

# The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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## Moral Action Info On Current Issues

From Chris Gonthier  
BMAO Moral Action

The purpose of this article is not to tell you how to vote, but rather to give information to help make decisions.

We will look at State Question No. 833 Legislative Referendum No. 376 and State Question No. 834 Legislative Referendum No. 377.

I know many people vote their choice in primaries, but vote straight party in the general election. Judges in the state of Oklahoma do not have party affiliation, so it may be necessary to do some research.

Citizens will be asked whether or not to retain the three Justices of the Supreme Court. Noma D. Gurich district 3, Yvonne Kauger district 4, and James Edmondson district 7.

If you need to know where to vote, go to Oklahoma voter portal or check your voter ID card.

[Okvoterportal.okelections.gov](https://okvoterportal.okelections.gov)

You do need to bring acceptable ID.

The three Supreme Court Justices were appointed by Democrat governors. These judges have the reputation among many to be very liberal activist type judges.

If you want them to continue, you would vote yes. If you wish the opportunity for more conservative justices to be appointed, then vote no.

SQ834...Oklahoma-2024-SJR23-Enrolled.pdf is where to go to see the language of this bill. It is called the Oklahoma Citizenship for Voting Amendment (2024)-(SJR23).

Basically this bill would help ensure that only citizens of the United States, over the age of 18 who are bona fide residents of this state, are qualified electors of this state.

A yes vote will approve of changes clarifies only US citizens can vote. A no vote will keep the

original language.

This is a constitutional amendment so understanding this is very important.

SQ833 Creates "Public Infrastructure District" for Bond debt (SJR16) Against Property owners land! <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/elections/state/questions/sq2024/sq833.pdf> (SJR16) Oklahoma-2024-SJR16-Enrolled.pdf

This is also a constitutional amendment.

Section 9E.

A. There are hereby created public infrastructure districts.

B. Municipalities may approve the creation of public infrastructure districts, which may incur indebtedness and issue public infrastructure district bonds to pay for all or part of the cost of public improvements within such districts.

The cost of all indebtedness so incurred shall be levied and assessed by the board of trustees of a public infrastructure district on the property benefited by such improvements following the passage and approval of the organization of a public infrastructure district pursuant to subsection

C of this section. The board shall collect the special assessments so levied and use the same to reimburse the public infrastructure district for the amount paid or to be paid by it on the bonds issued for such improvements not to exceed ten (10) mills for the purpose of providing funds for the purpose of support, organization, operation, and maintenance of such services.

C. A public infrastructure district shall not be created unless a petition is filed with the municipality that contains the signatures of one hundred percent (100%) of surface property owners within the applicable area consenting to the creation of the public infrastructure district.

D. The municipality may impose

(Current Issues, cont on pg 4)



# “The Search for a Peaceful Existence”

daily?

We sit in our pews and sing, “This is my Father’s world.” But I don’t believe the world we have created is the world my Father had in mind at creation.

We have traded God’s calm for a life of chaos. The nine to five grind has progressed to the seven to eleven groan, as we are constantly buried under the heaping piles of a paperless society.

Success and popularity are merely dangling carrots that drag us onward. And even if we find the carrot in our grasp, it leaves us starving for something more.

Life consists of one whipping whirlwind after another, tossing us about like helpless ragdolls, longing for moments rest.

Our minds are cluttered, our message is confused, our motives are corrupt, our methods are questionable, and our morals are contaminated.

We have turned from running with patience the race set before us, preferring instead to join the rat race of the world. But as comedian Lily Tomlin says, “The problem with the rat race is even if you win...you’re still just a rat.”

No, this was not God’s plan. God’s

intent was a life of serenity, a stress free existence that celebrates simplicity.

Days consumed by contentment, nights reclined in rest.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you.” This is my Father’s world, this was His dream for us all.

So how do we discover that peace



## Read Philippians 4:4-7

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again — rejoice!

Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do.

Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

Tell God what you need, and thank him

(“Peaceful Existence,” cont on pg 5)

## CBC Announces Annual Scholarship Gala

Arkansas native and former Razorback head football coach Houston Nutt will be the keynote speaker for Central Baptist College’s 6th Annual Scholarship Gala. The event will take place on Friday, February 28, 2025 at 6pm , at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway.

The gala is a celebration of CBC’s Legacy of Faith and serves as the College’s sole fundraising event of the year. All proceeds will go towards the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports institutionally funded scholarships. Catered by Chef Billie Rodriguez and Central Baptist College Dining Services, the event is black-tie optional.

