

# The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle

Bob Nigh, Editor  
*okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com*

Published by the  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
of the  
Baptist General Convention of the  
State of Oklahoma  
and the  
OKLAHOMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Baptist Building  
3800 N. May Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506

Volume LXII

Autumn 2019

Number 2

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

| <b>Term Expires 2019</b>  | <b>Term Expires 2020</b>      | <b>Term Expires 2021</b>      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Michael Dershem<br>Yale   | Luke Holmes<br>Tishomingo     | Terry Brooks<br>Lindsay       |
| Chris Gordon<br>Hennessey | Lawrence Gresham<br>Marlow    | Bill Haggard<br>Oklahoma City |
| Andy Latta<br>Tahlequah   | Richard McCullough<br>Perkins | Leona Marion<br>Oklahoma City |

\* \* \* \* \*

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Luke Holmes, President  
D. Hance Dilbeck, Treasurer, Oklahoma City  
Andy Latta, Chairman, Historical Commission, Tahlequah  
Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary-Director of History, Oklahoma City

# CONTENTS

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Items donated to Gaskin Archives..... | 4 |
|---------------------------------------|---|

## 2019 Hall of Fame Monographs

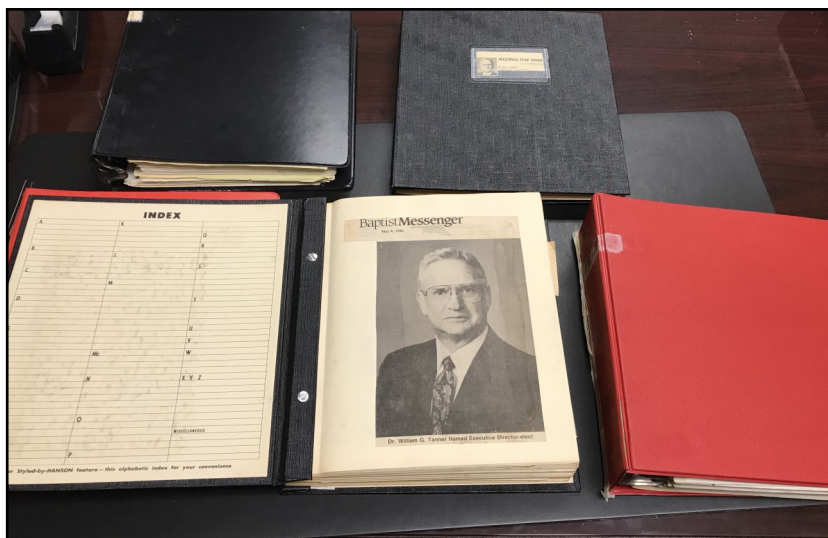
|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Anson Justice..... | 8  |
| Max Malone.....    | 12 |

## 2019 Distinguished Service Awards

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Robert E. Haskins.....                  | 16 |
| Pat Wagstaff.....                       | 20 |
| My Granny's Bible.....                  | 24 |
| Historical Society Meeting Minutes..... | 26 |

## 2018 Church History Award

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Tecumseh, First.....          | 29 |
| Memorials.....                | 30 |
| Important Notice.....         | 35 |
| Discarding Your Library?..... | 35 |



**Officials with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, have donated several notebooks filled with items about and writings of former Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner to the Gaskin Baptist Archives.**

## Tanner, Falls Creek, Nicey Murphy, newspapers donated to archives

Several items of special historical significance have been donated to the Gaskin Baptist Archives this summer.

Included are five notebooks filled with writings by former Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner. The collection was donated by officials with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

In a letter to the BGCO historical secretary, Beth Norvell, associate director of alumni relations and museum at the university, said, "Dr. Tanner was a very respected president of (our) university from 1968-71. It was a difficult time for our institution as we were transiting from an all-women's school to being co-educational. While Dr. Tanner was president, among other things; he implemented a nursing degree program and added the offices of student recruiting and development. We are pleased that Dr. Tanner has had such an impact on the Baptist world as well as our school."

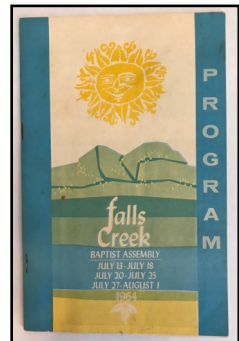
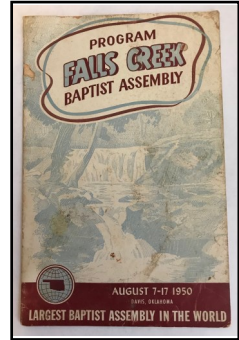
The documents, which were donated to the university by Tan-

ner's daughter-in-law, Paula, cover a timeframe of between 1971 to about 1995. Specifically, the collection includes a 1976-77 scrapbook containing articles, correspondence and information about Tanner's tenure as executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board (HMB); a 1984-1986 scrapbook containing sermons, speeches and articles written by Tanner while he was president of the HMB; a 1986-96 scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and articles up until his retirement as BGCO executive director-treasurer; a 1986-91 scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and articles written by Tanner and a 1979-95 scrapbook containing speeches, sermons, articles and clippings of articles written by Tanner.

Falls Creek youth encampment programs from 1950, 1962 and 1964, along with a cardboard fan used to keep a camper cool in the sweltering heat of a southern Oklahoma sun, were donated by LeRoy Fore of Tulsa. The items belonged to Fore's uncle, Harold Dean Vernon, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, who served in children's ministry in Oklahoma, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Texas. Vernon passed away in 2008.

The 1950 Falls Creek Program shows the camp meeting ran from Aug. 7-17 under the theme of "In Christ is God's Everlasting 'Yes'". The assembly preacher that year was R.G. Lee, pastor of Nashville, Tenn., Bellevue, with Ira C. Prosser, BGCO secretary, Department of Church Music and Baptist Student Union, leading assembly songs.

Among the rules and regulations formulated by the Assembly and Discipline Committee and printed in the program was the requirement that all campers attend two study courses and the preaching services. Of course, "mixed bathing" was "positively prohibited," and everyone was required to wear a cape going to and from the swimming pool. Also stated was, "It has become necessary to forbid wa-



ter fighting along the creek.” Also, no shorts were allowed.

