

connections

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.

February 2001

Volume 4 Issue 2

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

April 20-22

Oakhurst Baptist
Church
Decatur, Georgia

Friday, April 20

6:00 p.m.—Welcoming Reception
7:15 p.m.—Opening Worship with
Covenant Speakers

Saturday, April 21

8:30 a.m.—Morning Prayers
9:00 a.m.—Stan Hastey, State-of-
the-Alliance Address
10:00 a.m.—Annual Meeting
12:00 p.m.—Lunch, provided at
Oakhurst Baptist Church
1:30 p.m.—Workshops
5:00 p.m.—Dinner on your own
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship.
Preacher: Paula Clayton
Dempsey, President of the
Alliance

Sunday, April 22

8:30 a.m. —Morning Prayers
9:00 a.m. —Workshops/Bible
Study
11:00 a.m.—Closing Worship/
Communion



Jann Aldredge-Clanton is Chaplain Coordinator for oncology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, where she also chairs the Interfaith Task Force and serves on the Institutional Ethics Committee. She helps individuals and faith communities to deepen their spiritual experience and to contribute to justice, peace, and wholeness for all creation.

A native of Louisiana, Jann received a B.A. degree from Louisiana Polytechnic University, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Texas Christian University, and the M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary.

She is the author of *Counseling People with Cancer; In Whose Image? God and Gender; God, A Word for Girls and Boys; In Search of the Christ-Sophia: An Inclusive Christology for Liberating Christians;* and *Praying with Christ-Sophia: Services for Healing and Renewal*. She has published articles in *The Journal of Pastoral Care, The Christian Ministry*, and elsewhere.

She has lectured at The School of Theology for the Laity, Perkins School of Theology Women's Week, Texas Christian University Women's Week, United Methodist Fall University, and Baptist Women in Ministry. She has served as a pastoral counselor, chaplain, Executive Director of the Waco Conference of Christians and Jews; associate pastor, and English professor.



Andrew D. Lester is Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Counseling at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. He graduated from Mississippi College in 1961 and earned B.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary.

He is the author of numerous books and articles on pastoral care in a variety of settings, including: *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling; When Children Suffer: A Sourcebook for Ministry with Children in Crisis; Spiritual Dimensions of Pastoral Care: Witness to the Ministry of Wayne E. Oates; Pastoral Care with Children in Crisis; Coping With Your Anger: A Christian Guide; Understanding Aging Parents;* and *Pastoral Care in Crucial Human Situations*.

He is a member of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education; and a Diplomate, American Association of Pastoral Counselors.



**Covenant
Speakers:** Jann
Aldredge-Clanton and
Andrew Lester

a still more excellent way
celebrating the call of Christ for men and women to live in equal partnership

DIFFERENT STYLES — SAME MEANING

Alliance and UCC teams decide to pursue ecumenical partnership

A joint dialogue team representing the United Church of Christ and Alliance of Baptists met in Washington last month to hammer out two documents and sets of recommendations to be presented to the respective bodies this year.

Meeting at First Baptist Church of Washington Jan. 4-5, the team produced a six-page document titled, "Developing an Ecumenical Partnership Between the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists." Besides reviewing the conversations between the two bodies to date, the document recommends continuation of the dialogue for another two years, with a final report to be presented to the 2003 annual meeting of the Alliance and 2003 UCC general synod, the latter a biennial event.

While substantively similar, the recommendations are different in style. Recommendations to the UCC will be in the form of a resolution, those to the Alliance in statement form. Yet both bodies will be asked to approve language affirming "the intention to develop an ecumenical partnership ... which expresses our common vocation, mutual friendship, and developing collaboration, through a covenant to be prepared for formal affirmation in 2003."

In addition, both the Alliance and the UCC will be asked to approve an invitation to one or two designated representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to participate in the 2001-2003 phase of the dialogue on an observer basis. Disciples representatives will have voice but not vote.