“CBC is excited to celebrate our annual Scholarship Gala. Our theme this year is ‘Legacy of Faith.’ This will be my last Gala as President, and I am confident it will be the best one yet,” said CBC President Terry Kimbrow, “Houston Nutt is sure to be an excellent keynote speaker, and we hope many people will come and hear the inspirational message that he will bring.”

Houston Nutt has a career record of 135-96 as football head coach at Murray State, Boise State, Arkansas, and Ole Miss. He was named National Coach of the Year and The Football News Division 1-A Coach of the year in 1998, and he is a three-time SEC Coach of the Year. He has been a college football studio analyst on CBC Sports Network since 2012, and he and his wife Diana have four children.

Event sponsorships begin at \$2,000. Single tickets are available for \$100 each.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation, visit [cbc.edu/gala](http://cbc.edu/gala) or contact Peggy Pillow at [ppillow@cbc.edu](mailto:ppillow@cbc.edu) or 501-205-8834.



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# "I Was Just Thinkin'"

By Narita Roady

## "Does Your Anchor Hold?"



I have a riddle for you. "What do you put down only when you need it, and pick up when you don't need it?"

Give up?

An Anchor!

Many years back we took a vacation to Galveston, TX. The first time was my very first time to see the ocean. It's seemingly endlessness and vastness held me in awe.

Another thing that fascinated me was the 100's of ship's and boats that we saw. There were ships of every conceivable size and description.

I remember being on shore watching a huge shipping vessel go by. I had to lean my head all the way back and look up to see the top of it. On the side was painted, "Dole Bananas".

My mind boggled at how many bananas that would be!! From that massive transport to the smallest craft, no matter how different they appeared they each had one thing in common – they had and needed an anchor aboard.

Should a storm arise or they need to stop they would drop their anchor to secure them and keep from being dashed against the rocks.

I know I have had 'storms' blow into my life that threaten to crush me against rocks. Psalms 47:2 reminds me of such times when I wonder if I may sink.

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me."

In our hearts we know that isn't going to happen but all the noise and the tumult around us take our focus off the fact we have an unfailing anchor in any storm.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" Hebrews 6:19

That of course is Christ, and in many ways He secures and protects us much like a ship's anchor.

Consider this. The size of the anchor appears small in comparison to the size of the ship. When looking at it we might even think. "How can that dinky thing do anything to help such a massive ship in danger?"

Yet when times of trouble come it is a life line to safety.

Have you looked prayer, trust in God and faith in that way when gales of tribulation hit your life? They seem too small, too easy, too. . . well, invisible, to really help in such an immense crisis.

In times of trouble these three things have tremendous power, in fact they are link to God's power, inviting Him into the situation to protect and guide His children.

It also protects the ship in a storm from being tossed about and out of control.

I am reminded of Matthew 14:27-31

when Peter stepped out of the boat to walk to Jesus in the storm. He was felt safe until he allowed the rage of the storm around him to distract him from who he was walking.

"But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me."  
Matthew 14:30

It isn't uncommon when a catastrophe strikes for us to panic, when we realize the full extent of what we are facing. We run here and there in a frantic effort to find someone to help or comfort us.

We want relief from the crushing pressure of pain we are experiencing. Just as with Peter, Christ is always there to reach out and calm and steady our racing thoughts and hearts.

The ship feels the tossing of the storm and its fury but the anchor is still there keeping it steady and secure. The anchor does not firmly keep the boat in one location.

The boat moves slightly in the storm but not in such a way that it can be damaged or out of control

Now an anchor isn't only used during those turbulent times at sea. It is also used during times of rest and calm.

When a ship is resting or fishing, it could easily drift off course or into danger. The anchor keeps it right where it needs to be.

Think about the times your life when things are going hunky-dory. Not serious problems, all is going pretty much your way, and you're at ease. This is a dangerous time in a Christian's life and usually they are not even aware of it.

("Does Your Anchor Hold?" cont on pg 7)

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**"God doesn't always calm the storm.  
Sometimes He lets the storm rage, and calms His children.  
That's when we experience the peace only He can give us."**

# Central Baptist College...*Calling All Alumni*

## Mustangs in the Making

Do you know a child who loves CBC? Consider enrolling them in our *Mustangs in the Making* program. We are always wanting to reach out to future Mustangs and help them build a love for CBC early.