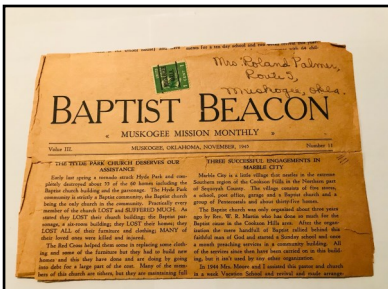
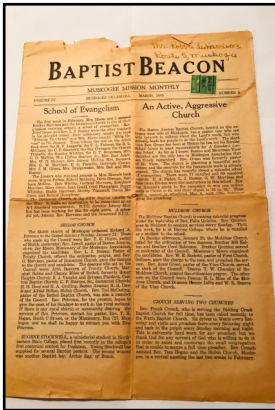
In addition, “Each camp must have chaperons, elected by the church and approved by the assembly management, to be responsible for the discipline and sanitation of the camp.”

Each afternoon—except Sunday—was reserved for unspecified “play and recreation.” Special features during the 10-day camp included “stunts” following the Monday evening worship service; all stunts were limited to five minutes in length and must have had a minimum of three persons taking part.

Nominations for Assembly Chieftain and Princess were received following the Tuesday evening service, with installation of those selected held following the Wednesday evening service.

As of the 1962 and 1964 encampments, Falls Creek had grown to three, 8-day assemblies. “Sport clothes” had become acceptable, but shorts still were not permitted. Capes or dressing robes still were required going to and from the pool. Slacks and jeans were acceptable, but “shall be reserved for afternoon dress.” Logically, smoking was forbidden at the campgrounds.

Protective services had been honed with the creation of a Chief of Patrol and his staff, who were authorized to control and report improper parking, careless driving,



property destruction, AWOL after curfew, extravagant use of water, non-attendance at classes and worship services, and to prohibit the riding of horses, bicycles or motor scooters. Fireworks and water fighting were “not allowed on the grounds at any time,” and an officer of the law was on the grounds at all times.

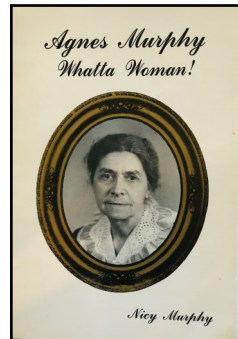
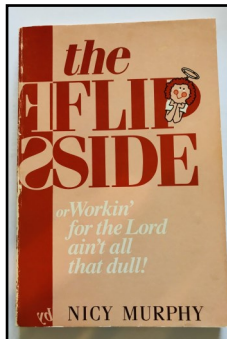
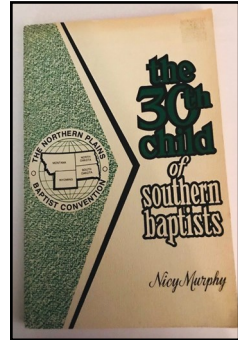
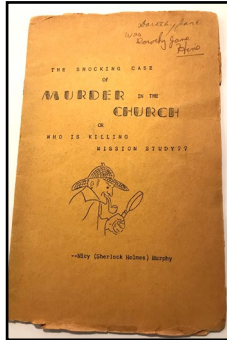
Fort Gibson, First donated either an intact, or pieces of, issues of the *Baptist Beacon* printed in 1945-46, and a copy of the April 13, 1950 issue of the *Baptist Messenger*, which ran a teaser on its cover about a story on page 3: “Vacation Bible Schools are Fun, ask the Moores of Muskogee association.” The “Moores” were missionary Jay W.C. Moore and his wife (No name), who had conducted 85 VBS sessions in the past 10 years in the association.

Moore reported to the association annual meeting that the couple spent 162 weeks in 88 revivals (79 of them in missions or small country churches), 187 weeks in study courses and 138 weeks in VBS. They witnessed 1,263 professions of faith and 1,131 additions to the membership rolls of the churches.

L.B. and Marie Flanigan donated several books written by Nicey Murphy, former assistant executive secretary of the Oklahoma

WMU and, later, executive secretary of the Colorado WMU (1956-57) and the Great Plains Baptist Convention WMU (1968-76). Colorado Baptists named their state missions offering after Murphy, much like the Oklahoma offering is named for Edna McMillan.

The books include *The Flip Side, or Workin' for the Lord ain't all that dull!*; *The 30th Child of Southern Baptists* about the birth and early childhood of the Great Plains Association, and a biography of her mother: *Agnes Murphy, Whatta Woman!* Also donated was a copy of a conference study guide, *The Shocking Case of Murder in the Church, or Who is Killing Mission Study?* presented by Murphy at the Glorieta, N.M. Conference Center.





## **Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame**

### **Anson Justice**

1907—2003

Inducted 2019

*by Luke Holmes, Pastor, Tishomingo, First; President of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission*

When William Justice arrived in Charles City, Va.—five miles from Jamestown, Va.—in 1650, he arrived to a wild and untamed frontier, one that was full of promise and hope. No one knew then what existed in the interior of the great continent, but that is precisely where his progeny would go. Ten generations later, the English immigrant would have a descendant born in another wild and unclaimed land—Indian Territory (IT).

On Oct. 3, 1907, Anson Justice was born in the McCarty community near Pauls Valley. He did not live in IT for very long, however, as the territory became a state 44 days later on Nov. 16, 1907. Anson Justice spent his early life around that area, graduating from Lindsay High School in May 1924 before moving to the University of Oklahoma (OU) to further his education. While in Norman, he became a member of Norman, First, at that time under the leadership of the famous E.F. “Preacher” Hallock. Justice was baptized there, and after surrendering to the ministry at age 21, was ordained there on Sept. 17, 1931. He was later married on March 14, 1932 at the church to Nadean Turner, a native of Norman.

After their marriage and both of their gradations from OU, the new couple helped form Baptist Chapel. The church began as a ministry of Norman, First and became an incorporated church as Norman, Trinity in 1934. Justice led the church from its founding for



the first 10 years of its existence. The church grew quickly in the “rural” part of north Norman, at that time a city of 10,000 people with only one Baptist church. A 1939 dispatch from the *Baptist Messenger* about a revival held showed the church had a record-high attendance of 317 in Sunday School.

Ten years later, Justice and his family were called to Atoka, First in 1941. This was a prestigious call, and during his service there, Justice formed lifelong friendships with other area ministers, most notably J.M. Gaskin, who was serving as pastor of Coalgate, First, his first pastorate.

After serving in Atoka, Justice was called to Oklahoma City, Kel-



**Anson Justice speaks during a meeting at the Baptist Building.**

ham Ave. in September 1947. Justice moved his wife, Nadean, and their three children, Ruth Ann, Laurence, and Paul to Oklahoma City. Kelham Ave. had been led for decades by R.C. Howard, Sr., a legend in Oklahoma Baptist circles and especially in his

own church. Justice continued the legacy of missions and ministry at Kelham. Under his leadership, the church set a goal to establish at least one mission church per year. In 1947, the church started a radio program on KLPR with Justice preaching each Tuesday morning at 7:45. In 1949, Kelham baptized 89 more people than any other church in the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). Justice led in the building of a new education building and a remodel of the sanctuary. The membership at Kelham grew to more than 2,000, and the church continued to start new missions. In late 1954, Justice resigned from Kelham to move to Oklahoma City, Crestwood, where he would remain until retirement. He served Crestwood for 23 years.

