

‘We have to open these doors’



Keith, left, and Christy McPhail, right, give US Senator James Lankford a tour of ‘B the light’s’ facility on March 26.
PHOTOS BY ANDY DOSSETT/EXAMINER-ENTERPRISE

Community support rallies behind homeless mission

Andy Dossett
Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

‘B the Light’ homeless mission, founded by Keith and Christy McPhail, is nearing the final stages of construction and hopes to open its doors by August.

The mission, which aims to provide essential services and shelter to those in need, has been working diligently to meet the requirements set by various regulatory bodies.

The McPhails faced bureaucratic roadblocks in opening the mission due to complications related to the building’s prior purpose.

The building in question, once a testing facility for the National Institute for Petroleum and Energy Research (NIP-ER), was remediated in the late ‘90s for



Keith, left, and Christy McPhail, right, give US Congressman Josh Brecheen a tour of ‘B the light’s’ facility on May 18.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



Rhetoric against women’s influence in the Southern Baptist Convention has pushed out leading voices such as author Beth Moore. MICHAEL CLEVENGER/LOUISVILLE COURIER JOURNAL FILE

Women seek higher roles

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. – By a margin of 44 votes, Kathy Litton broke a 53-year stretch of men holding a key Southern Baptist Convention position.

“To me it said we’re welcoming women to be leaders in the denomination,” said Litton, reflecting on her election to registration secretary at the church’s annual meeting in 2019. “There certainly was tremendous symbolism in the fact these convention offices had always been dominated by males.”

Litton and at least five other women were the first ever elected to high-level convention office or leadership among trustees for SBC-affiliated agencies, called entities, since 2018. That year, a series of scandals involving prominent Southern Baptist men sparked a moment of reckoning within the nation’s largest Protestant denomination over its treatment of women.

Starting in 2018 and amid continued adherence to complementarianism – referring to a belief that men and women have certain assigned roles – convention leaders expressed more support for women in leadership, including even its president. That led to moments such as Litton’s election.

At the same meeting, Litton and other women launched the Women’s Leadership Network. The initiative sought to encourage women to apply their leadership experience within local congregations to the national denominational level.

“It was a breath of fresh air for some women thinking, ‘We can be recognized