

# connections

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Volume 4 Issue 11

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.

## Anne Thomas Neil: Richmond scholarship given to recognize life-long contributions

Anne  
Thomas  
Neil and  
Estelle  
Rountree  
McCarthy



The Center for Women in Christian Leadership has established a new scholarship for women in honor of Alliance founding member Anne Thomas Neil and a Presbyterian Christian educator.

Beginning with an endowment gift of \$10,000, the total amount of the scholarship principal is approximately \$29,000. The announcement of the scholarship was made Sept. 15 at a special service at Grace Baptist Church in Richmond.

Anne served as a missionary, a seminary educator, and an original trustee of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

In addition to Anne, the scholarship also recognizes Presbyterian Estelle Rountree McCarthy. She is professor emeritus of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education and a member of the

Board of Directors of the Center for Women, Inc.

Both women have contributed widely to the education and encouragement of lay and ordained women in ministry in Presbyterian and Baptist circles.

The scholarship will be awarded to a rising senior within the Richmond Theological Consortium (RTC) who shows promise as an emerging leader in the church. She may be a student at any of the RTC institutions: The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, The Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University or Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

The Center for Women was established in 1993 and closed this year. It had offered a variety of programs and services for women, primarily in the Richmond area. It had been a recipient of Alliance Mission Offering funds for three years.

Anne Thomas Neil, 80, is a native of South Carolina. She was ordained just last year at Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh. She was a missionary to Nigeria and Ghana, taught missions at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, and was involved in the early development of both the Alliance and Baptist Women in Ministry.

She and her husband Lloyd are parents of two daughters, Elaine Orr, a professor at North Carolina State University, and Rebecca Albritton, a pastoral counselor in Raleigh.

### To contribute:

The scholarship fund recognizing Anne Thomas Neil is still open. If you would like to contribute, you may mail your check to: The Center for Women, Inc., P.O. Box 15564, Richmond, Virginia. 23227. For further information concerning donations to the scholarship or questions about the scholarship, call Betty Pugh at 804.353.0134 or email at [Bpugh@bellatlantic.net](mailto:Bpugh@bellatlantic.net).

# R E S C H E E D U L E E D

This event was postponed from September because of disruption in air travel.

## GOING WEST

*For We Have Heard of Your Faith*

Saturday, January 12

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church,  
Oakland, CA

Sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists and  
American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Coast

### Speakers:

**Nancy Hastings Sehested**  
**Michael-Ray Mathews**

**Workshops:** Meet the Alliance of  
Baptists • Environmental  
Stewardship • Conflict  
Transformation • Faith-Based Initiatives  
and Church-State Separation • Art as  
Prison Ministry • Current and Creative  
Worship Resources

### Registration:

\$25/Students:  
\$15. Mail to Alliance of Baptists,  
1328 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington,  
D.C. 20036

**Hotel:** The hotel arrangements  
have not yet been finalized. Check  
the website or next month's *connections*  
for the latest information.

Details of the event are on the  
website. [www.allianceofbaptists.org](http://www.allianceofbaptists.org).

**W**anda Burton-Crutchfield is Executive Director of Area Christians Together in Service (ACTS) of Vance County, NC. ACTS has an emergency assistance program with a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, food pantry and utility assistance program. Wanda, a former Alliance board member, previously served as pastor of Menokin Baptist Church, Warsaw VA.

happenings

**Bill Brosend** is the new Associate Director of the Louisville Institute, a Lilly

Endowment program for the study of American religion based at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Formerly, Brosend was pastor of First Baptist



Bill Brosend

Church, Rochester, NY, an Alliance-affiliated congregation.

**Melanie Vaughn-West** was ordained to the gospel ministry by Oakhurst Baptist Church, Decatur, GA., on Sept. 29. She had served as Oakhurst's preaching interim pastor during the sabbatical of senior pastor Lanny Peters. She began her ministry as pastor of Broadneck Baptist Church, Annapolis MD., on October 21. Susan Ballenger, associate pastor of Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta, represented the Alliance of Baptists on the ordination council and during the ordination service. Representatives of the Broadneck congregation also participated in the service.

Cornell Baptist Church has a new name and a new identity, according to pastor Shanta Premawardhana. The new name is **Ellis Avenue Church** and the congregation's mission is "celebrating

diversity, building community in Christ." Shanta is a former board member of the Alliance.