The ministry of Anson Justice extended far beyond his local church, however. During his long ministry, he held many places of responsibility in Baptist life. He was elected Moderator of the Union, Atoka, and Capital Associations, President and Vice President of

the BGCO, also serving on their various committees and boards. He was elected to the Committee on Nominations and Committee on Boards by the Southern Baptist Convention. He was also chosen to serve two terms on the Sunday School Board and two terms on the Foreign Mission Board of the Convention. He was chosen to serve as Chairman of the Housing Committee and a member of the Program Committee at the meeting of the SBC Convention in Oklahoma City in 1949.

In addition to these positions, he served on the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and was President of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame and the founding of the J.M. Gaskin Lectureship on Oklahoma Baptist History and Heritage at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. His main passion was teaching the Bible of course.

His primary interest was in the preaching of the Gospel, in which he was engaged for 73 years. His motto, written on the fly leaf of his preaching Bible, was 2 Tim. 4:2—"Preach the Word." His personal records show that during his pastoral ministry, Justice preached 7,000 sermons, 1,980 revival meeting sermons, 500 funeral sermons and conducted more than 250 weddings. In retirement, he preached more than 500 sermons.

He conducted 165 revivals as a pastor evangelist in Oklahoma and eight other states—Arkansas, California, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas and Virginia. He preached the Baccalaureate Sermon for his Alma Mater, OU, in 1952 and the Annual Sermon for the BGCO in 1979.

Justice was a popular Bible teacher, teaching in the Young People's Department at the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly for 40 years, specializing in Baptist doctrine. He also conducted 13 Bible study tours to the Holy Land as host and teaching guide.

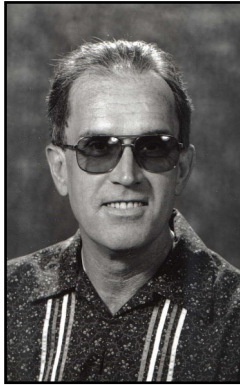
A special note must be made of the contributions Justice made to the preservation of Oklahoma Baptist History. He was the one who first befriended J. M. Gaskin back in 1942, introduced him to the Atoka Association and saw that Gaskin was accepted into the Oklahoma Baptist circle of denomination workers. In 1943, Executive Director-Treasurer Andrew Potter invited Gaskin to become Historical Secretary of the BGCO at the request and urging of Justice.

Justice was instrumental in leading Gaskin and others to pursue the establishment of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission in 1952. According Gaskin, Justice was also solely responsible for the establishment of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society in 1956 at the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the BGCO. Justice worked with Gaskin for several years on the idea of the establishment of an Oklahoma Baptist Honor Roll.

*Anson Justice*

It's fitting that Justice will now be included in the circle of honor that he first helped create, now named the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame. Without his efforts to preserve the work of those who came before him, little would be known of those men who gave their lives in God's service. Now we can make sure that future generations know of another man who did just that thing, and honor him fittingly.

Anson Justice passed away on Dec. 28, 2003. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nadean and son, Paul David.



## **Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame**

### **Vernon Max Malone**

**1946—2005**

**Inducted 2019**

*by Michael Dershem, Pastor of Yale, Fellowship and member, Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission*

Vernon Max Malone was born on July 20, 1946, in Dodge City, Kan., to Gene and Dorothy Malone. He arrived a month early, and the hospital in Dodge City was the closest hospital to the family's ranch in Harper County. Graduating from high school in Buffalo in 1964, he was later ordained to the gospel ministry on March 3, 1968, by Buffalo, First.

He married Jan Roper on Aug. 29, 1967, in Arnett, and to this union six children were born: Florence, Travis, Newakis, Alana, Okomnokaesz and William. They also adopted a daughter, Irene Deer. In the following years, the Malone family continued to grow as they provided a home for many other children in need.

Malone was first employed by the Home Mission Board (HMB), now the North American Mission Board (NAMB), of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1967. In 1968, Kingfisher, Indian called him to serve as their pastor, which at that time was a pastoral ministry position with the HMB.

Malone was adopted into the Cheyenne family of Bill and Elsie Lamebull of Kingfisher, and was given the Cheyenne name of Es-sevonemeq by the late Sam Shavehead Dicke. During his pastorate at Kingfisher, the Malones came under the tutorage of Mary Fletcher Bufalomeat (Mokee'e) and others, which helped the Malones minister among the Native American people.

As a pastoral missionary of the HMB, Malone also pastored

Hammon Indian Church and later the Clinton Indian Church. During his ministry at Hammon, two individuals made a lasting impact on his life and ministry. The late Lewis Littleman and the late Anna Otterby Whitehawk became Malone's family in the Cheyenne traditional ways.

In 1984, the HMB began the process of eliminating the role of local pastor missionaries. Max and Jan Malone were assigned the responsibility of working with all the Southern Baptist ministries among the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. During this time, several Native American churches were established in Oklahoma at Elk City, Seiling, and Weatherford. In 1995, his ministry was extended to all western Oklahoma and in 1998, to all northern Oklahoma. In the following years, Malone served among several native nations, including Caddo, Comanche, Ft. Sill Apache, Ioway, Kaw, Keechi, Osage, Otoe-Missoria, Pawnee, Ponce, Plains Apache, Sauk and Fox, Southern Arapaho, Southern Cheyenne, Tawakonie, Tonkawa, Western Chickasaw, Western Delaware, Waco and Wichita.

During this time, Malone planted new Native American congregations, strengthened existing Indian churches, developed and trained native Christian leadership, and supervised the many mission volunteers who came from across the United States to work with the native people of western and northern Oklahoma.

In 1997, Malone assisted in organizing the Cheyenne & Arapaho Baptist Association, and was a member of the editorial committee that selected hymns for a Cheyenne & Arapaho hymnal. A sample hymn follows:

Esenehane Jesus  
Written by Ova'hehe  
(English Translation)

Jesus, our friend and brother,  
Jesus, our friend and brother,  
He invites us, He invites us,  
Come together, come together,  
Jesus calls us together, come now.

