

connections

February 1998

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.

REPAIR THE RUINED CITIES

Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, DC

1998 Convocation: March 12-14

More information on the back page

Revitalizing Urban Congregations: Lynn Bergfalk, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, DC; Cindy Weber, pastor, Jeff Street Community at Liberty, Louisville, KY; and Dan Ivins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD.

Partnering Suburban and Urban Congregations for Ministry: Homer Carter, DC Baptist Convention.

Jewish-Christian Dialogue — A Rabbi and a Pastor: Shanta Premawardhana, pastor, Cornell Baptist Church, Chicago, IL; Rabbi Shira Lander, Baltimore; and David Yeager, Arnold, MD.

Contemporary Poetry for Public Worship and Private Devotion: Paul Richardson,

CONVOCA TION WORKSHOPS

These workshops will be offered either Friday or Saturday at 9 a.m.

Samford University.

Resources for Worship Planning in Baptist Congregations: Welton Gaddy, pastor, Northminster Church, Monroe, LA, and Allen Mullinax, associate minister, Virginia-Highland Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA.

Intimacy in Ministry: It May Not Be What You Think! Bill Sapp, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, and Sue Enoch, pastor for Education and Administra-

tion, Highland Park Baptist Church, Austin, TX.

Preaching Among People on the Margins: Nancy Hastings Sehested, pastor, Sweet Fellowship Baptist Church, Clyde, NC.

Educating a Congregation for Social Ministry: Israel Galindo, associate pastor, Vienna Baptist Church, Vienna, VA.

The Challenge for the Churches in Welfare Reform: Chris Sanders with a panel of community and church leaders.

The Politics and Ethics of our Changing Immigration Policy: Richard Cook, attorney, Baltimore, MD.

Gay and Lesbian Chris-
(concluded on page 3)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Who do you know that ...

We need a few good people. Alliance Nominating Committee Chair Tim Turnham is asking for suggestions from members for two officers — President and Vice President — and 13 at-large slots on the board of directors.

President Nancy Hastings Sehested and Vice President Howard Roberts are completing the second of their two terms. Their successors are to be elected in Washington at the Annual Meeting.

Turnham said his committee needs recommendations of men and women, lay and clergy in order to maintain the Alliance commitment to equity on its board, with specific reference to gender and vocation.

Other members of the Nominating Committee are Wanda Burton-Crutchfield, Genie Dyer, Ed Galbreath and Shanta Premawardhana.

Suggestions may be mailed to Tim Turnham, 10022 Dallas Ave., Silver Spring MD 20901. E-mail: TTurnham@enmc.org.



Worship leaders for the Saturday morning service will be James Lamkin and Liz Harris-Lamkin. James has been pastor of Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta since March 1997. From 1992-97 he was senior pastor of Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale, VA, and was president of the DC Ministers' Fellowship for two years, 1995-97. He earned an M. Div. from Southwestern Seminary and a D. Min. from New Orleans Seminary. Liz is a healthcare chaplain at two hospitals in Atlanta. She is also a Chaplain Captain in the Air National Guard of Georgia. She is a graduate of Mars Hill College and Southern Seminary.

Henry Crouch, first President of the Alliance in 1987-88, has resigned from the Board of Directors. Henry and his wife Janice are providing in-home care for their ailing daughter, Debbie. "This is painful," he wrote, "since I have a great interest in the Alliance." Henry retired as pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, and he and Janice moved to Asheville where they are members of First Baptist Church.

Dolores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco has paid for every member of the congregation to have a membership in the Alliance of Baptists. Doug Donley is pastor.

University Baptist Church in Austin, TX, saved its doors by opening them to the first gay Baptist retreat last November. Some of those attending the retreat decided to raise funds to help renovate the aging, carved exterior doors of the sanctuary. The goal of \$2,500 was easily met and exceeded as more than 40 people contributed \$3,400. Additional gifts will help repair a second set of damaged doors.

Those new doors might be opened to Alliance members in the year 2000 since the church has issued an invitation to the Alliance to host the annual Convocation that year. The Alliance Board of Directors will act on the matter during its March 11-12 meeting preceding this year's convocation in Washington. Larry Bethune is pastor.

Ken Brooker Langston, formerly with The Interfaith Alliance, is the new Field Director at Americans United, a church-state watchdog group, also based in the nation's capital.

