

# connections

Our Mission is to make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings, foster relationships within and outside the Alliance, create places of refuge and renewal for those wounded or ignored by the church, side with the poor, pursue justice with and for the oppressed, care for the earth, work for peace, honor wisdom and lifelong learning, and hold ourselves accountable for equity, collegiality and diversity.

March 2000

Volume 3 Issue 3

**CONVOCATION PANEL**

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION**



WELTON GADDY

Alliance president C. Welton Gaddy, Executive Director of The Interfaith Alliance in Washington, DC, will be one of four panel members on Saturday morning at the convocation discussing contemporary issues in church-state separation. Welton is completing his second year as president of the Alliance. He is also pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Monroe, LA.

Joining Welton on the panel will be:

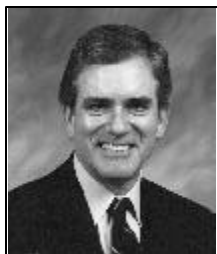
- Barry W. Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a position he has held since October 1992. A lawyer, Barry has appeared frequently on television and radio to debate and discuss First Amendment issues.

- Samantha Smoot, Executive Director of the Texas Faith Network.
- J. Brent Walker, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. He speaks frequently on church-state issues at churches, conferences, and seminars. A lawyer, Brent also earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

Susan Paynter, an education consultant in Austin and member of the board of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will be the moderator.



BARRY LYNN



BRENT WALKER

**CONVOCATION SCHEDULE**

**Thursday night:**

President's Address by C. Welton Gaddy

**Friday morning:**

Workshops  
Covenant Address by James McClendon

**Friday Afternoon:**

State of the Alliance Address by Stan Haste  
Annual Meeting

**Friday night:**

Hymn Sing led by Max Lyall

**Saturday Morning:**

Church-State Panel Discussion  
Worship and Communion led by Julie Pennington-Russell

MCCLENDON



PENNINGTON-RUSSELL



**FRIDAY NIGHT HYMN SING AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Friday night's service will be a departure from Convocation traditions. An old-fashioned hymn sing and ice cream social will be an informal evening of music and poetry. Max Lyall of Baltimore, MD., with help from the sanctuary choir of the host church, University Baptist Church, will lead in group singing of favorite hymns. Darrell Adams of Louisville, KY, and Miki Thompson of Nacogdoches, TX, will also perform. Interwoven with the music will be original writings by Jane Webb Childress of Nacogdoches, Carol Younger of Waco, Jerry Gentry and Amy Green of Atlanta. Following the service, the ice cream social will be courtesy of Baptist Women in Ministry.



LYALL



**Convocation 2000**

*University Baptist Church*

**Austin, Texas**

**April 27-29**

beginning with a reception at 6 p.m. on Thursday and worship at 7:15



*14th Annual Convocation*

**FRIDAY LUNCH**

Special gatherings during lunch on Friday:

- Fellowship for students.

*Information sessions on:*

- Alliance endorsement of chaplains.
- Alliance-sponsored trip to Israel in June.
- Cuban partnership
- Zimbabwe partnership



Alliance Associate Director Jeanette Holt deserves the credit for imagining that the Austin Convocation would be a propitious time to take a fresh look at the fragile relationship between church and state. She reasoned that in our 13 years we had yet to focus on religious liberty as a convocation theme.

Furthermore, she said back then, by the time we met in the capital city of Texas, the 2000 presidential season would be in full swing, with the prospect of a lively discussion of the church-state equation among the candidates. The Lone Star State, she argued, would be a good place to take up the subject, given the pivotal role Texas Baptists have played in the long and ongoing struggle for the preservation of religious freedom. On all counts, Jeanette was right.

So next month, with a potentially watershed election ahead, we are going to Austin for what will be an intensive seminar in the proper relationship between church and state in the nation that two centuries ago undertook a radical experiment in statecraft by creating a healthy distance between these two foundational institutions of society.

Several years ago, the Alliance board of directors made the wise decision to focus our collective attention on one of the seven principles in the Alliance Covenant at each convocation. Then two years ago, with a new Mission statement in place to supplement the

perspectives



By Stan Haste  
Executive Director

Covenant, directors expanded that mandate to include the new document as well. Together, these actions give needed guidance to the board and its convocation committees to highlight our key commitments and mandates for action year after year.

What can we expect in Austin? First, in keeping with our Mission statement's pledge to "make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings," Alliance people will gather to worship God. This year's Convocation Committee has worked hard to create worship experiences that will highlight the breadth of Baptist worship practices.

As always, we go to convocations to be together. In the Alliance, this rich fellowship is far more than a back-slapping, hugging and kissing good time. It is all that, yes, and more. Our Mission statement also vows to "create places of refuge and renewal for those who are wounded or ignored by the church." There are lots of wounds to heal and ignorance to address.

Finally, we'll be in Austin to learn about our chosen subject, what William Lee Miller calls our nation's "first freedom" — religious liberty. In so doing, we'll be living into our commitment to "honor wisdom and lifelong learning." And, yes, we all have a lot of wisdom and learning yet to assimilate.

