

Connections

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The Alliance of Baptists is dedicated to the preservation of historic Baptist principles, freedoms, and traditions, and to the expression of our ministry and mission through cooperative relationships with other Baptist bodies and the larger Christian community.

Dealing with the business of endorsing chaplains could be a full-time job but the Alliance of Baptists for the past five years has done it successfully through use of committed volunteers.

For the past two years, Beth Jackson-Jordan has carried much of the load in her role as chair of the Endorsing Committee. Now Jay Foster of Winston-Salem, NC, as the new chair, will assume much of the responsibility.

Jay is a chaplain and clinical pastoral education supervisor at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, where he has worked for 13 years supervising 10 residents and as many as 50 interns each year. "I am willing to chair this important committee because I want to contribute to the work of the church, and the work of the Alliance is so worthwhile," he said.

Jackson-Jordan and her committee have reviewed detailed applications and approved for endorsement more than 50 chaplains during the past two years. "When the Alliance grants endorsement to a chaplain or pastoral counselor, it communicates to potential employers and certifying bodies that the endorsee is a member in good standing of our faith group and that we give our backing for this person to represent us in a specialized ministry of pastoral care," she said.

"Once endorsement is granted, we have an annual reporting process to provide some ongoing communication and accountability with endorsees," Jackson-Jordan said.

"I think there are two crucial reasons why the Alliance should be involved in the endorsement of chaplains," Foster said.

Big job handled by volunteers Foster takes lead in endorsing chaplains

"First, quality control. Because of church/state separation issues, it is difficult for the state to set licensure standards for chaplains. That is the job of faith groups. But there is need for minimum standards as with any profession."

"The way through this is to have professional organizations like the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education set standards for certification, and for faith groups to set standards for endorsement," he said. "Both endorsement and certification are needed for most jobs in the fields of healthcare, military and prison chaplaincies."

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"The second crucial reason why the Alliance needs to be involved is that many denominations will not endorse persons who take principled stands on issues that the Alliance endorses in its covenant and/or mission statements," he said. "This is especially true on issues of sexual orientation, and also true on issues of divorce. Endorsement by the Alliance allows folk to live by their conscience and continue to serve in their institutional ministry."

Foster is a member of Wake Forest Baptist Church and has been involved with the Alliance almost since its inception.

"The first convocation that I went to was in Richmond. I recall how thrilling it was to attend a Baptist church meeting and feel connected, feeling like I could be myself, feeling inspired by the worship and moved by the work of the movement," he said. "I am a member of the Alliance because I believe in the free church tradition from whence we come, and I think the Alliance lives out of this history and the following of God's spirit in the present."

Jay is married to Alice Bullock and they have two sons, Jack and Will. He earned a B.A. from Furman University and an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School. He is an ACPE supervisor and licensed professional counselor.

Jackson-Jordan, coordinator of pastoral care and education for Carolinas Health System's post acute care division in Charlotte, rotates off the Endorsing Committee, along with Alliance board member Donna Poynor of Florida.

Two new members have joined the committee — David Morton from Maryland, who works for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and board member Ann Charles-Craft, a hospital chaplain in Richmond. Other members are Karen Moore of Charlotte and Jim Coffman of Nashville.

"They have all been marvelous to work with and contributed much to improving our endorsement process," Jackson-Jordan said.



Thanks to the Alliance Mission Offering, seminary students were able to attend this year's Gathering of Baptists and Others Interested in Spirituality held June 9-14 at Mars Hill College with the theme "Like Those Who Dream." Pictured on the front row are former Alliance President Paula Dempsey, Administrative Director of the Advent Spirituality Center; John Todd, Earlham School of Religion (ESR); Joanne Afshar, ESR; Jacquelynn Schroeder, ESR; and Jackie Speicher, ESR. On the back row are Patricia Heys, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University; Beth Honeycutt, Divinity School at Wake Forest University; Joanne Swanson, NC Baptist Hospital School of Pastoral Care resident; Sara Deubner, ESR; Nikki Hardeman, McAfee; Martha Richards, McAfee; Jennifer Bracey, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond; Lynda Poston-Smith, retreat leader. Not pictured: Brian Graves, Divinity School at Wake Forest University.