Shanta Premawardhana

The **Virginia Chapter** of the Alliance of Baptists will meet for dinner at 5:30 at Lake Ridge Baptist Church, Woodbridge, VA, on Nov. 7, prior to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. The guest speaker will be Midiam Lobaina, Secretaria Docente of the Lay Theological Institute of Havana, Cuba. She will speak about the Women's Study Program of the Institute. Sylvia Campbell is president of the Virginia Chapter. For information/reservations, contact Lynn Henley by phone 540.989.3442 or e-mail [lynnehenle@aol.com](mailto:lynnehenle@aol.com).



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## Response to the terrorist attacks on the United States

Now that the immediate needs of those harmed by the attacks are being met, the long-term needs must be addressed as well. Church World Service's Domestic Terrorism Recovery is responding to the emotional and spiritual care counseling needs in New York City. Qualified counselors with special training in emotional and spiritual care and/or critical incident stress debriefing who wish to volunteer can call 800.226.7962. They will be added to the database and will be matched with requests received from around the country. Financial support for this project can be sent to Church World Service, Domestic Terrorism Recovery, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart IL 46515. Updates can be found at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org). U.N. refugee officials in Pakistan report that events in Afghanistan could quickly deteriorate into one of the worst humanitarian crises ever. Conditions are approaching family, and hundreds of thousands of refugees are at the sealed Pakistan border desperately trying to escape. Church World Service is seeking to raise over \$1.5 million to meet the initial needs of this population. Contributions can be sent to: CWS, Pakistan/Afghanistan Emergency, Account #6930, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart IL 46515.

# The Believing Community Strikes Back:

## Baptism as political mandate

Among the first questions I heard on the epoch-dividing date of September 11 was the question from my good friend's third-grader: "Papa, are we safe here?" And that was in a small town in Texas where I was visiting. Now, with most others, the turbulent emotions have subsided a bit, yielding to the daily demands of groceries to buy, schedules to keep, children to attend. But the deeply affective question "are we safe?" continues to roil just beneath the surface.

The Believing Community of Jesus (like much of the nation) has a lot of remedial learning to do if we are to function as leaven amid the loaf. There are many questions to be asked, like why Osama bin Laden was on our public payroll in the first place (as were, formerly, numerous others who later appeared on our national "most wanted" list)? How does the presence of oil deposits in the region around Afghanistan—estimated to be greater than in the Middle East—influence national policies in this conflict? What is it about the combination of deeply-felt religious faith and patriotism that succors the violent imaginations of those aligned with the Al Qaeda terror network (or the Ku Klux Klan, or the Timothy McVeighs, here in our own neighborhoods)? Why do we continue to finance the School of the Americas, training military leaders from Latin America, when a significant percentage of the school's graduates have been indicted and/or convicted of some of the worst forms of terrorism in their own countries?

Surely the Gospel proclamation must be made from an informed analysis of these and related issues. But that's not the most important concern for our congregations. Rather, the most important remedial reminders we need involve the character and content of baptism. In the rush to armaments, to international policies of retaliation and domestic policies of repression, we need reminding of our baptismal vows to cruciform life: of dying and being buried with Christ prior to resurrection. And in "practicing resurrection" (Wendell Berry), we will likely locate ourselves on the minority end of public opinion polls.

Why? Because baptism introduces us to a different political mandate. Not "political" in the partisan lexicon of Democrat vs. Republican, conservative vs. liberal. There are many conflicting public policy agendas to which Scripture has no obvious or unambiguous response and thus we assess equally conflicting recommendations from the baptized. Discerning the mind of Christ regarding a host of specific policy options—within the larger culture or within

the church itself—is rarely a simple or clear-cut process.

But at this point we must be clear (even as we debate precise applications): Ultimately, power does not flow from the barrel of a gun. While violence may destroy power, it can never, ever create it. "Every war already carries within it the war which will answer it,"

wrote Käthe Kollwitz, artist of torment. "Every war is answered by a new war, until everything, everything is smashed." Or as the poet e.e. cummings wrote with such concise precision, "hatred bounces."

Our baptismal vows are politically relevant although, by and large, that fact is little understood in the church and virtually oblivious to the larger world.

In the featured *Time Magazine* op-ed article for the January 1993 issue, essayist Lance Morrow wrote: "War is rich and vivid, with its traditions, its military academies, its ancient regiments and hero stories, its Iliads, its flash. Peace is not exciting. Its accoutrements are, almost by definition, unremarkable if they work well. It is a rare society that tells exemplary stories of peacemaking—except, say, for the Gospels of Christ, whose irenic grace may be admired from a distance, without much effect on daily behavior."

