

connections

February 1999

Volume 2 Issue 2

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.

1999

Convocation

**March 12-14
Richmond**

Northminster Baptist Church & Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond with concurrent

Youth Convocation

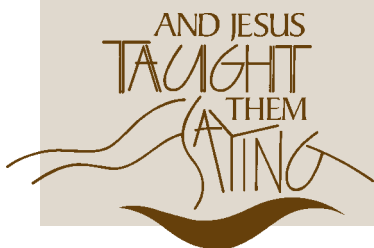
Featuring

Phyllis Tribble, Wake Forest Divinity School

Nancy Ammerman, Hartford Seminary

Ken Meyers, Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church

The Convocation begins at 7 p.m. on March 12 at Northminster Baptist Church



Participants in next month's 13th Annual Convocation in Richmond, VA, once more will face the difficult task of choosing but two from among many interesting workshop options.

Altogether, 20 workshops are to be offered in two separate one-and-one-half-hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings. None, however, will be repeated. All workshops will be held in Watts Hall on the campus of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

In releasing this year's list of workshops, Alliance Convocation Committee member Lynda Weaver-Williams and Associate Director Jeanette Holt noted that while several of the workshops were chosen to complement the overall programmatic emphasis on theological education, others were selected to fulfill a Board of Directors mandate to focus on the various emphases in the Alliance Covenant and to honor specific requests of some standing committees of the Board.

**hard choices:
20 workshops**



music



Cynthia Brown, minister of music and worship at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, and adjunct professor and coordinator of church music studies at Meredith College, has been named music coordinator for the Richmond Convocation.

Brown, who also played a key role as musician and worship planner for the 1997 convocation in Raleigh, received the B.S. from Campbell University and M.C.M. and D.M.A. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.

A gifted conductor, instrumentalist and vocalist, Brown will continue the Alliance tradition of modeling church music at its best in Richmond.

Goal met: \$75,179

The goal for our 1998 Frontiers of Hope Mission Offering was \$75,000, which we surpassed during the last week in January. That means that all 18 of our offering recipients received their full funding. Thanks to each church and individual that contributed to Alliance causes during 1998. Our 1999 goal for the new Bridges of Hope Mission Offering emphasis is \$80,000, supporting 20 causes.



Tim Noel is the new pastor at Broaddus Memorial Baptist Church, Charlottesville VA. He has been at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, KY, for the past six years.

Rebecca Spitz Donley was born on November 7, 1998. Her parents are Doug and Kim Donley. Doug is pastor of Dolores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Cecil Staton Sr., father of Alliance member and Smyth & Helwys Publishing's Cecil Staton Jr., died Jan. 2 in Greenville, SC. He was a craftsman and shoemaker.

Former Alliance Board member Shanta Premawardhana, pastor of Cornell Baptist Church in Chicago, is traveling this month to his native Sri Lanka, where he will address the semiannual meeting of the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya and extend greetings from the Alliance.

Alliance member Bob Patterson assumed new responsibilities Feb. 1 as the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. A native of Poplar Bluff, MO, Patterson is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. While there he was a member of Broadway Baptist Church. For 23 years prior to changing careers, he worked in the U.S. Department of Defense.

Alliance Board member Kathy Manis Findley has been elected chairperson of the Little Rock Commission on Domestic Violence. She recently received certification from the National College of District Attorneys upon successful completion of the College's domestic violence curriculum. She is the author of a new book, *The Survivor's Voice: Healing the Invisible Wounds of Violence and Abuse*, to be released this spring by Smyth & Helwys.

happenings

Partners in Ministry

1999 Zimbabwe Partnership Mission Trip

July 15-Aug. 3

Sponsored by the
Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe
and The Alliance of Baptists

Contact:
Bonnie Dixon
217 Lochside Drive
Cary, NC 27511
Phone: 919/851-6577
Fax: 919/859-1745
E-Mail: bjaadixon@aolcom

zimbabwe

Some renovation work may be done and volunteers may lead in some worship services, but no special skills are needed to participate in this trip. Anyone who has any interest is asked to contact Bonnie immediately.

A delegation of six from Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville, NC, will visit its sister church in Yaguajay Feb. 25-March 7. Among the travelers is the church's pastor, Bobby Blanton.

Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA, is sending a delegation of 10 led by Wayne Blythe to visit its sister congregation in Lagunillas March 5-12.

c u b a

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Many Alliance churches understand the bumper sticker, "To believe is to care; To care is to do." Too often, however, our resulting social action outreach leads to burnout and a sense of failure as we seek justice from rigid institutions. We may not realize the need for a third: "To do is to believe."

Pullen Memorial Baptist in Raleigh shifted to a mission group model for doing outreach 14 years ago. As the Minister to the Community over this period, I have summarized what we have learned from this innovative approach, created by the Church of the Saviour. Simply put, it works. Outreach has been transformed into a wide variety of life-giving ministries which renew the church rather than drain away energy.

The report, TRANSFORMING OUTREACH, will be available at the Richmond Convocation or by contacting me at 1801 Hillsborough St. Raleigh, NC 27605 A modest fee will cover our printing and shipping.

— John Hilpert

Of all the good things that have happened to Alliance people and churches in partnership with our Cuban sisters and brothers, nothing quite approaches in sheer drama the recent experience of Wayne Blythe and Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA. For Freemason Street Pastor Don Dunlap, “It’s been the most awesome thing I’ve ever been connected with.”