Seminary students are grateful for Alliance offering that made it possible for them to attend

The Gathering

By Relma Hargus

MARS HILL, NC — Seminarians from four schools—three Baptist, one Quaker—seemed always to be busy helping the 10th annual Gathering run smoothly.

Moving chairs, selling books, slicing watermelon, snapping official candid and formal photographs were among the jobs performed by 12 seminary students from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, McAfee School of Theology, Earlham School of Religion and the School of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

The assignments were carried out as a tangible thank you to the Alliance for funding a week devoted to spiritual growth and relaxation.

The students spent Monday through mid-day Wednesday in a program led by Lynda Poston-Smith of Fort Worth, TX. Wednesday afternoon, they were joined by 50 "Baptists and Others Interested in Spirituality" for a retreat led by Ben Curtis of Nashville, TN.



\$3,000 from the Alliance Mission Offering made it possible for 12 seminary students to attend the Gathering of Baptists and Others Interested in Spirituality

Ben helped the group explore the role of dreams in developing one's spiritual life during five sessions. Various afternoon workshops, such as exploring the poetry of Evelyn Underhill and discovering the healing contribution of art, added to the learning atmosphere.

Worship in the Mars Hill chapel had elements stemming from the time together, including a liturgical dance by participants in the sacred movement workshop. Their movements followed the words to the hymn written especially for this year's Gathering by Neil Maxey of Walnut Cove, NC.

A cloth filled with drawings and words celebrating the 10 years of the Gathering, one of the programs offered by the Advent Spirituality Center in Mars Hill, was also a focal point during one of the formal worship services.

Jackie Speicher, a student at Earlham in Richmond, IN, was among those not satisfied with the "working thank you" already provided at the retreat. "Please express my grateful thanks to those who made it possible for me to have a scholarship to the Gathering," she wrote in an e-mail to Jerry Jarrell, Advent Spirituality Center program facilitator. "I had a wonderful time meeting so many really fine people from so many different states and so many church occupations, all with a passion for spirituality!"

She added that she plans to use Ben's "invaluable information" during workshops and seminars she will be leading for the Center for Spirituality in Richmond. Paula Dempsey, administrative director for Advent Spirituality Center, said the seminary students' contribution to the Gathering made this year's event "run smoother than any other year."

"However, their most significant gift to the Gathering was their enthusiasm and their openness to experiential learning. How grateful I am that the Alliance of Baptists provides funds enabling their participation."

Relmus Hargus serves on the Alliance board. From Baton Rouge, LA, she is the immediate past secretary.

Encouraging words

— to CBF missionaries and to President Bush

As this column is written, President Bush is in Botswana, a southern African nation with the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the world. Health authorities estimate that 40 percent of the adult population of Botswana is infected with the HIV virus or already has AIDS. Botswana's neighbor to the northeast, Zimbabwe, is plagued with similarly depressing statistics, in addition to a full-scale economic and political crisis owing principally to the despotic rule of its president, Robert Mugabe. Zimbabwe is of particular interest to Alliance people because of our fruitful partnership with the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe and its theological seminary.

During his State-of-the-Union address last Jan. 28, President Bush asked Congress for \$15 billion in emergency funding to invest in the fight against AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean, the two areas in the world most affected by the grim disease. At the time I commended him, and do so now again while he is on his five-day trip to five African nations, and call on Congress to appropriate the requested funds immediately. Every day lost means more lives lost in the worst health crisis of our generation.

These U.S. dollars will not automatically nor unilaterally defeat the scourge of HIV/AIDS. We will need to invest many billions more in coming years, as will other nations with the means to do so. But it is a beginning — and President Bush deserves credit for caring enough to challenge the nation's lawmakers to make such an investment. Money, and lots of it, is urgently needed.

So is the human investment represented by Alliance members Fran and Lonnie Turner, who represent the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship from their base in Cape Town, South Africa. Fran Turner is a superb public health nurse who knows as much about HIV/AIDS as anyone anywhere. She has the big picture in focus, to be sure, what world health experts call a pandemic. But she knows the dreadful truths about

it close-up as well. To look into her eyes as she describes the victims of HIV/AIDS is like looking into the eyes of Jesus.