Children enrolled in *Mustangs in the Making* will receive letters from CBC every birthday, and on milestone birthdays, they will also receive gifts helping them celebrate their big day.

To enroll in Mustangs in the Making, visit [cbc.edu/mustangsinthemaking](http://cbc.edu/mustangsinthemaking).

## Update Your Contact Information

We are also asking our alumni to update their contact information if they have not already. This allows the Alumni Office to keep in contact.

To update contact information, visit [cbc.edu/alumniinformationupdate](http://cbc.edu/alumniinformationupdate).

## Alumni Association

We would like to also encourage you to join the Alumni Association. Single memberships are \$35, and memberships for couples are \$50.

The Alumni Association helps support the Kenneth Brown Endowed Scholarship, sponsors the Student Alumni Association, and builds relationships with current students through events like Exam Treats throughout the year.

Join the Alumni Association today by completing an application at [cbc.edu/alumniassociation](http://cbc.edu/alumniassociation).

## Legacy Walk

For anyone looking to buy a gift that builds a lasting legacy, please consider Central Baptist College's Legacy Walk. Our Legacy Walk is made up of bricks that commemorate and honor graduates, teachers, or others.

Each brick costs \$100, and all proceeds are put into the alumni fund. With the legacy walk, you can choose to honor someone special or create a lasting memorial.

For more information, visit [cbc.edu/legacybricks](http://cbc.edu/legacybricks).

## Legacy Leaders

The Legacy Leaders program is also a great way for alumni and friends to give back to CBC. A monthly sustainable giving program, Legacy Leaders is meant to sustain, restore, and connect alumni and friends of CBC and to recognize those individuals who believe in the mission and future of CBC.

Your contribution, whatever the amount, will have a great impact on the future of the college and in the lives of our students.

For more information, visit [cbc.edu/legacyleaders](http://cbc.edu/legacyleaders).

## Homecoming 2025

We are also excited to announce the dates for Central Baptist College's



CENTRAL BAPTIST COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Homecoming 2025!

Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 31-February 1. Homecoming will kick off with the annual Chili Cook Off on Friday and conclude with Saturday's homecoming games and crowning at 1pm.

There will also be several other events held during the weekend including a Student Alumni Hangout and a Homecoming Court Tea for all students and alumni who are or have been on the Homecoming Court.

More details will be released soon on these and all Homecoming events. We look forward to seeing back on campus!

For more information on any of these alumni programs and services, contact our Alumni and Digital Services Coordinator Mallory Guyton at 501.205.8875 or [mguyton@cbc.edu](mailto:mguyton@cbc.edu).

# Current Issues cont from pg 1

limitations on the powers of the public infrastructure district through the governing document presented by the public infrastructure district applicant.

E. The levy shall be in addition to all other levies authorized by this Constitution, and when approved, shall be made for the repayment of public infrastructure district bonds issued by the public infrastructure districts for the public improvements agreed upon by the voters of the district as provided by the governing document.

F. The Legislature shall be authorized to enact such laws as may be necessary in order to implement public infrastructure districts in this state. What will this do?

1. Creates more districts to incur debt to private property owners, levied to owner's property.

2. Creates a board of trustees you do not vote on. They handle the money.

3. Your signature increases property taxes up to 10 mill to your property.

4. Creating a new law and section to the constitution.

5. Will give legislature permission to create new laws for district-without your knowledge.

A/ A Yes vote will allow this to be implemented..., more debt, B. No vote will stop the debt, the new laws, stop control of your property.

# “The Value of Life”



**Dr. John Adams**  
**Executive Director Moral Action**  
**Value Life**

We should value life as God does. How much does God value life? Think of the Cross. He sent His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins, so that if we believe we can have eternal life (John 3:16).

**Respect Life in its**  
**Various Stages and Forms**

The young and the old seem to be the most often discarded in our society. Because abortion is so often discussed and so controversial, I would like to further discuss this subject:

**Abortion Violates**  
**the First Commandment (Gen. 1:28)**

I am not referring to the first of the Ten Commandments, but to the first commandment ever given to man, to multiply and increase in number. God encourages reproduction of people made in His image!

**Abortion Violates**  
**the Sixth Commandment (Ex.20:13).**

The sixth of the Ten Commandments reads, “You shall not murder.” Abortion violates this command.

