

Board OKs name change to 'Christmas Break'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

O'FALLON, Mo. — "Winter Break" is out, and "Christ Break" is back for the Francis Howell School District in suburban St. Louis.

The board for the St. Charles County school district voted 4-3 Thursday to change the name of the winter vacation, following a debate that became heated at

times. The move came despite concerns by some that the change excludes non-Christians or could prompt lawsuits.

"We've created another media frenzy... we are not living up to our responsibility," board member Marty Hodits said.

Board member Bob Farr, a pastor, also opposed the change, arguing it would be

unfair to religious minorities. "This is a public institution, and we should try not to offend people," Farr said.

But supporters downplayed the change's significance, saying it is simply intended to acknowledge that most people in the district celebrate Christmas, which is recognized as a federal holiday.

"It is not meant to be disrespectful," said Terry Black,

the board member who introduced the proposal. "This is not about curriculum, this is not about forcing religious beliefs on anyone."

Board vice president Bill Spencer said, "I don't see personally how changing a word on a calendar is going to create a theocracy."

Opponents have said their main objection is that the proposal could denigrate

other celebrations, such as Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan, that may fall during the vacation.

A law firm analyzed the proposal and determined it would not violate the federal or Missouri constitutions.

Election could be trouble for homosexuality

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Three openly gay clerics were far behind Saturday as delegates gathered to elect the next leader of the Episcopal Diocese of California at a time when the global church is divided over the 2003 election of the first openly gay bishop.

The consecration of V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire was greeted by many Episcopalians as a triumph for gay acceptance but that choice sent reverberations throughout the global church, the Anglican Communion.

gay candidates for the California diocese were the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe of San Francisco, and the Very Rev. Robert Taylor of Seattle. All three have same-sex partners.

The remaining candidates were the Rt. Rev. Mark Handley Andrus of Birmingham, Ala.; Canon Eugene Taylor Sutton of Washington National Cathedral; the Rev. Jane Gould of Lynn, Mass.; and the Rev. Donald Schell of San Francisco.

supporting a greater church role for homosexuals believe

it is unfair to ask gays to wait.

The candidate selected during a vote Saturday must next be approved by the top Episcopal legislative body, the General Convention, which is set to convene June 13-21 in Columbus, Ohio. The candidate approved by the General Convention will succeed Bishop William Swing, who is retiring.

To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes among both clergy and lay delegates, and voting continues until a winner emerges.

After the second round of voting, Andrus appeared to be the strongest candidate with 62.2 percent of the clergy vote and 35.3 percent of the lay vote. Sutton received 42.2 percent of the lay vote.

Nearly 600 delegates from across California gathered for the election.

Episcopalians differ over whether the Bible permits ordaining gays, but agreed that choosing a second leader in a same-sex relationship would severely damage the global church.

In 2004, Anglican leaders trying to keep the church from splitting over the issue asked the U.S. church for a temporary moratorium on electing gay bishops. Those

Turned-off neighbors turn on Miss. church

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. — A Southaven church student pastor will be in a city court on June 14 after neighbors complained of noisy night worship.

Williams.

"Yet, we will continue to address this problem and live within the city's regulations with hope that we can come to some agreement," Little said in a statement.

The church was built in 1995 on U.S. 51 North. The building, parking lots and athletic fields are bordered on the west by residential coves. The homes were built before the church, and Williams said he has lived in his house since 1997.

Colonial Hills Church's student pastor, John Sayger, 43, of Hernando, was arrested this week and charged with disturbing the peace.

A resident of Coral Meadows Cove, James Williams Jr., swore out an affidavit alleging the church played excessively loud music from 7 to 10 p.m. several days a week.

Williams, 37, said he had tried to get church officials to tone down worship tunes accented by booming bass lines.

"All I did is ask that they turn the music down," Williams said Friday. "When the church's music comes into my home and invades my privacy, that's disturbing the peace."

Pastor Scott Little of the church's magnification ministry said \$10,000 in sound system changes haven't satis-

DEDICATIONS



PHOTO/WADE NASH

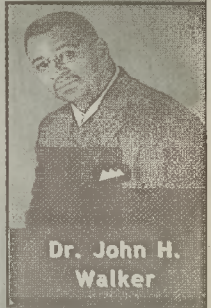
Vic and Jan Wood Carter donated more than 30 pieces of African American artwork to First Baptist Church-West. This was done in memory of Wood-Carter's mother, Virginia Wood, a long time resident and teacher.

Saturday Night Praise

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty"

Tired of Missing Sunday Worship because of work? Looking for NEW SATURDAY NIGHT EXPERIENCE?

Then join us Saturday Night Praise! Each night will be filled with LIVE MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP and a WORD OF EMPOWERMENT.



"Saturday Night Praise" every 1st & 3rd Saturday Beginning May 20th at 6:30PM

Macedonia Baptist Church of Charlotte, Inc
 "A Ministry of Love and Excellence"
 1300 Hatteras Ave * Charlotte, NC 28216 * 704-392-8496
www.macedoniaofcharlotte.org
administrativeoffice@macedoniaofcharlotte.org

Join us for any of our Worship Services

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Sunday
 7:45AM - One Hour of Spiritual Power
 9:00AM - Empowerment Hour- Christian Ed
 10:00AM "Family First" Worship</p> | <p>Wednesday
 12:00 Noon - Midday "Hour of Power"
 6:30PM - WOW "Word on Wednesday"</p> |
|---|--|

SPRING REVIVAL 2006

The Park Ministries
 May 22nd - 24th, 6:30 p.m.
 University Park Baptist Church

Guest Speakers:
 Dr. Walter Malone
 Canaan Christian Church,
 Louisville, KY

Pastor Claude R. Alexander, Jr.
 6029 Beatties Ford Road
 Charlotte, NC 28216
 704-392-1881

theparkministries.org