

Making the Marriage Milestone

The Bartleys Celebrating 21 years

During the middle 1980s, Mertis couldn't go to work without stopping by T & B's Restaurant. His excuse was "I can't go to work without having a cup of their great coffee". Stella was a student at El Centro College, but she worked in her mom and dad's restaurant



who is a senior in high school. (See article page 11.) The Bartleys celebrated their twenty-first anniversary in Rusk just riding around enjoying each other and preparing for a week long revival at the church. At one point looking for a little privacy, they teasingly evaded their son and daughter, who were following in a separate vehicle

part time. From the looks he gave her as she served "that great cup of coffee", she soon realized that he was interested in more than just a cup of coffee. Pretty soon the casual conversation over coffee turned to a date, then many dates. "I knew right away that she was the girl of my dreams," Mertis said.

On August 6, 1986 they were married. Twenty-one years later, they look back on their marriage as an incredible journey. He is now the Pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Rusk and she is the First Lady and assistant pastor. They have one daughter Alma who is in college and the most dedicated young musician a church could pray for and a son

The Bartleys believe that having a strong Christian foundation in both their marriage and home and accepting the call of Christ to work together in the ministry has brought added joy to their marriage. "She is my best friend, my girlfriend my wife and my strongest supporter", he stated, and Stella is a real asset to the church's ministerial staff."

The Bartley's live in Dallas but spend lots of time in Rusk, planning in the future to make Rusk their home. He has been in the ministry eighteen years and she since 2005. Stella is a natural at her role as First Lady. She is youth director, director of the youth choir, orders church literature,

Happy birthday Melissa Harris



Land sakes alive
Melissa
has made
thirty-
five!!

Happy
birthday
from
your
family

and does whatever it takes to bond with the church family and meet their spiritual needs. She attends workshops on Youth Ministry, Women's Ministry and the other special areas like praise dance and music that is needed to work with the youth. She is employed with Tremont Retirement Community as assistant office manager. He works for Dallas County Schools and Alma attends Stephen F. Austin University. Rev. Bartley in his role in the ministry, he sees that children have a great need for parental guidance.

Rev. Bartley quoted Genesis 1:27; 2:24: 2:18 - marriage was instituted by God and that is why after 21 years he and Stella still walk side beside and have peace, love and happiness in their marriage.

Brandon Deshawn Walker Graduates from Stephen F. Austin State University



Brandon Deshawn Walker, a 2003 Rusk High School Graduate, received his Bachelor of Art Degree in Art and Creative Writing from Stephen F. Austin State University on Saturday, August 11, 2007. The ceremony took place at the William R. Johnson Coliseum located on SFASU Campus. During the process of completing his studies, Mr. Walker participated in Art Clubs and helped produce literary

magazines. Some of his art works and literary pieces appeared in literary publications. He was also named to the National Dean's List two times during his four years of study.

Brandon's future plans include attending graduate school and working in the field of art. He is the son of Djuana Denise Walker and the grandson of Betty and Larry Walker of Rusk, Texas.

Terri's Cakes Etc.



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