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September 4, 1975

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Western Recorder Names
Jim Cox Associate Editor

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--James H. Cox Sr. of Nashville, Tenn., has been elected associate editor of the Western Recorder, weekly state newspaper for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, published here.

Cox, 35, a native of Pineville, Ky., will succeed Bob Terry, who resigned the Western Recorder post in August to accept the editorship of the Word and Way, news publication of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Cox will assume his duties Sept. 15.

As associate editor, Cox will take responsibility for the publication's layout, news and feature content, advertising and liaison with Kentucky Baptist Convention departments, according to C. R. Daley, Western Recorder editor. He will also assist in representing the paper at churches and associational meetings.

Cox, a 16-year veteran of denominational journalism and public relations, has directed public relations and alumni affairs at Belmont College, a Baptist school in Nashville, since July, 1972. He previously served as Belmont's public relations director, 1963-65.

Before each tour of duty at Belmont, Cox worked for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, first as a news writer in its public relations office, 1959-63, and then as advertising copy editor and communications specialist for its book store division, 1965-72.

Other experience includes a summer job as a reporter on the Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution and five summers on the staff at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center, the last three as a press representative. He has also done public relations consulting and written extensively for denominational publications.

He is a former vice president and current secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Public Relations Association and served on the organizational steering committee for the Tennessee Alumni Relations Council.

Cox, who finished high school in Tampa, Fla., holds a bachelor of arts degree from George Peabody College, Nashville, and is nearing completion of requirements for a diploma in educational ministries with the Seminary Extension Department, operated by the Southern Baptist Convention's six theological seminaries.

He married Sharon Ann Williams of Midwest City, Okla., in 1962. She is a former employee of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. The Coxes have three children, Robin Ann, 11; James H., Jr., 7; and Jodi Beth, 1.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers.

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September 4, 1975

**Here's A Woman Minister
Not Demanding Ordination**

By Joan Kay

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Back in 1956, an 18-year-old in rural Virginia walked five miles each way to Wise to attend classes at Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia.

Last May Zelma Mullins Pattillo returned to the college in a different guise. She was the first woman to give a baccalaureate sermon at the college, where she was valedictorian in 1958.

In the years in between, she went on to get bachelor's and master of religious education degrees. She has been an associate Baptist chaplain, and now the mother of two youngsters is minister of preschool education at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

At the baccalaureate service, "people knew I came out of one of the hollows," she said, and "that I was one of 14 children."

Mrs. Pattillo's father farmed, and the area she lived in is so remote that "even today you have to take a 4-wheel-drive jeep" to get there. She attended a one-room school.

Clinch Valley College's chancellor arranged for someone to pay her tuition, and that man, whom she had never seen, was in the audience for the baccalaureate sermon. "My high school teachers were in the audience, and my mother was there--so it was just a fantastic day for me."

The talk in Wise was one of a number of speaking engagements this year for Mrs. Pattillo. Now that her children, Laura, 5, and Stephen, 3, are at a more manageable age, she felt she could begin again to accept invitations to speak.

"In the last five or six months, I've had more invitations than I could deal with." In April and May, she spoke at retreats in Georgia and a student banquet in Berea, gave a sermon at Crescent Hill Baptist Church and spoke to a child-care group.

At retreats, she often talks about growing up as one of 14 children, and she usually reads a letter she wrote her family in 1966, in which she thanks each one for his "special gift of life."

At Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., she spoke to 1,700 students at one of their required chapel services.

Mrs. Pattillo said wryly that while she feels no discrimination against her as a speaker because she is a woman, she does face problems because of her height. She is 5 feet tall, "maybe 1/2 inch more," and the microphone always has to be adjusted.

At Clinch Valley in May, the microphone couldn't be changed, and she had to stand on a cinder block to reach it.

After graduation from Clinch Valley, then a two-year college, Mrs. Pattillo received a scholarship to Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn., where she majored in mathematics and physics.

She was graduated summa cum laude in 1960 and was also valedictorian at Lincoln Memorial. In order to pay some debts and save money to go to school again, she taught mathematics for a year at a Virginia high school and was a mathematician for two years at Goodyear International Corp. in Akron, Ohio.

She received a master of religious education degree in 1966 from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where she prepared for student-work as a chaplain.

"That was a field open to women," she said.

From the seminary, Mrs. Pattillo went to Clemson (S.C.) University as associate Baptist chaplain, and she also spoke regularly at a Baptist church in the community.

Speaking from a pulpit was important to her service as a chaplain, she felt, "because they (the students) see you as a spiritual leader. They would come to you with spiritual struggles, rather than the little problems you'd associate with a woman."

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At Southern Seminary, Mrs. Pattillo met her future husband, Wesley M. Pattillo Jr., and they were married in November, 1967. He is vice president for development at the seminary. He travels with her often to do retreats. At the University of Georgia, for instance, he gave a multi-media presentation, and she spoke.

People often ask why she has not become ordained, she said. "But I'm doing everything I want to do and enjoy doing," and she prefers not to cause a controversy. "I'd rather be a model (of a minister) than talk about people trying to achieve it."

In the Southern Baptist Convention, "there are no more than a dozen women ordained," she said, "and very few serving in the role of a minister."

Mrs. Pattillo knows of a woman in North Carolina, who is more a minister of education, but she served in a ministerial capacity and then was ordained. "I think this is the kind of thing people will accept, and the way will be opened.

"I am not anti-women's lib. I want everyone to be free to be his own person," but in terms of women in the ministry, she feels women can accomplish more now by performing some ministerial roles without demanding to be ordained first.

"I can do everything I want to do except serve communion.

"Some of the young women are going in saying, 'I want the role.'" Then others question their motivation, she feels. Many in the church wonder, "Are you just a woman's libber? Did you receive a call from God or a call from the women's movement?"

When one's motivation is questioned, "your ability as a religious leader is threatened."

Ten years ago, Mrs. Pattillo considered ordination, but warned that it might incur a lot of publicity, she decided against it. "I'm not saying I won't be ordained one day, but that's not the real issue to me." More important is "what role can I serve in the church."

It is rare for a woman to speak from the pulpit at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, but last May the pastor, John Howell, asked Mrs. Pattillo to give a sermon on Mother's Day. "I didn't get a negative comment," she said. "The people were very gracious and very warm."

As minister of preschool education at Crescent Hill, she works part-time, over-seeing activities of the preschool children at the church.

Her children "are No. 1 right now," and she wants "to drink in all this time." She probably won't take as many speaking engagements this fall.

In the future, she wants to do some writing about her family and on theological topics, and "I just want to be involved in the ministry," possibly as an associate pastor. Later, "I might be ordained, I'm not sure."

She doesn't want to serve only the comfortable people of the world, although she realizes that they have problems, too. I want to be where the need is...where people really need and hurt, because I feel that is where God wants me to be."

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Ms. Joan Kay is a columnist for the Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky. Reprinted with permission; Copyright 1975 by the Courier Journal and Times, Louisville. Editors receiving this story through BP have permission to reprint it.