Delegates to the Alliance annual meeting April 21 in Decatur,



Alliance executive director Stan Hastey and his UCC counterpart on the dialogue team, Alice O'Donovan.

GA, will be asked to approve the continuation of current Alliance representatives on the dialogue team during the third and final phase. These are Martha Barr of St. Davids, PA; James E. Hightower of New Orleans; Ramonia Lee of Suitland, MD; Steve Lucas of Austin, TX; Cathy Tamsberg of Raleigh, NC; and team co-convenor Stan Hastey of Washington.

The second document, titled, "A Statement of Convergence in Matters of Theology and Practice Between the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ," is a background piece to be distributed to delegates to both bodies' 2001 national gatherings. Both documents produced by the team are available to Alliance members on request.



The Alliance of Baptists

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Alliance board member **Kathy Manis Findley** has resigned as pastor of Alliance-affiliated **Providence Baptist Church**, Little Rock, AR, and has assumed a full-time position as Director of the Victim Support and Prevention Program with the Family Services Agency, also in Little Rock. Again this year, Kathy is designing and overseeing the printing of the Alliance convocation program.

Jim Sapp, 85, died Dec. 20 in Austin, TX. A longtime member of the Alliance, he is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Oletha**; son Willard (Bill), a current Alliance director; daughter Elizabeth Burroughs; two sisters; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A Christian educator, Mr. Sapp for 14 years was minister of Christian education at several churches, including the Alliance-

affiliated Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin. For 27 years, he was a communications specialist at three Baptist agencies, including the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington.

Alliance member **Doug Donley**, for the past six years pastor of Alliance-affiliated **Dolores Street Baptist Church** in San Francisco, has accepted a call to become senior pastor of University Baptist Church in Minneapolis. His resignation at Dolores Street is effective Feb. 11.

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, is looking for a Minister of Music to be responsible for the music activities of the church, including the direction of the various church choirs, and assisting in the preparation of orders of service. 919.828.0892.

happenings

A GOOD YEAR ALL AROUND ... WITH MORE IMPROVEMENTS COMING

ALLIANCE FINANCES

Ten days into the new year, as these lines are written, I have the pleasure of reporting that the year 2000 ended with good financial news for the Alliance. Last year, in fact, was the best we've had to date.

We met and surpassed last year's operating budget by more than \$12,000. Our budget was \$249,431; our operating income, \$261,686. We had convocation-related income of \$14,375, an amount which more than met our convocation expenses.

As to the 2000 Mission Offering, our goal was \$85,250. Through Jan. 10 we had received \$78,222, with more checks arriving daily. By established policy, the books on the Mission Offering remain open through January. Based on anticipated receipts from several churches during the month, we expect to surpass the goal by several thousands of dollars. In addition to funds received for the Mission Offering, additional contributions during the year just ended for our overseas partners and projects totaled \$68,275. All told, the Alliance handled \$422,558 during 2000. It won't surprise me if this year that amount reaches the half-million mark for the first time.

Looking to the future, the Board of Directors has approved a recommendation of the officers to establish an Endowment Fund. Soon you will be hearing much more about this new opportunity to invest in the long-term well-being of the Alliance.

ALLIANCE PERSONNEL

An end-of-year meeting of the Alliance's officers here in Washington will result in some significant changes in our day-to-day operations, including staffing. As a member of the Alliance, you will want to know what they are.

At the officers' request (our by-laws designate the officers to

function as a personnel committee), Jeanette Holt and I reviewed and revised our respective position descriptions. These have been endorsed by the officers. Among changes to be implemented during the first quarter of the new year is that of relieving Jeanette of most duties related to financial matters, tasks to be assigned to a new part-time or contract worker here in Washington.

This reassignment will allow Jeanette to spend more of her time on duties such as assisting churches and candidates find each other; providing staff support to the Convocation Task Group on a year-round basis; and assisting standing committees of the Board of Directors in the fulfillment of their tasks. We also hope and expect that Jeanette will be invited more and more to represent the Alliance in a variety of settings, perhaps most important in local churches.