In his service to the Lord, Malone dedicated his life to ministering to native peoples. In 2000, he was among several NAMB missionaries nationwide who benefitted from care packages donated by 70 different churches as a part of the Christmas in August missions project sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union and NAMB. At that time, Malone wrote, "I am still receiving Christmas in August gifts. Mission groups from over 40 churches have responded. The gifts received have been distributed among 29 Indian Baptist congrega-



**Max Malone and his wife, Jan, are congratulated for their years of service by BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony L. Jordan during the 2005 Indian Evangelism Conference as Ted Lam, BGCO church planting specialist, looks on. (*Baptist Messenger Photo*)**

tions. WMU, through Christmas in August, helps remove some of the barriers to sharing Jesus Christ with these unchurched peoples.”

In the book, *Nish’ Ke: Cheyenne Grandmothers Pillars of Strength*, Malone describes some of the difficulties or prejudices facing missionaries to the tribes: “Cheyenne attendance at the Baptist Mission ranged from 10-15 during the summer and about 35 in the winter, although official membership totaled 75.” The book added that, “Attendance at the Mennonite church in Hammon was even smaller. The Baptist church was more successful at that time with the Indian community because Pastor Max Malone, a Delaware (Absentee Shawnee) Indian, was especially effective in ministering to the Indian community. (Many) persons in the white community were not comfortable with Max’s braided hair or the way ‘they carry on over there,’ but at the same time, more than one expressed relief that they (the Indians) don’t come to our church.”

In the latter years of his life, Malone struggled with crippling arthritis and in March 2005, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. His rapidly declining health forced him to retire from his HMB

assignment on April 1, 2005. At the time of his retirement, Malone was working with 26 churches representing numerous tribes.

At his retirement reception, Ted Lam, BGCO church planting specialist, said, "Much of (our) success is a tribute to Max Malone's work. Max is a good Bible teacher, and he has organized Ministry Training Institute and Golden Gate Seminary extension courses for equipping Native American believers. Hundreds of graduations and baptisms have resulted from this one man's hard work."

Just one month later May 1, Malone went home to be with his Lord. A large crowd filled Piedmont, First for his funeral service with representatives of many different tribes and people from across the United States and as far away as Alaska. They came to honor the man who had dedicated his life in faithful service to them and the Lord. Malone had planned his own funeral service in advance and had specifically asked that his name not be mentioned during the service. It was his desire that the focus of the service be only on the Lord Jesus. Following the service, he was buried in Kingfisher, close by his Cheyenne father and other relatives.

#### *BIBLIOGRAPHY*

*Information provided by in conversations with Max Malone's wife Jan, of El Reno and Baptist Messenger files.*

# ROBERT EUGENE ‘BOB’ HASKINS

## 2019

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*by Bob Nigh , Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Historical Secretary and Director of History*

Robert Eugene “Bob” Haskins was born on June 6, 1935 in White Bluff, Ark. He graduated from Panama (OK) High School in 1954, and later earned a B.A. degree from Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in Shawnee in 1960, a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas in 1963 and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. in 1985. His doctoral thesis’ title was *Designing and Implementing a Project of Crisis Counseling in the Areas of Alcoholism and Suicide*.



**Bob Haskins**

“I grew up in a country home in southeast Oklahoma where neighbors were very few and lived a mile or more apart,” he said.

Although obtaining an education was not a priority for many people in the Panama area, and many students never completed high school, Haskins’ parents instilled in him a thirst for knowledge.

“I became a Christian in 1954 right after high school graduation, and felt called to preach one year later,” he recalled. “I originally had my sights set on being a mechanical engineer. Since I was so shy, I could not under-

stand God’s calling me to ministry, but I wanted to obey, so I said, ‘Yes’ to the pastoral ministry.

“Several older preachers said, ‘Don’t go to the seminary. It will ruin you.’ But, my parents had taught me the value of receiving the best education possible, so I ignored the older preachers’ advice and completed college and seminary.”

Haskins’ early ministry included pastorates at the Calhoun Mission of Poteau, Emmanuel (1955); Eram Mission of Okmulgee, First (1958-59); Hillsboro, Texas, Loveview (1961-63); Stonewall, First (1963-65); Talihina, First (1965-68) and Oklahoma City, Knob Hill (1968-70). While at Knob Hill—and a member of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) Board of Directors—he was asked by BGCO Missions Dept. head J.T. Roberts to become an associate in the Missions Department as Director of Language Missions (ethnics).

“I had worked with the Choctaw Baptist churches while serving



as pastor of Talihina, First," he said. "I fell in love with them, and they with me. I prayed about the invitation, and on Jan. 16, 1970, I became the language director for Oklahoma Baptists."

Three years later, Haskins was promoted to the position of Director of Cooperative Missions, and served there until being elected to succeed Lyle Garlow as BGCO Associate Executive Director on Jan. 1, 1992. On Nov. 18, 1996, the BGCO departmental organization was restructured, and Haskins was named by BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony L. Jordan as Senior Associate Executive Director and leader of the Convention's Support Services Team.

During his three decades of service with the BGCO, Haskins led, or was involved in, missions on an epic scale, including language missions with many ethnic groups, chaplaincy, literacy training, resort ministry, new church starts, Mission Service Corps, Volunteers in Missions, Baptist Builders, Campers on Mission, prison ministry and associational ministries, an area which had had a profound impact on his life and ministry and which held a special place in his heart.

Ministering to ethnic groups also was of specific interest to Haskins, who led the number of ethnic congregations to grow from only a few when he joined the Convention to more than 125 when he retired on Aug. 31, 2000. He was instrumental in helping to organize the first Chinese church in Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Chinese Baptist Church, along with Jaxie Short, International Mission



**Prayers are said over Robert E. Haskins in September 1992 after his election to succeed Lyle Garlow as associate executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Administrative Committee chairman Alan Day, left, prays as BGCO president Anthony Jordan, center, and Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner lay hands on Haskins.**

Board missionary to Hong Kong for 35 years.

In his June 28, 2010 *Perspective* column in the *Baptist Messenger*, Jordan wrote of the impact made by Haskins, his long-time friend and brother in the ministry. “No man was (and is) more loved or respected by our Native American and ethnic congregations and leaders than Bob Haskins. His love and dedication to see ethnic congregations planted and thriving was remarkable . . . . It was my distinct privilege to work beside him for four years.”

“As ethnic pastors became acquainted with me, they began to ask, ‘How do I develop and prepare a sermon? How do I help grow a strong Sunday School? How do I conduct the Lord’s Supper or a wedding?’ Haskins said. “They received very limited formal training, if any, but had a great need for it, and I soon realized that the churches would not get any stronger unless the pastors received some help.