Alliance Board member **Flynn Harrell** of Columbia, SC, and his wife Anne have joined a Presbyterian church. In resigning as moderator of Kathwood Baptist

Church, Flynn said: "My denomination has left me — in doctrine, in worship, in exclusion of other Christians, in denial of the gifts of women in ministry ..." Harrell is a former president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

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

Executive Director: Stan Haste
Associate Director: Jeanette Holt
(202) 745-7609

Fax: (202) 745-0023
AllianceofBaptists@compuserve.com
AllianceofBaptists.org

President: Nancy Hastings Sehested
(704) 627-0975

Send information for newsletter to:
Sue Harper Poss
P.O. Box 25461, Greenville, SC 29616
Phone/Fax: (864)458-9995
SuePoss@compuserve.com

cuba

The Fraternity of Baptist Churches of

Cuba will be represented next month at the Alliance Convocation by Vice President Estela Hernández, co-pastor of William Carey Baptist Church in Havana; Treasurer Elizabeth León, a laywoman from Santa Clara; and Noel Fernández, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ciego de Avila.

Scheduled visits to Cuba:

Richard Peerey and seven other members of Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Franklin, VA, will visit their partner church in Luyano (Havana) Feb. 15-24.

Ben Griffith, a lay leader in Lake Norman Baptist Church in Huntersville, NC, and David Holloway, pastor of First Baptist Church in Cornelius, NC, will lead a combined delegation of nine travelers to their partner churches in Yaguajay and Sancti Spiritus, respectively. The trip is scheduled for Feb. 19-28.

Charles Howell of Westfield, NC; Dale Riddle of Pilot Mountain, NC; and Sanford Smith of Greensboro, NC, have scheduled a visit to Cuba March 3-10.

Wayne Blythe of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk will lead a group of eight on a trip March 6-12.

For the past several years Dr. Henry Mugabe, principal (or president) of the Zimbabwe Baptist Theological Seminary in Gweru, has taught in the winter term at BTSR.

Out of the partnership of BTSR with the Zimbabwe Seminary came an awareness of the needs of that school and its students. Dr. Mugabe suggested one way we could help would be to provide a means for students to support themselves and their families.

Last year the Virginia chapter of the Alliance raised over \$3,000 for a goat herd and the salary for a goat herder. This year over \$2,400 has been raised for a poultry project. Our gifts have bought the livestock, materials for sheds, and feed for the animals. They have also provided stipends for the students

involved in animal management. Through the project the students and their families may have better diets and earn a living selling surplus stock. Since many of the students will become bivocational pastors, the agricultural skills they learn will continue to be useful to them. — David Adkins

zimbabwe

- Henry Mugabe is teaching at BTSR through Feb. 21.
- J.N. (John) Mazvigadza, Executive Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe, will bring greetings and lead a workshop at the Alliance Convocation in Washington.

There's good news and bad about the Alliance Mission Offering. Let's deal with the latter first. Final figures are in for receipts of the 1997 Offering. For the first time since we started promoting and receiving a Mission Offering, we fell significantly short of the goal.

Although our 1997 Offering sought \$75,000 for 19 projects, we came in \$11,514 under goal. Of some 125 churches affiliated with the Alliance, fewer than 40 contributed. As a result, we were able to send our recipients only 85 percent of what we had hoped to send.

Now for the good news. The slate is clean. As of Feb. 1, accounting began for the 1998 Offering, with the same \$75,000 goal as last year's. For my part, I'm determined to see to it that we don't have a repeat performance.

For starters, I've con-

ducted a church-by-church telephone canvas asking pastors whose churches have not been promoting and receiving the Offering to begin doing so this year. An encouraging number of them have pledged to do so.

Second, we'll be using *Connections* as a promotional vehicle, soliciting support for the Offering throughout the year. One of the big advantages of having our own newsletter is that we are now able to spread the word more widely within our churches by distributing copies of *Connections* to key leaders — lay and clergy.

Plus, you've noticed already that this issue includes a Mission Offering brochure and envelope for your reading and response as an individual member of the Alliance. Four times this year, we will use *Connections* in this manner — twice to appeal for your support of the Mission Offering and twice for above-and-beyond contributions to our operating budget.

This represents a new approach to fund raising in the Alliance and is much needed. Frankly, we've not been persistent enough in letting you know on an ongoing basis about the financial needs of the Alliance. As the one charged by the Alliance with the overall financial health of our movement, I intend to be more consistent — and persistent — in letting you know about those needs.

For now, I appeal for your early support of the 1998 Mission Offering. Last year, we got off to a slow start and

never caught up. This year we can change that with a generous early response. Let me ask you to make good use of the envelope in this issue of *Connections*. Once you take account of the impressive group of 18 recipients of this year's Offering, I believe you'll want to write out a check right away.

And here's the main selling point. Each of these recipients represents the kind of risk-taking venture the Alliance itself is. Together they represent the front-edge causes we say we believe in and want to be part of. Please look them over and decide for yourself. When you do, I firmly believe we'll meet and surpass what we've told them we hope to send them this year.

Then, when writing a similar column a year from now, I can give you good news only.

perspectives



By Stan Hasteley
Executive Director

Workshops

(continued from page 1)

Baptists in the Church: The Process of Reconciliation: Stephen Boyd, Winston-Salem, NC.

Senior Adults Making a Difference: Elaine Tiller, DC Baptist Convention, Washington, DC.

