Southern Baptist Convention in San Francisco.

Baker was appointed by Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the church here and president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Convention president names the person to lead the music.

Baker joined the Oklahoma City church staff this year after serving at First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex., for 7-1/2 years. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Southern Baptists Give  
\$55.68 Per Member

(11-2-61)

NEW YORK (BP)--Members of Southern Baptist Convention churches give only one-fourth as much as two Methodist groups and only one-half as much as the Baptist group with the best per-member contributions.

The Free Methodist Church, with 54,906 members, receives \$271.86 per member. It has the no. 1 ranking. Wesleyan Methodists are close behind with \$231.77 per member, based on a membership of 36,581.

The North American Baptist General Conference holds the best per-member giving average among Baptists. With 47,151 members, its average is \$116.05. Southern Baptists, based on 8.6 million members, give \$55.68 per capita.

Figures released through the department of stewardship and benevolences of the National Council of Churches here are based on 1960 reports, hence variations from late 1961 membership.

The department reports annually on per capita giving in Protestant denominations. The report includes groups belonging to the National Council as well as those, including Southern Baptists, which do not belong.

The 47 denominations reported on gave a record total of over \$2.5 billion dollars during 1960, the department said.

Southern Baptists rank no. 40 among denominations. The highest-ranking of the large denominations is the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (Southern) whose per capita giving is \$104.44. Missouri Synod Lutherans follow with \$96.18. There were 902,849 Southern Presbyterians last year and 1.5 million Missouri Lutherans.

The American Baptist Convention holds 44th position, its 1.5 million members giving an average of \$48.06. The Methodist Church, which with 10 million members is the largest Protestant body, maintains 41st rank, directly behind Southern Baptists. Its per capita record is \$55.14.

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Texas Baptist Press  
Award Goes To Woman

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--A veteran 67-year-old news reporter who says she has had printer's ink in her veins for more than 50 years has been named winner of the annual Texas Baptist press award.

Mrs. Florence Patton, church editor for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, received the award during the Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting in Austin, Tex.

She is the first woman ever to receive the annual award sponsored by the 1-1/2 million-member state Baptist convention.

She was named by a nine-member Texas Baptist Public Relations Advisory Committee for "outstanding contributions to Christianity through journalism." The veteran news reporter was nominated for the honor by Corpus Christi Baptists who praised her reporting of Baptist news in the Caller-Times.

A native of Wellington, Kan., Mrs. Patton got her start in newspaper work when she was 14 years old. For more than 22 years she was a reporter for the Wichita (Kan.) Evening Eagle, covering nearly every news beat on the paper except sports and society.

Mrs. Patton, a devoted Christian and member of an Episcopal church in Corpus Christi, said that she feels "part Baptist" and attends Baptist churches frequently.

A great-grandmother, she has two sons and a daughter. One of her sons, Harold Patton, and a daughter, Sophia Marie Patton, both live in Corpus Christi. Another son, Hugh Harrison Patton lives in Denver, Colo.

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Alaska Against Aid  
From Public Treasury

(11-2-61)

SPENARD, Alaska (BP)--The 1962 Alaska Baptist Convention announced its opposition here to public funds being used to erect hospitals which will be operated in Alaska by religious groups.

The convention singled out a hospital at Ketchikan, Alaska, as an example.

The Alaska Baptists, cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention, also spoke out on the issue of churches paying taxes. The Alaska convention said any church, or any denominational agency or corporation, competing with private industry should pay taxes on that business.

For the first time in its history, a governor of Alaska addressed the convention. Gov. William Egan told the convention why he vetoed a gambling bill. The convention had previously taken a stand opposing gambling interests.

The convention adopted a budget of \$104,806. It discontinued the position of general missionary for the convention. It separated the duties of executive secretary-treasurer from those of superintendent of missions, adjusting its relationship with the Home Mission Board of the SBC.

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Folks and Facts.....

(11-2-61)

.....Floy S. Wise, chairman of the division of social sciences at California Baptist College, Riverside, has been named acting dean of the college. Wise was once dean at Grand Canyon College (Baptist), Phoenix, Ariz., and acting dean at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex. (BP)

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serving Southern Baptist state papers as a news service

# BAPTIST PRESS

November 2, 1961

Theo Sommerkamp, *assistant director*  
127 Ninth Avenue, North  
Nashville 3, Tennessee

Dear Editors:

The Education Commission released, in the last Baptist Press mailing, a story on enrolments in Southern Baptist colleges, Bible schools, and seminaries. The information included a comparison on enrolments at the seminaries.

At the request of H. Leo Eddleman, the Education Commission now asks Baptist papers to withhold publication of the material indefinitely.

Baptist Press released the information just as supplied to us by the Education Commission, and made no errors in transmitting it. However, we are happy to pass along the request from Executive Secretary Rabun L. Brantley that the story be delayed in publication.

We will try to have some further word for you about this article as soon as possible.

Your friend,

Theo Sommerkamp

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