“I began to develop a loose leaf notebook of ‘how to’ helps for the pastor. It was soon recognized that bi-vocational pastors needed some of the same help.”

The notebook—a *How to Start a New Church Manual*—was published by the BGCO and was presented, along with a two-volume commentary set—*Haley’s Bible Handbook* and *Young’s Analytical Concordance*—to ethnic and bi-vocational pastors through their associational Director of Missions.

“We also began one- and two-week training schools for pastors which were held at Camp Hudgens, Seminole Nation Indian Church, Clinton Indian Church, Muscogee Seminole Wichita Association, Choctaw Association and Cherokee Association,” Haskins added. “I also dreamed of creating a mobile library with special books for pastors that would travel monthly to the most needed regions. I even approached the Southern Baptist Convention’s Home Mission Board about helping us, but we could not come up with the resources to make it possible.”

When Anthony Jordan became the Executive Director-Treasurer for the BGCO in 1996, he expressed an interest in helping to develop ethnic churches and pastors, Haskins said.

“He realized the need, and began trying to resource the need. At my retirement banquet at Oklahoma City, Village, Jordan announced that the BGCO would begin the Robert Haskins School of Leadership,” Haskins humbly said. “I felt very undeserving, but honored, because I saw the need, and had the dream, but could never completely pull it together with the resources. Jordan has done that. I am humbled and grateful, because I see a great need in ethnic America for strengthening the flow of the Gospel to the nations.

“I say to all the students—become as prepared as you can be-

cause God can use a prepared, trained person in ways He cannot use the untrained who have no desire to better equip themselves for the greatest work in the world, Kingdom work!"

The original mission statement of the Robert Haskins School of Leadership (Later re-named the Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministry) reads, "The mission of the Robert Haskins School of Leadership is to train and develop effective, biblically-strong pastoral and lay leaders of multi-cultural churches to do Kingdom work."

To receive a diploma, students are required to successfully complete 10 courses, involving a total of 150 hours of course work (Class time) or the equivalent. Diplomas are awarded on three levels, with students who complete the level three program and desire further training are encouraged to enter the Ministry Training Institute of OBU.

Haskins—who is well-known for his broad smile and gentle disposition—was a frequent contributor to the *Baptist Messenger* and *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*. He also wrote or contributed to, the *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists; Church and Law, Essential Information for Church Leaders; the Thessalonian Church Development Plan for the Smaller in Membership Churches, Pastors' Manual for the Single Staff Church* (English and Spanish) and *Ethnic Leadership in the 21st Century*.

He also co-authored—with BGCO Historical Secretary/Director of History J.M. Gaskin—*A Man for the Times*, a biography of former BGCO Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner, and presented Herschel Hobbs Lectures at OBU on "One Association, Two Names" and "Cherokee Association—The Trail of Hope."

Trained and certified as an Intentional and Transitional Pastor, Haskins served interim pastorates at Oklahoma City, Briarwood, Exchange Ave. (2), Highland Hills and Knob Hill (2); Checotah, First; Clinton, First; Collinsville, First; Jenks, First; Marlow, First; Perkins, First; Ponca City, First (3); Wahiawa, Hawaii, First; Weatherford, Emmanuel; Weatherford, First and Woodward, First.

He also served as Royal Ambassador leader in Banner Association; Moderator of the Leflore Association; President of the Pastor's Conference, Capital Association; a member of the BGCO Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Board's Public Relations Committee, a member of the HMB National Continuing Education Committee; a member of the National Strategic Committee to Assist Chicago Association in Strategic Planning; member of the BGCO Historical Commission and Chair of its Hall of Fame Committee; Adjunct Professor, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas and he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Golden Gate Seminary, in Mill Valley, Calif.

# **PAT WAGSTAFF**

## **2019**

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

*by Bob Nigh, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Historical Secretary and Director of History*

Pat Sanford Wagstaff was born in Maysville on March 1, 1943 to Paul and Faye Sanford. She accepted Christ as her Savior at the age of 9. She heard the Gospel proclaimed by itinerant preachers at the country schoolhouse she attended until the eighth grade before the family moved to Lindsay, where she attended school, and the family attended Lindsay, First.

Her father was ordained as a deacon in the church, and she said she studied under some “great Bible teachers.” She also credits Maud Weese with helping her to learn more about the Bible.



**Pat Wagstaff**

“I didn’t realize at the time how much she taught me, because it was subtle, but she helped me in my Christian walk,” Wagstaff said.

On the day she accepted Christ as her Savior and Lord, Wagstaff said, “I remember the sermon made me feel like I was a really bad person. But I never doubted my salvation at all, and later attended Falls Creek regularly in high school.”

She married Coy Wagstaff on Oct. 13, 1963. The couple lived in Lindsay, then moved to Noble where Coy got a job in a grocery store, and attended Noble, First. Coy later got transferred to Davis, and Pat became active in the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) at Davis, First.

“I taught teenage girls how to learn to serve Jesus,” Wagstaff said. “My pastor (Finis Steelman) was an Indian who, when he first came to visit me, said he had a horse named Satan! He was a great inspiration to me—he and his wife, Marge.”

After moving back to Noble, and then to Maysville, Wagstaff said she “really became active in Maysville, First.” There, she served as WMU director for both the church and Arbuckle Association, taught youth in Sunday School, worked in the nursery and was active in a prayer group. As Arbuckle Association WMU director, Wagstaff also was elected to serve on the state WMU Council.

From leading Acteens and presiding over Oklahoma WMU to serving as recording secretary of the Baptist General Convention



**Pat Wagstaff, (Third row, second from right) has sung with the BGCO's Native Praise Choir for many years. Below right, she is shown in her native dress.**

(BGCO) Board of Directors, a member of the BGCO Strategic Planning Committee, a member of the national WMU Executive Council and traveling to the African nation of Malawi three times, where she helped start a women's center to teach Malawian women to sew, grow crops for their families, and receive instruction in nutrition and sanitation, Wagstaff has had a long history of service to Oklahoma Baptists.

She also helped lead the effort to raise funds to build a security wall around the Baptist Medical Clinic in Salima, Malawi. Prior to the construction of the wall, there had been several break-ins and thefts of medicines and medical equipment at the clinic. The "From Here to Maternity" campaign eventually raised more than \$16,000 to build the wall around the four-acre site and provide for additional needs of the clinic, which included a 10-bed maternity ward.