Severe endangerment of the mother’s life is the only possible exception I can ponder. I’d like to add a few comments on this difficult issue:

*God Is Forgiving*

If anyone has gone through the tragedy of aborting a child, God will receive you with open arms if you repent and ask His forgiveness (Luke 15:20; I John 1:9).

*God Is Just*

Also, if you have lost a child, through abortion, miscarriage, SIDS, or any other way, trust God concerning their salvation. David’s baby was lost due to

## “Peaceful Existence,” cont from pg 2

for all he has done.

If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Find joy in life, even in the worst of life. Not happiness. No, happiness is temporal, based on our surroundings.

Life can steal away happiness, simply by altering our circumstances. Joy is based solely on our knowledge of the truth.

Develop a reputation of calm.

his sin, but he remained confident that God would allow his child into heaven (2 Sam. 12:23).

*God Is Able*

I beg of you before God who gives life, seek help. Don’t take the life of your child, but trust God; seek help from us in this congregation. God will help us bear any burden (I Cor. 10:13), and as believers, we are commanded to help you (Gal. 6:2).

**Protect Life**

We are not to use violence to push our cause; bombing abortion clinics is just as bad as abortion! Be someone who helps.

Teach biblical truth: the value of human life, and the forgiveness of God.

Support a Christian pregnancy center.

Make sure nursing homes are safe.

Vote against legalization of abortion and euthanasia.

If you’re not a part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.

Make all your needs a matter of prayer.

Find something for which you can be grateful.

Let it go. The pain, the hurt, the heartache.

Let it go. Worry, doubts, fears.

Let it all go. Easier said than done, I know, but do it anyway.

Steal back the control they have taken over in your life by acknowledging you have done all you can, all you’re supposed to do, and let this incredible God we say we have faith in, we claim to trust, take charge.

And stand in awe of what He can do.

# "That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"Dialogue of the Deaf"



what they problem is our modify it so it fits something we can handle. Then we can issue a ruling on how to handle it and get on about our business.

However, if they start talking and we start to really listen, we soon find most problems between human beings aren't simple and easy to solve.

The Bible gives us much more about listening and hearing than about speaking.

James gives us a good rule about speaking in James 1:19.

"Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath."

One of the cardinal rules for resolving differences is to listen to the other, not with the intent to respond, but with the intent to understand. Too often in a discussion we are so busy formulating our response we don't listen to what the other is actually saying.

If we truly listen to them, we might find we are both saying and thinking the same thing, but using different approaches and words.

Have you ever heard two people discussing something and neither of them seem to understand what the other is saying? It sort of makes you wonder what the problem is.

One day I was counseling a husband and wife. They were both speaking English and using words the other could easily understand. I had no trouble understanding what each was saying. However, there was no communication in their conversation. This is a tremendous example of a "dialogue of the deaf." What's the problem in this case?

The husband was totally logical and unemotional. He said he couldn't see where they had a problem. He had tried to get her to tell him what was bothering her, but she said he just didn't understand.

His wife was operating illogically and emotionally. He handed her a legal pad and a pencil and told her to write down exactly what her complaint was. She said she couldn't do that because she didn't know how to put it into words. She just felt that something was wrong in their relationship.

He finally declared, "Well, I can't help if you won't tell me what's wrong."

She said "I've told you! I don't know what's wrong."

He said, "When you get it figured out let me know. I don't have time to try and guess what's bugging you."

I thought she was going to throw the pad at him. They were on two different wave lengths. Had she thrown the pad, he might have logically known they had a problem.

I recently was reading in the book of Job when Job's friends came to comfort him. Everything was going well in their comforting until they opened their mouth. Then it became apparent even if they

were all using words in the same language, they may as well have been on two different planets.

Job told them what his problem was, but they weren't listening. They were only waiting until he shut up so they could give him their opinion. After several rounds of that Job called them, "miserable comforters." Job 16:2

It seems apparent they didn't even hear that because they continued their rebuke and condemnation of Job.

Had they actually heard what he said they probably packed up their tents and went home. But they hadn't finished what they wanted to say.

It certainly makes it easier to give counsel to someone who is having trouble if we don't have to listen to them. We can make up our own mind

# Celebration

A Worship Celebration Created for Adults

## November 12-14, 2024

Chateau On The Lake  
Branson, MO



**DOUG BREWER**  
CONFERENCE PASTOR



**DAVID ATTEBERRY**  
WORSHIP



**NEIL DUMAS**  
WORSHIP



**SIX**  
BRANSON SHOW

## **“Does Your Anchor Hold?”** cont from pg 3

***“Think about the times your life  
when things are going hunky-dory.  
Not serious problems,  
all is going pretty much your way,  
and you’re at ease.***

***This is a dangerous time in a Christian’s life  
and usually they are not even aware of it.”***

How easy it is to become apathetic, lukewarm and let our relationship with God slip. The tide goes out pulling us further and further to the world and we don’t even realize we are moving in that direction.