Reframing the Dialogue on Racism: Lynn Rhodes, associate pastor, Wake Forest Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC, and John Mendez, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC.

Other workshops will deal with the Alliance partnerships with the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe and with the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba; the United Church of Christ; and the Alliance Covenant and proposed Mission Statement.

staff reports



worship resources

Associate director Jeanette Holt represented the Alliance at a meeting in January of the planning committee for the Worship Resources Network. The committee developed a purpose statement and set an agenda for the months ahead. The Worship Resources Network will offer information and support for Baptists interested in worship. It will function by linking individuals involved in this area of the church's life, including members of congregations and worship committees, writers of worship materials, pastors, Christian educators, and church musicians. The network will make available materials and perspectives drawn from a wide range of historic and contemporary sources that are biblically and theologically sound, textually and musically well-crafted, and useful for Baptists at worship.

Plans for WRN include: creating a web site; publishing a newsletter; establishing a network of consultants; sponsoring informal gatherings (like a luncheon planned for Friday noon at the Alliance Convocation); and providing advocacy and resources by offering workshops at the Alliance Convocation. For further information about WRN, contact Mary Alice Sears, Divinity School, Gardner-Webb University, P.O. Box 997, Boiling Springs NC 28017.

**Operating Income
January 1998:
\$36,365.46**

**Budget Needs YTD:
\$19,302.66**



**Frontiers of Hope
1997 Final Report
\$63,486**

Concert and recording artist Cynthia Clawson, will present an interpretation of the Convocation theme, "Repair the Ruined Cities," during the Thursday evening worship. Also, the combined choirs of Calvary Baptist Church of Washington and Vienna Baptist Church of Vienna, VA, will present special music planned and coordinated by Jack Price, pastoral associate for music, the arts and drama at Vienna. Organist for the Convocation will be John Alves, organist/choir director of Calvary Baptist Church. John is a native of New York City, where at age 15 he began serving as choir director and organist in area churches.

music



John Alves

convocation information

When things happen: The Convocation starts at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Calvary Baptist Church and adjourns at 12:30 on Saturday, March 14.

To register for the Convocation, send your name, address and daytime phone number to the Alliance office. Costs are \$60 for individuals, \$100 for couples and \$30 for students. Also indicate which pre-convocation activity you'd like to participate in. If you need childcare, list the ages of the children and times you will need it.

Pre-Convocation Activities on Thursday afternoon, March 12, by prior registration only include on-site visits to: Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, B'Nai B'Rith, Washington National Cathedral, Children's Defense Fund, Islamic Center, Sojourners Community, Church of the Savior, or Faith and Politics Institute. Please indicate your preference when you register if you plan to participate.

Youth Convocation: Students in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the Youth Convocation of the Alliance of Baptists to be held concurrently with the Alliance Convocation March 12-14. A fee of \$45 will cover housing, all meals and local transportation. Call Bonnie Dixon, 919/851-6577 for registration information.

Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) is hosting a reception for all Baptist female ministers in the Washington area prior to the opening of the Alliance Convocation. The reception will be at Calvary Baptist Church on March 12 from 4-6 pm. It is a time of fellowship, networking, and greeting and a time for women of several Baptist groups to meet one another.

Where we'll be: Calvary Baptist Church is located at 755 8th Street NW, at the corner of H and 8th Streets. Hotel reservations may be made at the Washington Plaza, 800/424-1140, refer to group #5489. The deadline for guaranteed reservations has passed but rooms may be available. The Alliance will provide van service from the Washington Plaza Hotel to the church. Commercial parking is available in the area at \$8-12 a day.

Student Housing: Free housing is available for college and seminary students. Contact Tim Tutt, Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, 301/229-7725.

spirituality:

A number of churches in the Alliance are seeking creative ways to enhance the spiritual formation of their members. Some of us would like to explore ways we could share what we are learning and how we can support each other as we deal with common challenges — through e-mail, restricted bulletin boards, or chat rooms open to Alliance churches, for example. We will have a breakout room during Friday's lunch at the Convocation for anyone interested. Bring a one-page summary of things that you have tried in the area of spirituality and note major questions. For more information, contact John Hilpert, Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, (919) 828-0897 or at pullen@intrex.net; or Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Oakhurst Baptist Church, (404) 378-3677.

Up for approval: Mission statement

The Board of Directors at its last meeting in September approved recommending the following mission statement for approval at the 1998 Convocation:

To keep faith with our Covenant, we:

- Make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings.
- Foster relationships within the Alliance and with other people of faith.
- Create places of refuge and

renewal for those who are wounded or ignored by the church.

- Side with those who are poor.
- Pursue justice for those who are oppressed.
- Care for the earth.
- Work for peace.
- Honor wisdom and lifelong learning.
- Hold ourselves accountable for equity, collegiality, and diversity.