"This project is an opportunity for those who have wanted to help in Malawi to make a lasting change in, and show Christ's love to, these women who walk miles to the clinic, have their babies and only stay one to two hours, and then must walk home carrying their



**Pat Wagstaff traveled to Malawi three times during the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's partnership with that African nation known as "The Warm Heart of Africa."**

child," Wagstaff said following the 95th annual session of the Oklahoma WMU on Nov. 13, 2000.

Wagstaff also designed, and her daughter embroidered, towels—a symbol of servanthood—for graduates of the Baptist Seminary in Malawi. The towels were adorned with the Scripture, John 13:15, "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

Wagstaff—although not of Indian ancestry—has sung with the BGCO's Native Praise Choir, which represents women from more than 20 tribes singing in English and the Cherokee, Muscogee and Choctaw languages, for many years.

Her participation in the choir came about after she met Willene Pierce, Baptist World Alliance (BWA) women's leader, at a meeting in Washington, D.C. Pierce indicated then that when she retired from BWA, she would like to return to Oklahoma and work with Native women.

"I told her I would like to help with that, if I could," Wagstaff replied, never expecting it to happen. Later, Pierce called Wagstaff and asked her to bring some ladies from the Ardmore area to her first meeting after she moved back to Oklahoma.

"So, I did," Wagstaff said. "It was a great time, and some of the ladies sang in their native languages; it was beautiful."

From there, the group—which would become Native Praise—eventually grew into a choir of more than 120 singers, and later was



asked to sing at the national WMU meeting in St. Louis, Mo.

"We really didn't have an organized choir at the time; it was just a group of ladies who came together to sing," Wagstaff recalled. "The name Native Praise was finally chosen for the choir, and they had matching shirts made for the trip."

Native Praise has since sung at many state and national meetings and Native American reservations across the United States. The group also sang at a BWA meeting in London.

In addition to three mission trips to Malawi, Wagstaff has participated in ministry to many diverse groups; including residents of the French Quarter and a Seaman's Center in New Orleans; a Head Start school for children and three nursing homes in Mississippi and homeless shelters and apartment complexes in Lincoln, Neb. She also taught children's classes and helped lead women's classes for many years at Indian Falls Creek.

In 2002, Wagstaff was honored during the national WMU meeting in Talladega, Ala. for serving as a member of the WMU national board from 1988-2002, and a member of the board's dated design and nominating committees.

Known for a great sense of humor, bright smile and her distinctive laugh, Wagstaff served as assistant recording secretary and then recording secretary for the BGCO for a total of nine years. She helped make meetings of the BGCO Board of Directors lively when she took roll for the meetings, often asking board members to—instead of just saying "here" or "present"—to respond with "your favorite book of the Bible" or "your favorite Bible verse."

The Wagstaffs have five children, 14 grandchildren and eight great-grand children.

# My Granny's Bible

*by Luke Holmes, Pastor, Tishomingo, First; President of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission*

It feels strange to go through someone else's personal life, but it's a privilege that pastors often have. When I preach a funeral, I sometimes do it from that deceased person's Bible as a last reminder of that person's faith. Often, these people were members at their church longer than I've been alive. Their Bible has been to church thousands of times, and guided them through thousands of sermons, Sunday School classes, Bible studies, quiet times and more.

The Bible of an elderly saint is often a particular treasure. You can see which verses they went back to over and over, see a record of their growth in the margins and hear words from preachers long since deceased. Sometimes, the front and back pages of the Bible are filled with verses, promises or truths from Scripture that grabbed their heart for some reason.

Close to my desk sits my Granny's Bible. She's one of those faithful church members who studied, taught and never stopped learning. The notations on the pages from her Bible both inspire me and give me some questions, too.

*"If he plows, it's because He has a purpose for a crop."*

*"We don't live by explanations, but by promises."*

*The mailing address for the White House.*

*"God's will. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."*

*"SBO: Standard Baptist Order."*

*A recipe for microwave cake.*

*"God puts up with me, why can't I put up with others?"*

*Prayer for Baby Ford, a promise and back-up promise.*

What does my Granny's Bible teach me? What can we learn when we look through the Bibles of those who followed faithfully after God for decades?

## **We find that life isn't always easy**

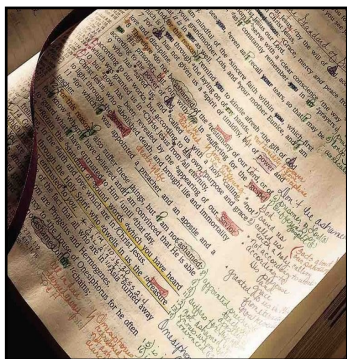
I have a particular view of my Granny as a kind, grey-headed old lady who always had ice cream. But the verses and scribbles in her Bible showed that her life had its hardships, too. There were multiple promises about sufferings, doubts, and hardships. I don't think of her in that way, but this intimate look reminds me that all Christians will face hardships in their life. No one can escape them. Sometimes, you'll find a verse underlined with different pens, or circled, highlighted, and underlined. You know that verse meant something, and it's often those that promise us hope in the midst of sufferings. Through God, we have the promise that, in Him, we have everything that we need, no matter what we need. The promise that God



provides was clung to by those who went before us, and we will need those same promises.

### **Quantity and perseverance matter**

I don't know who said it first but it still holds true. "A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." The accumulations and notes in my Granny's Bible weren't all done in one sitting, or just a particular dedicated stretch of Bible reading. The notes and highlights show her lifelong dedication to God and to God's Word. Many people turn to God's Word in times of desperation or depression. It's wonderful anytime we pick up God's Word and take it into our hearts and minds. But only the life that is regularly and daily



dedicated to God's Word will be shaped and formed by it. The heart that turns to the Bible in tough times is like a soft cushion that leaves an imprint of whatever pressed on it, but will soon return to its original form. But the heart of a person who regularly and consistently sits under God's Word is like a stone that endures constant drips of water. Even the smallest drip of water will change the hardest stone with enough time. How much more so will the heart change

when it is regularly put under the life giving water of God's Word? The heart that daily sits under the drip of God's Word will be changed by it forever. There is no substitution for a lifetime of sitting under God's Word, both preached to you and reading it yourself.

### **Our prayers last long after we do**

Sprinkled through the pages of Granny's Bible are the names of people and places. Some are family members I recognize, some are names I've never seen. Some are prayers for healing of people who later died. Other are promises claimed on behalf of other people. Even though my granny has passed, her prayers live on. Revelation says that the prayers of the saints are kept in bowls and are poured out at the last days as sweet-smelling incense. Even the prayers she prayed that she forgot are still held by God, and someday we will all see their fulfillment.