This is part of our sin nature and God scolds the Israelites for this very thing in Deuteronomy 8:13-14.

“And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;”

Also during times of peace the anchor

is carried on the ship. Always nearby, ready to help at a moment’s notice. “. . .

He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”. Hebrews 13:5

When we face hardships, He may seem far away. We cannot see him but He is still there no matter what outward circumstances we may be facing.

Just as a ships anchor is unseen, He is there steadying us, protecting us, keeping us safe. We are the ones that forget his presence.

“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.” Psalm 50:15.

Since an anchor is not designed to keep the vessel tightly set in one place, it will move. Sometimes it will become stuck on the sea bed. There is only one way to fix this.

The captain must retrace path the boat has go to release it and be able to move ahead.

When we drift away from God and become trapped in sin, He will not allow us to move any further. He cannot use us as He would want in His service and our spiritual growth basically comes to a halt right there.

The only way to we can be released to move on is retrace our steps back to Him. Back to repentance, prayer, and a close relationship with our Lord that began at the moment we were born again.

No, God doesn’t always calm the storm. Sometimes He lets the storm rage, and calms His children. That’s when we experience the peace only He can give us.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

He has no need to calm the storm; He is the one in control. He is the one protecting us.

He is our anchor.

Is He yours?



# **STAMPEDE PREVIEW DAY**

**November 13th  
March 5th**

VISIT [CBC.EDU](http://CBC.EDU)/VISIT TO REGISTER

# BMA Financial Announces Partnership

BMA Financial, a comprehensive financial services provider for BMA churches, is excited to announce a new strategic partnership with Sparrow Team Financials, a financial management firm that specializes in bookkeeping for churches.

This collaboration will combine BMA Financial's broad expertise in financial services with Sparrow Team Financials' niche focus on customized financial management for churches.

Together, they will offer churches a tailored approach to financial management that fosters transparency and efficiency within the BMA.

At BMA Financial, our mission is to serve churches and entities of the Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America. Our goal is to offer services that help members of BMA organizations manage God's money, God's way, for God's glory.

"It's our goal at BMA Financial to provide trusted financial solutions to churches and other ministry organizations within the BMA of America that value service and stewardship, and our partnership with Sparrow Team Financials aligns perfectly with this goal," said Dr. Steve Crawley, Executive Director of BMA Financial.

"We look forward to enhancing the level of financial support available to ministries through this collaboration."

Sparrow Team Financials not only brings a wealth of experience in handling the unique financial needs of churches but a calling as well.

"We prioritize clear communication and personalized support to help ministries navigate their financial responsibilities with confidence," said Caroline Sellers, Founder of Sparrow Team Financials.

"By partnering with BMA Financial, we can help to empower churches with the financial tools they need to thrive for

years to come."

This partnership will specifically highlight the comprehensive bookkeeping service to provide BMA churches with detailed financial reporting, as well as budgeting and forecasting tailored to ministry needs

To learn more about the services available through this partnership, please contact Sparrow Team Financials at (501) 291-0276 or visit [www.sparrowteamfinancials.com](http://www.sparrowteamfinancials.com).

## About BMA Financial

BMA Financial is a trusted provider of financial services, specializing in retirement investing, estate planning, and insurance services for BMA of America churches and entities.

With a commitment to delivering high-quality, personalized solutions, BMA Financial helps clients manage their financial affairs with confidence.

## About Sparrow Team Financials

Sparrow Team Financials specializes in bookkeeping and financial management for churches, offering customized solutions for payroll, financial reporting, and more.

Prioritizing clear communication and personalized guidance to fully support your church or ministry.

Visit [sparrowteamfinancials.com](http://sparrowteamfinancials.com) for more details.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Daylight Savings Time**  
**November 3**

**Celebration**  
**Adult Worship**  
**Experience**  
**November 12-14**  
**See pg 6**

**CBC Stampede**  
**Preview Days**  
**November 13**  
**March 5**

**Scholarship Gala**  
**Central Baptist College**  
**February 28, 2025**  
**See pg 2**

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