On April 13, 2005, more than 200 guests gathered at the Harbert Center to recognize Rev. Thomas Earl Hunter of Birmingham for nine years of ministry at Macedonia 13th Street Baptist Church. Mayor Bernard Kincaid and City Council Member Elias Hendricks presented Hunter with a framed resolution honoring his impact on the community.

Thomas Waters of Mountain Brook was among area State Farm insurance agents receiving a Chairman’s Circle award in recognition of outstanding sales ability.

Dr. Michael Geer has been named medical director at Kirkwood by the River. In addition to assuming this part-time position, the executive officer of SouthFirst Bancshares Inc., 23 years of experience in the banking business. Stephens has been appointed executive officer of SouthFirst Bancshares Inc., a 56-year-old bank in Sylacauga. Stephens has 25 years of experience in the banking business.

Sandra H. Stephens has been named chief executive officer of SouthFirst Banchares Inc., a 56-year-old bank in Sylacauga. Stephens has 23 years of experience in the banking business.

Dr. William J. Tapscott has been named director of surgical education for the general surgery residency program at Baptist Health System in Birmingham. Tapscott joined the Montclair Baptist Medical Center staff in 1998 and specializes in endocrine surgery.

Lavon R. Winkler has been appointed chief operating officer for Milbank Manufacturing Co. in Kansas City, Mo., the nation’s leading producer of electrical meter sockets. Winkler has 25 years of experience in manufacturing technology.

J. Collin Asmus has assumed a new position at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts as Foundations Program coordinator in the Art Department.

Gwendolyrn Dees Burton of Killeen, Texas, has retired from public education and is home schooling her 10-year-old daughter and consulting with others involved in home schooling. She also is active in church and community work, including a role as a Special Olympics coach.

E. Darby Henley, now based in Greensboro, N.C., as director of the Greater Carolina Complex for Merrill Lynch, writes that he and wife Susan Sherer Henley are happy to be relocating to the Southeast and be closer to family, including sister Suzanne Henley Horst ‘88 of Lewisburg, Va.

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Paul M. Schabacker of Birmingham has joined ServisFirst Bank as executive vice president. He will oversee all lending areas in the bank.


Kristi Tingle Higginbotham, along with Jim Newman ‘86, won strong reviews for their performances last May in Almost Heaven: The Songs and Stories of John Denver at Birmingham’s Summerfest Cabaret Theatre. Later, Higginbotham took the role of Grizzabella the Glamour Cat in Summerfest’s June 2004 production of Cats. She also performed in the Alabama Symphony’s outdoor series “Sounds for Summer.”

Dr. Diane Holliman, an associate professor of social work at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga., was named 2005 Social Worker of the Year from the Valdosta/South Georgia Unit of the National Association of Social Workers. A March 26, 2005, article in the

Valdosta Daily Times recognized her work in the areas of client advocacy, social policy, social work practice, program development, administration, and research. This good news was shared by her proud father, former BSC faculty member Dr. Dan C. Holliman.

Kim Bass Yarboro, a teacher at Bumpas Middle School in Hoover, recently was inducted into the Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame.

Michael L. Jones Jr., an Andalusia attorney, has been named a 2005 member of the board of directors of the Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce.

In the July 15, 2005, issue of the Birmingham Business Journal, R. Scott Pulliam, senior vice president at Compass Bank, was named one of the area’s “Top 40 Under 40.”

Braden Richmond, a busy obstetrician from Russellville, Richmond’s key role in delivering a healthy baby to Stephanie Yarber, who had received the first known successful organ transplant in the United States, placed him in a media storm, as NBC, MSNBC Live, CBS, CNN, and other news outlets rushed to report the event.

In spring 2004, in a landmark operation performed by Dr. Sherman Silber of St. Louis, Yarber, who was infertile because she had experienced menopause at age 13, received transplanted ovarian tissue from her identical twin, Melanie Morgan, a longtime patient of Richmond’s and the mother of three. When Yarber later conceived, she chose Richmond to guide this special pregnancy to a healthy and successful conclusion. He says that “though the stakes were high, we attempted to treat this as a normal pregnancy,” and, on June 6, 2005, led the medical team who delivered a healthy, 7 pound, 15 ounce daughter to the delighted Yarbers.

The implications of this first-of-its-kind birth were striking for other couples currently unable to have children of their own. In the future, as Richmond explained in an interview with CBS anchor Rene Syler, it is possible that even women without twin donors may be able to receive ovarian transplants, just as patients today without exact genetic matches can receive kidney transplants.

Richmond says he is honored to be a part of this historic event.