There's something more about these old family Bibles. It reminds me that, someday, someone might go through my Bible in the same way. Don't be afraid to mark it up, to keep a record of your prayers and of God's goodness to you. God's faithfulness will be celebrated by all generations. Work to live such a life what when the day your body finally falls apart, your Bible does, too.

# Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society

## Annual Meeting Minutes – Sept. 28, 2019

The Society met on Saturday morning, Sept. 28, 2019, at Oklahoma City, Trinity. President Luke Holmes called the meeting to order at 10:51 a.m. Michael Dershem opened the meeting in prayer. Eight persons attended.

The minutes from the 2018 Society meeting held on Sept. 29 at Oklahoma City, Trinity were approved after a motion by Richard McCullough, seconded by Andy Latta.

Historical Secretary's Report by Bob Nigh:

Members of the Historical Commission convened for their semi-annual meeting on March 5 at the Baptist Building, updating reports and progress being made toward the annual meeting of the Historical Society scheduled for Sept. 28, 2019 at Oklahoma City, Trinity.

Several items of special historical significance have been donated to the Gaskin Baptist Archives this summer (see article on Pages 4-7).

Included are five notebooks filled with writings by former Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner. The collection was donated by officials with the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

Falls Creek youth encampment programs from 1950, 1962 and 1964, along with a cardboard fan used to keep a camper cool in the sweltering heat of a southern Oklahoma sun, were donated by LeRoy Fore of Tulsa.

Fort Gibson, First donated either an intact, or pieces of, issues of the *Baptist Beacon* printed in 1945-46, and a copy of the April 13, 1950 issue of the *Baptist Messenger*, which ran a teaser on its cover about a story on page 3: "Vacation Bible Schools are Fun, ask the Moores of Muskogee association." The "Moores" were missionary Jay W.C. Moore and his wife (No name), who had conducted 85 VBS sessions in the past 10 years in the association.

L.B. and Marie Flanigan donated several books written by Nicey Murphy, former assistant executive secretary of the Oklahoma WMU and, later, executive secretary of the Colorado WMU (1956-57) and the Great Plains Baptist Convention WMU (1968-76). Colorado Baptists named their state missions offering after Murphy, much like the Oklahoma offering is named for Edna McMillan.

The books include *The Flip Side, or Workin' for the Lord ain't all That Dull*; *The 30th Child of Southern Baptists* about the birth and early childhood of the Great Plains Association, and a biography of her mother: *Agnes Murphy, Whatta Woman!* Also donated was a copy of a conference study guide, *The Shocking Case of Murder in*



**Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission members joined Historical Secretary Bob Nigh for the group's semi-annual meeting Sept. 28 at Oklahoma City, Trinity. From left are Terry Brooks, Lindsay; Andy Latta, Tahlequah; Nigh; Richard McCullough, Perkins; Leona Marion, Oklahoma City; Michael Dershem, Yale and Luke Holmes, Tishomingo. (Photo by Glenda Nigh)**

*the Church, or Who is Killing Mission Study?* presented by Murphy at the Glorieta, N.M. Conference Center.

Thus far this year, the Historical Secretary has personally presented or prepared certificates in recognition of the following anniversaries: Barnsdall, Victory (25<sup>th</sup>); Bethel Acres, New Hope (125<sup>th</sup>); Comanche, First (125<sup>th</sup>); Enid, First (125<sup>th</sup>); Etowah (100<sup>th</sup>); Geary, First (125<sup>th</sup>); Kingfisher, First ((125<sup>th</sup>); Laverne, First (100<sup>th</sup>); Milburn, First (100<sup>th</sup>); Oklahoma City, Eagle Heights (25<sup>th</sup>); Panama, First (100<sup>th</sup>); Red Oak, First (125<sup>th</sup>); Roland Hills (50<sup>th</sup>); Sapulpa, Faith (25<sup>th</sup>); Vinita, Bunker Hill (75<sup>th</sup>); Wellston, First (125<sup>th</sup>); Wynona, First (100<sup>th</sup>) and Cherokee Association (150<sup>th</sup>). Certificates also were presented to many of the churches' eldest member and longest-standing member on behalf of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and Historical Commission.

The autumn 2019 edition of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle* is in the final stages of production and will go to press soon. The issue

includes articles about the two men inducted this year into the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame—Anson Justice and Max Malone—and profiles of the two people to receive the 2019 Distinguished Service Award—Robert E. Haskins and Pat Wagstaff. Also noted were the donation of several items of historical interest and value to the Gaskins Archives at OBU in Shawnee, among other articles.

The Historical Secretary continues to receive and respond in a timely manner to requests from churches and individuals for historical information.

Election of Officers – Richard McCullough assumed the position as president of the Society. Leona Marion was elected to serve as President-elect. Andy Latta was elected as Secretary. All passed by acclamation.

### **Awards and Induction Ceremonies**

1. **Church History Award**, announced by Leona Marion. There was only one entry this year. This year's award goes to Tecumseh, First. The church will be recognized during the Historical Secretary's report at 2019 BGCO annual meeting on Nov. 12.

2. **Distinguished Service Awards**, announced by Andy Latta, Chairman of the Committee, who revealed that Robert E. Haskins, former BGCO senior associate executive director-treasurer, and Pat Wagstaff, former state WMU president, have been selected by the committee to receive the awards this year

3. **Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame inductions**, moderated by Richard McCullough, Chair of the selection committee, who said the selection of the honorees was driven by each man's significant contributions to the work of Oklahoma Baptists and their leadership on a statewide and national level.

**Anson Justice**, Pastor of Atoka, First and Oklahoma City, Kelham, and distinguished leader in Baptist ministries, both statewide and nationally. He played an integral part in preserving Oklahoma Baptist history, and was instrumental in establishing the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and the Oklahoma Baptist Hall of Fame. First. See monograph on pages 8-11.

**Max Malone**, Pastor of several Oklahoma Indian churches, and Home Mission Board missionary and church planter, working specifically with Cheyenne and Arapaho churches in Oklahoma. He assisted in organizing the Cheyenne & Arapaho Association. See monograph on pages 12-15.

A motion to adjourn was made Andy Latta. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Prepared by Michael Dershem, Historical Society Secretary, and Bob Nigh, Historical Secretary.

# GASKIN BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY AWARD

**The history of Tecumseh, First was selected by committee members as the winner of the 2018 Gaskin Baptist Church History Award.**

The *125th Anniversary History of Tecumseh First Baptist Church*, compiled by Mike Harrell, has been named the winner in the 2018 Gaskin Baptist Church History Award competition. The winning entry will be recognized during the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Nov. 11-12 at Oklahoma City, Quail Springs.