Merely writing down these thoughts makes me realize I can't wait to get to Austin. Here's hoping you feel the same way.

**CONVOCATION WORKSHOPS**

*Restorative Justice: The Move to a Biblical Justice Paradigm* led by Evelyn Hanneman of Charlotte, NC.

*Can We Talk?: The Work of Dialogue with Enemies* led by Joseph Phelps of Louisville, KY.

*Canada, Cuba, Zimbabwe: Church-State Perspectives* with representatives of the Alliance's international partners.

*Being the Church: Exploring Multiculturalism in Congregations* led by Cathy Tamsberg of Raleigh, NC.

*Teaching Faith, Teaching Identity: History and Heritage for Children* led by Ann Charles-Craft, Richmond, VA.

*Developing an Environmental Ministry in Your Congregation* led by Elizabeth Barnes of Richmond, VA, and Herman Greene, Chapel Hill, NC.

*So We Think We've Got This Solved: Another Look at the Partnering of Men and Women in the Church* led by Stephen Boyd and Lynn Rhodes, Winston-Salem, NC; Bill Sapp, Louisville, KY; and Nancy Hastings Sehested, Clyde, NC.

*Avenues to Healing: Beginning Interfaith Dialogues* led by the Alliance Interfaith Relations Committee.

*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Resource for Congregations on Sexual Orientation* led by Mahan Siler, Franklinton, NC.

*"Free Exercise," "No Establishment," and the Military Chaplaincy*, a discussion led by the Alliance Peace and Justice Committee.

**Registration Form**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare needs (ages/times) \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration fee: \$60 per person \$30 students*

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Alliance of Baptists, 1328 16th St. NW,  
Washington, DC 20036

**Miscellaneous Information**

**Housing:** Four Points Hotel/Sheraton: (512) 836-8520. Free housing available for students. Call Richard Moore, (512) 328-2044, ext. 12.

**Site:** University Baptist Church: (512) 478-8559

**Discount Airfares:** Carson Wagonlit Travel, ask for Ann Yates, (919) 469-5071 or (800) 521-8529

# alliance finances

## 2000 Operating Budget:

Needs: \$40,820  
Receipts: \$50,714

## 2000 Mission Offering

Goal: \$85,250  
Receipts: \$11,362

March 2000

# connections

The Alliance of Baptists  
1328 16th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036

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On an average night in Atlanta, there are nearly 6,000 homeless single men and about 4,500 of them are in need of substance abuse treatment. There are only 800 beds available to meet these needs.

The Alliance of Baptists, through its support of Oakhurst Recovery Program, is helping to bridge that gap, if only marginally.

Oakhurst has evolved from a night shelter to a treatment program to a recovery program since its inception at Oakhurst Baptist Church in 1981.

Today, 12-14 homeless men live at the center an average of 8-12 months free of charge. "That makes us unique because these days most insurance plans don't allow people to stay in a recovery program very long. But we have found that the longer they have to adapt, the better chance they have of a lasting recovery," said Mayo Funderburg, executive director.

About 60% of men who complete the Oakhurst recovery program remain free of alcohol or drugs for at least one year after they graduate.

Oakhurst offers a long-term approach to addiction recovery that is individualized for each man, Funderburg said. Each participant is paired with a staff member

who guides him through his program.

There are 12 staff members — only two are paid — and seven of them are graduates of the program themselves, including Funderburg.

The Alliance's \$3,000 is used to buy food, which is the second largest single expenditure in the \$128,000 budget.



Other funding comes from congregations, corporations, foundations and individuals.

"The Alliance of Baptists has been vitally important to us because of its long-standing commitment," said Funderburg. "The Alliance has recognized that we offer a service that is needed."

The Alliance is trying to bridge a similar gap in Raleigh, NC, with its support of Emmaus House, an offering recipient for the past several years.

Former resident Ron Collier continues to be the on-site director of the program, that provides a supportive living environ-

ment for working men in transition.

Emmaus House was begun in 1987 by Pullen Memorial Church and is now supported by more than two dozen churches in the Raleigh area.

The men live in a rooming house atmosphere under rigid rules that are designed to help them recover from their dependency. They all work. No alcohol or drugs are allowed on site. No one is allowed to come home drunk or under the influence of drugs. They have tasks assigned them around the house that they must do.

In return for following these rules, the men are provided the subsidized housing and meals, giving them the opportunity to save their money. They also learn to live with other people, an important aspect of their being able to return to live with their wives and children.

The Alliance gift of \$2,000 helps maintain the house and pay for insurance. "We are so grateful that the Alliance has been willing to help us with our funding for several years now," said board member Brooks Wicker. "So often people want to fund a particular program but the Alliance is willing to fund our general operating expenses. The Alliance puts its faith in us to use its funds wisely."



Individuals are invited to become members of the Alliance at any time. Annual membership dues are \$40, individuals; \$60, families; \$125, sustaining; and \$20, students/low income.