It began with a faxed prayer request Dec. 2 from Dr. Ernesto Cue of Lagunillas, Cuba, where he attends Freemason Street’s sister church. Little Daniel Alejandro Cuella Santana, born a month earlier with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, was not expected to live until Christmas.

But thanks to Blythe, Dunlap and other members of Freemason Street — with generous assistance from other Christians in the Tidewater region of Virginia — Daniel is alive today. How he escaped certain death is a testimony to the power of prayer put on wings. Literally.

Besides the prayer request, Dr. Cue faxed Daniel’s echocardiogram, which was reviewed by Dr. Richard Lester, a radiologist and Freemason Street member. He in turn consulted with Dr. Daniel Schneider, a pediatric cardiologist colleague in Norfolk, to confirm the deadly diagnosis. Together, they conducted a nationwide search to identify the few cardiologists who perform the rare procedure required.

The search ended when the Norfolk physicians contacted Dr. Richard Perryman of Hollywood, FL, a cardiac surgeon who immediately agreed to take on the case free of charge. Yet the hospital where he works would have to be paid some \$25,000 for its costs. Within a week, the goal had been met and surpassed.

What remained to be done was daunting. Transportation had to be arranged and approved by U.S. and Cuban authorities. Dunlap suddenly remembered a

presentation made at his Rotary Club several months earlier by Richard Love, a pilot who flies mercy missions with AirLifeLine. When Dunlap contacted Love, he agreed to help.

Yet legal obstacles had to be overcome. With the help of U.S. Senators John Warner and Chuck Robb, the Department of State was persuaded to intervene in the case, giving permission for Love’s flight to and from Cuba and persuading the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to grant travel visas to Daniel and his

mother, Miriela Santana.

On Sunday, Dec. 27, little Daniel underwent the required surgery. It was spectacularly successful. He is now back home in Lagunillas. Although future treatment will be required, his prognosis is bright. His story has been front-page news. He’s been on television. And now you know about him.

This is people-to-people work at its best. It’s also about the gospel. And about our vocation as Alliance people. Thanks be to God.

perspectives



*By Stan Hastey
Executive Director*

Housing Information
for 1999 Convocation
in Richmond

Holiday Inn Central
804/359-9441
\$59 per night S/D/T/Q
Ask for the Alliance of
Baptists rate.

Registration Form: 1999 Convocation March 12-14

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: \$60 Individual \$100 Couple \$30 Student

Child care needs (List ages/times) _____

Mail to: Alliance of Baptists, 1328 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

Northminster Baptist Church, site of the opening Convocation session, is located at 3121 Moss Side Avenue, at the corner of Westwood and Moss Side avenues. 804/321-2511. Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond is nearby.

alliance **f** **inances**

Budget Gifts
 Operating Income: \$29,642
 Budget Needs: \$19,636
 Frontiers of Hope
 Mission Offering:
 1998 Final Report
 Goal: \$75,000
 Receipts: \$75,179

connections

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

Non-Profit Org.
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 Greenville, SC

convocation workshops



This is the lineup that was available as *connections* went to press.

Calling Church Members to

Responsible Citizenship Bill Ingram, Interfaith Alliance

Table Manners for Nourishing

Interfaith Dialogue Alisa Monfalcone; David Waugh

Being Baptist in a New Century: Intentional Identity Bill Leonard

Pursuing Vocation in the Nonprofit Sector Ken Sehested

Vocational Angst: Life After Seminary Furman Hewitt, Jeanette Holt

Submission and Dominance:

Power Issues in Church Becca Gurney; Bill Sapp

Introducing the Alliance Social Justice Curriculum Cathy Tamsberg

Faith and Ecology Herman Greene, Elizabeth Barnes,
 David Wheeler

Spiritual Friendships Tom Turner

Celtic Spirituality Linda McKinnish Bridges

Spirituality and the Creative Arts Kelly Sisson

Educating Congregations for/in Worship Kim Buchanan, Allen Mullinax

Introducing New Hymns to the Congregation Paul Richardson

Faith Development for Children Pat Fulbright

Faith Development for Youth Sterling Severns

Faith Development for Adults William Dols



Theological Education in Zimbabwe Henry Mugabe, John Mazvigadza

Theological Education in Cuba José Ferrer; Ena García

Bridging Racism Through Relationships (To be announced)

Gay and Lesbian Christians in the Church:

The Process of Reconciliation (To be announced)

DO YOU 
 KNOW YOUR
 NEIGHBOR?

PERSPECTIVES IN DIVERSITY

A Youth Convocation will be held concurrently with the Alliance's annual Convocation March 12-14.

On Saturday, a variety of learning activities focusing on racial, sexual and religious diversity is planned. Sunday morning, youth will meet to share their experiences and then join the larger convocation for worship.

Todd and Ginny Brown Daniel of Richmond, VA, are program directors. To register, please call Bonnie Dixon immediately at 919/851-6577. Registration is \$55 per person.



1999
 Mission
 Offering
 Goal:
 \$80,000
 supporting 20
 ministries

*The annual meeting of the Alliance will be held beginning
 at 2 p.m. on Saturday at Northminster.*