As for Lonnie Turner, whose business card reads simply, "HIV/AIDS and Public Policy," the world needs another 1,000 like him. If there were that many Lonnie Turners making the case in world

capitals, as he has done tirelessly here in Washington, money would not be a problem. And as Lonnie says, always with contagious passion, enough money properly spent will defeat HIV/AIDS. When you hear him exclaim, "This can be done!" even skeptics are converted. This I know because I used to be one of them.

Ten years ago, the Alliance and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship decided and announced to Baptists that we would not engage in competitive actions in the fulfillment of our missionary vocation. We've kept that pledge. But that's not enough, I propose. We need to move beyond such a commitment, stated almost in the negative, to speak up for the Fran and Lonnie Turners who represent us all so nobly. Talking with these two choice servants of Christ in the exhibit hall at the CBF General Assembly in Charlotte, I couldn't help thinking again what I've thought every time I've had the privilege of being with them. We've got to let Baptists know about them. More than that, President Bush and members of Congress

need to know about them too, for it is they and others like them who are the foot soldiers in the most important battle we are waging. The war on HIV/AIDS is winnable. If we help win it, that victory will do more to ensure the standing of our nation throughout the world than any other victory won by any means whatever.

While this war is waged, why not send Fran and Lonnie Turner an encouraging message at 76622.637@compuserve.com? Make them and all other warriors against HIV/AIDS the objects of fervent prayer. And do the same for the president and the senators and representatives who hold the keys to victory over a foe that can and must be defeated.

perspectives



By Stan Hastey
Executive Director



Associate Director Jeanette Holt set up and staffed an Alliance booth at the CBF General Assembly in Charlotte June 26-28. She is pictured here with Wayne Martin, retired pastor of Weldon Baptist Church in North Carolina, now living in Georgia.

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Amy Butler called as pastor of Calvary Church; Ammermans take new positions in Boston

Alliance member **Amy K. Butler** has been called as pastor of the Alliance-affiliated **Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, DC**. For the past three and one-half years, she has been associate pastor of membership and missions at another affiliated congregation, **St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans**. Also in New Orleans, she has been a program advisor at Lindy's Place Inc., a ministry to homeless women, and for two years was a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionary in the inner city administering programs for homeless women. She is to begin her service in Washington in mid-August.

The Alliance-affiliated **Kirkwood Baptist Church, St. Louis**, has called **Daniel Johnson** as associate pastor for students, with primary responsibility for the youth program. He also will be staff liaison to university students. He has been minister to students at First Baptist Church, Dalton, GA, for the past three years.

Marti Williams has become associate pastor of Metro Baptist Church in New York City. She recently finished a two-year pastoral internship with the congregation, located in the Hell's Kitchen district of Manhattan. Following the destruction of the twin towers at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Marti and Metro Pastor David Waugh provided exemplary ministry to

fellow New Yorkers and others affected by the disaster. In her new position, Williams will have responsibilities in the areas of outreach and community programming.

Alliance members **Nancy and Jackie Ammerman** have accepted new positions with Boston University School of Theology. Jackie began his duties as head librarian of the BU Theology Library in January, while Nancy's appointment to the theology faculty officially begins in September. She will be on the faculty of BU's Sociology Department as well. Daughter **Abbey** recently graduated from Smith College. Both Jackie and Nancy most recently were on the faculty of Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT.

Alliance member **Jon E. Singletary** has been appointed assistant professor in the Baylor University School of Social Work. He is a graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Interfaith Alliance President and former Alliance of Baptists President **C. Welton Gaddy** was the guest preacher at Washington National Cathedral July 6. His Independence Weekend sermon celebrated the nation's heritage of religious freedom.

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Through June 30

2003 Operating Budget

Needs:	\$ 150,078
Receipts:	\$ 120,064

2003 Mission Offering

Goal:	\$ 111,000
Receipts:	\$ 42,161



Executive Director Stan Hastey delivered three lectures on current church-state issues at the Furman University Pastors' School the first week of July. He is shown with past Alliance president Ann Quattlebaum.