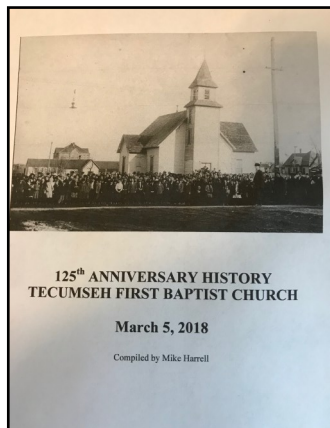
The 149-page document reads, "The First Baptist Church of Tecumseh was the second Missionary Baptist Church to be organized in Pottawatomie County. The church was constituted on Dec. 25, 1892. It was organized on one snowy, sleety Sunday in March, 1893, in the district court room of the old courthouse located near the current Tecumseh Post office.

"A review of U. S. Weather Service records indicate that the date was probably March 5, 1893. J. M. Lambright, the associational missionary, was in charge, and he agreed to preach until a pastor could be secured. There were 13 charter members in the new First Baptist Church of Tecumseh.

"The first pastor called by the church in 1893 was Rev. W. R. Chandler. By October 12, 1894, the church was incorporated by the Territory of Oklahoma, and the first church building was nearly complete."

In 2018, Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission members approved a change in the selection process for the church history award winners, creating larger church (250-plus members) and smaller church (Less than 250 members) categories.

All Oklahoma churches are welcome to submit their histories (3 copies) written or compiled this year to be considered for the 2019 Gaskin Baptist Church History Award. Entries should be submitted to Bob Nigh, BGCO Historical Secretary, 3800 N. May Ave., Okla. City, OK 73112-6506.



# Memorial Gifts

On Sept. 8, 1998 by vote of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission, a memorial fund was established whereby a gift of \$25 or more may be made to the Gaskin Historical Archives and Library Forever Fund in memory of a deceased relative or friend. The following list includes those gifts in alphabetical order for those honored.

*Del Allen*, Wilburton

Given by Sans Bois Association

*Ramona Allen*, Wilburton

Given by John and Pat Hart

*Ramona Allen*, Wilburton

Given by Delmer, Charity and Tim Allen

*Donald E. Badgett*, Del City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L., Jr.

*James Ball*, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

*Margie Ball*, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

*Bob Burrows*, Amarillo, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*Pluma Cantrell*, Sallisaw

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

*Rose Chronister*, Sallisaw

Given by Sans Bois Baptist Association

*Memorial Gifts*

***E. Farrell Dixon***, Tulsa

Given by Curtis and Betty Dixon

***Donald R. Dunn***, Chickasha

Given by Jimmie L. Dunn

***Jack Everhart***, Oklahoma City

Given by Del and the late Ramona Allen

***Betty Farris***, Muskogee

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

***J. C. Folk***, Midwest City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Virginia Ann Fry***, Claremore

Given by Lemuel Ball

***Helen Isom Gaskin***, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

***Jesse Marvin (J.M.) Gaskin***, Durant

Given by Delmer Allen

***Joseph Alexander Gaskin***, Cartersville

Given by J. M. Gaskin

***Jim Glaze***, Montgomery, Alabama

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***George Hill***, Coalgate

Given by Margaret Hill

***George Hill***, Coalgate

Given by J. M. Gaskin

***Mrs. Carrell Hooper***, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

***Carleen Jones***, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Norma Jordan***, Bartlesville

Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

***Nadean Justice***, Oklahoma City

Given by J. M. Gaskin

***Thelma Juanita King***, Del City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Murray Leath***, Plano, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Dick Lovelady***, Bethany

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Clara Luedecke***, Weatherford, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

***Burl Mackey***, Edmond

Given by Jonell Crawford

***Carl Mackey***, Kingfisher

Given by Jonell Crawford

***Charles Mackey***, Durant

Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

***Robert Mackey***, Durant

Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey



*Memorial Gifts*

***Bob Maxwell***, Stigler

Given by Del Allen

***Lee McWilliams***, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

***Maye McWilliams***, Durant

Given by Patricia Roberts

***John H. Morton***, Durant

Given by Bill J. Morton

***Emma L. Shoemate Morton***, Durant

Given by Bill J. Morton

***Barbara Peaden***, Oklahoma City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

***Wenonah Willene Pierce***, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

***Wenonah Willene Pierce***, Fayetteville, Ark.

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

***Marie Ratliff***, Wilburton

Given by Center Point Baptist Church

***John D. Riggs***, Durant

Given by J.M. Gaskin

***Todd H. Sheldon***, Dallas, Texas

Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

***Todd H. Sheldon***, Dallas, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*John L. Smith*, Marlow

Given by Winfred Knight

*Cathy Spain*, Midwest City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

*Max Stanfield*, Oklahoma City

Given by Winfred T. and Grace L. Knight, Jr.

*William G. Tanner*, Belton, Texas

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*James Timberlake*, Atlanta, Georgia

Given by Kathryne Timberlake

*Thelma Townsend*, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*Lawrence Van Horn*, Oklahoma City

Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

*H. Alton Webb*, Anadarko

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

*Almeda Welch*, Durant

Given by J.M. and Helen Gaskin

*Hazel Marie Williams White*, Wilburton

Given by Del and Ramona Allen

## Important notice

More than two-thirds of Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society members have not paid their annual fee for several years. As of this issue of the *Chronicle*, those who have not paid will be dropped from the distribution list. An annual membership is only \$10 per year, and includes receipt of the two semi-annual issues of the *Chronicle*. And, why not consider a lifetime membership, which is only \$100?

Email [okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com](mailto:okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com) for more information, or mail a check in the appropriate amount to BGCO Historical Secretary, 3800 N. May Ave., Okla. City, OK 73112.

## ***Discarding your library?*** **We want your books, other items**

If you or your church is considering getting rid of its library—or possibly cutting down on the number of volumes it contains—the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and Society would welcome the donation of any of those volumes which relate specifically to Oklahoma Southern Baptists.

This would include copies of any of the books written by Historical Secretary Emeritus J.M. Gaskin, all of which are now out of print.

Other publications might include back issues of the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, biographies or books by other prominent Oklahoma Baptists and histories of BGCO affiliates.

Donations of other items relating to Oklahoma Baptists are welcome as well. These would include Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and Associational annual reports, church histories and ephemera, photographs, recordings and other items which would be of interest to researchers who visit the Gaskin Baptist Archives at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

To discuss a donation, please contact BGCO Historical Secretary Bob Nigh at [okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com](mailto:okbaptisthistoryman@gmail.com), or give him a call at 405/990-0123.



**3800 N. May Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506**