This same author, in the special September 11 issue of the same journal, began his commentary ("The case for rage and retribution") on the day's trauma with these lines: "For once, let's have no fatuous rhetoric about healing. . . . Let's have rage. . . . a policy of focused brutality . . . relearn why human nature has equipped us all with a weapon called hatred."

The only commentary I know that competes with such scalding rhetoric is the more dispassionate, but no less chilling, statement on the bumper sticker sold at our local military surplus store: "Those who beat their swords into plowshares will plow for those of us who don't."

As a short-term goal at this crucial junction, our congregations need to nurture critical analysis of public policy—"America strikes back"—and do so as part of the commonweal of patriots who love our land and cherish our historic ideals. This is one way we can "strike back" at warmongering.

But the more fundamental, long-term goal involves a recovery of baptismal integrity. It will involve exploring, with imagination and courage, why Jesus was so insistent in putting love of enemies as the touchstone of his message, why the Apostle Paul identified "the ministry of reconciliation" as his doctrinal pivot, including admonitions to "overcome evil with good."

Were they kidding? Unfortunately, serious thinking about Jesus only happens on the road. But there's company to be had.

*Peacemongers unite!*



perspectives

By **Ken Sehested**

*Alliance member Ken Sehested is executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. For a copy of his earlier reflection on the events of September 11 ("In the Valley of the Shadow") and other news of how the BPFNA is responding to this crisis, go to its web site: [www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org).*

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**2001 Operating Budget**

Through October 15

Needs: \$220,829  
Receipts: \$204,455

**2001 Mission Offering:**

Goal: \$92,000  
Receipts: \$52,469

November 2001

## A new call to mission: Help for perplexed churches

Alliance churches have an opportunity to buy Alan Neely's book, **A New Call to Mission: Help for Perplexed Churches**, at a discount rate. Alan is offering the book in packages of 10 for a donation of \$30. He has less than 1,000 copies left.

The book, written in 1999, explains the differences in the way that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Alliance of Baptists and the International Mission Board do missions.

It also discusses the current missiological situation in the world, and takes a world view of doing missions. The last three chapters of the book are designed to lead a church or missions committee through the steps necessary to develop a strong missions program and to keep it current. The book is 120 pages.

Earlier in his career, Alan was a missionary to Colombia, where he taught missions at a seminary in Cali. He retired in 1996 as professor of missions at Princeton.

Alan will bring the Covenant Address at the 2002 Alliance Convocation. He is currently writing a history of the Alliance.

If you would like to order the book, contact the Alliance office, or Alan.



**Alan Neely**  
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Raleigh, NC 27615  
919.848.4897  
aneely@touchnc.net

“I appreciate the way in which you contrast the various perplexions of mission today within the SBC. I believe it will be a very helpful book to hundreds of churches hoping to figure out what in the world has happened to Lottie and Annie.”

—Ron Johnson, Professor of Mission and Evangelism, McAfee School of Theology.

## A review: ‘Every church needs this book to rediscover missions’

*By Bob Ballance*

Missiologist Alan Neely turns to Emil Brunner's **The Word and the World** to highlight this truth: “The church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning.” So without combustion there is no fire, and without mission there is no church. Neely reminds us: “Mission therefore is not the result of the church. The church is the result of mission” (p. 21). Without mission “there may

be a beautiful building, a convivial fellowship, a thriving and prosperous organization — a club as it were — but if there is no consciousness of being sent, and no implementation of being sent into the world, there is no church in the New Testament or Christian sense of mission” (p. 21).

With this truth in mind Neely recalls a four-day mission seminar he led in a church. He invited participants

to raise questions during discussion times or to write them down for him to share at the beginning of each new session. One question he received was, “What does a church do when it loses its mission? Do you have specific suggestions?” (p. 77).

Every church needs this book either to rediscover missions or to assess its current program. Baptist churches in particular will find this book helpful as Neely assesses the

strengths and weaknesses of the SBC's International Mission Board, CBF's Global Missions, the Alliance of Baptists' missions efforts and doing missions in the post-denominational era. This volume should be required reading for all seminarians. Pastors, church and mission leaders will find it especially helpful.

*Bob Ballance is pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Cartersville, GA.*