As for me, the officers have asked that I spend more time in financial planning, development, reporting and accountability, including solicitations of support for the operating budget, Mission Offering and special projects. In addition, I'll be making a major effort this year to assess and supervise staff and contract workers. The latter category is to include the above-mentioned financial assistant and another worker or workers who are to be contracted for special research and writing projects.

The officers also instructed me to upgrade our Web site and computer and telephone systems. In addition, I am to continue with the primary responsibility of cultivating Alliance relationships with partner groups, domestic and international.

All these changes reflect well on the state of the Alliance and its future. Your ideas on how we can lean into that future are most welcomed. Happy New Year,



perspectives



By Stan Haste
Executive Director



Please complete this registration form and return with registration fee to:

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

a still more excellent way celebrating the call of Christ for men and women to live in equal partnership

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone _____

Church: _____

Childcare needs (ages/times): _____

Registration Fee: \$60 per person; \$30 for seminary and college students

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

2000 Operating Budget: Final

Needs: \$249,431
Receipts: \$261,686

2000 Mission Offering:

Goal: \$85,250
Receipts through Jan. 10: \$78,222

February 2001

Few of us need to be reminded that we live in an increasingly multicultural society. In our cities, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods, many Alliance members find themselves working, playing, or living side by side with persons who are different from us in racial, ethnic, or cultural background. Yet few of us worship with them.

We do have some vital multicultural congregations in the Alliance. But for most of us, Sunday morning is *still* the most segregated hour of the week. This situation poses a significant question for persons who understand themselves as working for justice. *Can we stand for justice and reconciliation in the twenty-first century as essentially all-white churches?*

In the spring of 2000, the Alliance published a curriculum to assist congregations in wrestling with that question. *Being the Church: Exploring Multiculturalism in Congregations* offers a framework for discussion of how the increasing diversity in our society might or should affect our congregations. This curriculum is not a "how-to" manual on multiculturalism. Rather its purpose is to help churches consider hard

issues like racial prejudice and power relations as they try to discern God's call regarding the issue of racial and cultural diversity.

Being the Church includes five workshop-style sessions addressing these questions: *Why become multicultural? How do we feel about persons from other groups? Can we share leadership with persons who are different from us? What will happen if our church changes? How could God use us as a multicultural church?* Sunday school classes will want to split each of the sessions into two lessons.

Being The Church
in a multicultural world
by Cathy Tamsberg
Raleigh, NC

Each session is based on scripture and closes with a reflection on the spirituality of a different cultural group. Activities like partner sharing, role play, brainstorming, and group discussion assist participants in answering the questions posed. The final session closes with worship, and a Leader's Guide is included in the curriculum.

So if you sense that the Spirit is nudging your church to address its lack of diversity, you may find it helpful to begin the conversation by studying *Being the Church*. It is available for \$12 plus shipping from the Alliance office.

"The material was well put together and was an excellent springboard for discussion. It is particularly helpful for those churches who are not multicultural in that it provides a perspective that might otherwise have not been considered. It is also helpful for those churches who have many cultures, by helping people appreciate the similarities and differences between church members."

— Pam Powers, Community Group Chairperson,
Cross Creek Community Church, Dayton, OH

BRIDGES of HOPE

You will see included in this issue a brochure describing the 24 projects that will be funded by the 2001 Bridges of Hope Mission Offering. The goal is \$92,000.

Eight of the recipients are new to the list this year: Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries; the Baptist Union of Georgia; the



International Center of Bethlehem; the Hispanic Ministry of Newnan, GA; Indigo Lakes Baptist Church; the Women's Spirituality Network of Nova Scotia; the Coalition For Baptist Principles; and Faith Station Chicago.

All of our recipients are dependent on our gifts, no matter the amount. Please consider making an early, and regular, gift to our Mission Offering this year.