

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.



This newsletter went to press before a full accounting of the 2001 Bridges of Hope Mission Offering was available. Twenty organizations were supported through the 2001 offering. Gifts arriving in the office after Jan. 31 will be counted toward the 2002 offering.

Alliance pastors get sabbatical

Alliance pastors Kelly M. Sisson and Cindy Weber are going on sabbatical – thanks to grants from the Lilly Foundation.

Kelly is pastor of Glade Baptist Church in Blacksburg, VA, and Cindy is pastor of Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty in Louisville, KY. Each of the churches applied for the grants on behalf of their pastors, and each was awarded just under \$30,000 through Lilly's Clergy Renewal Program. The churches were two of 129 congregations across the country whose ministers were selected to participate in 2002.

This is the second year that the Lilly Foundation has sponsored this program which invites congregations and ministers to consider and plan a period of "intentional reflection and renewal." Its goal is to provide a time for ministers to step away from their daily obligations to gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered "Sabbath time" of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

Each congregation could apply for a grant of up to \$30,000, with as much as \$10,000 of that allocated to the church to pay for supply ministers during the pastor's absence. The 129 grants to churches in 38 states total \$3.2 million.

Kelly Sisson

The proposal that Glade Church made on behalf of Kelly, a potter and pastor of the church for nearly nine

Lilly Foundation grant will give time away to Kelly Sisson and Cindy Weber

years, will enable her to spend six months pursuing visual arts in a variety of ways – working in her studio, attending clay workshops, visiting galleries, reading, writing and creating.

Her sabbatical begins after worship on Pentecost Sunday when she will leave for two weeks in Chicago as residential artist at the Festival of Homiletics, followed by further study at the Chicago Institute of Fine Arts.

"I am most centered when I am working with the clay," Kelly said. "My time on the wheel is as necessary as breathing is to life... While on sabbatical, I'm looking forward to being around creative people doing creative process in creative space."

The sanctuary Kelly will be leaving temporarily is also one of the premier fine art galleries in southwest Virginia. While she is away, the congregation will continue to operate the gallery, house weekly art classes and participate in its own renewal activities — as well as maintain the life and ministry of the church.

Kelly will return the first Sunday of Advent when the

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ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE:

Plans for the 2002 Convocation are well underway. A photo of the Convocation Task Group is on page 2. An insert is included in this issue with the details of the meeting, which will be held in Winston-Salem, NC, April 5-7.

Link Elmore is the President of the Virginia Chapter of the Alliance of Baptists. He is also a chaplain at the Children's Hospital in Richmond. Read more about him on page 4.



Link Elmore

Dorisanne Cooper has accepted the call of the Alliance-affiliated **Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, TX**, as its new pastor, effective February 3. She is currently associate pastor of College Park Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC, also affiliated with the Alliance.

happenings

Reared in Waco, Dorisanne is a 1993 magna cum laude graduate of Baylor University and earned her M.Div. at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she won the Jagow Preaching Award. Long active in the Alliance, she is a member of the 2002 Convocation Task Group.

Alliance member **Michael D. Castle**, pastor of **Cross Creek Community Church, Dayton, OH**, was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree in December by Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. His final project was titled, *In the Midst of New Dimensions: A Call for Theological Education in the Churches that Looks to the Historical Jesus to Bridge the Divide between Academic Understandings and Christian Practice.*

The Alliance-affiliated **Second Baptist Church, Lubbock, TX**, dedicated its new building at 6109 Chicago Avenue on Dec. 2 with an open house, a hanging of the greens service and a reception.

Alliance member **Jack Price** is the new pastor of the Alliance-affiliated **Cross-**

North Carolina Alliance

Diane Eubanks Hill, left, is the President of the North Carolina Chapter of the Alliance of Baptists. She is Minister with Children and Families at Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, and is shown here with Susan Aldrich, a lay leader at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte.



roads Church of Kansas City (MO), effective Feb. 1. He is currently senior pastoral associate at another Alliance-affiliated congregation, Vienna Baptist Church, Vienna, VA.

As the Alliance of Baptists began its dialogue with the United Church of Christ, **Glade Baptist Church** in Blacksburg, VA, was inspired to make the same journey — and in November became ‘in covenant’ relationship with the Shenandoah Association of the Central Atlantic Conference, UCC. Glade will be dually aligned with the Alliance and the UCC. Kelly Sisson is pastor.

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond will hold its fourth annual **Preaching and Worship Conference in April**. This year’s keynote speaker will be James Forbes, Senior Minister of the Riverside Church in New York City. The conference features plenary sessions, worship opportunities, supplemental seminars related to preaching and the work

of the ministry as well as dialogue sessions with Forbes.

Registration fee is \$159 (\$105 for BTSR alumni and \$80 for spouses). The registration fee includes conference materials, continental breakfasts, two lunches and a Tuesday evening banquet. Commuters may register for \$105 and purchase meal and banquet tickets separately. A refundable deposit of \$30 is requested by March 15.

For information or to register, contact the Center for Preaching and Worship at BTSR, 3400 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227. 804.204.1241.

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Summer Conference (a.k.a. Peace Camp) will be held July 22-27, 2002, at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Alliance board member **Jerene Broadway** of San Francisco will be the Bible study leader. The musician will be Michael Hawn of Dallas, TX, and Barry Morrison of Wofville will be the preacher.



The Alliance of Baptists

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2002 Convocation

The 2002 Convocation Task Group is at work. Shown here are chair Richard Groves, Lynn Rhoades, and April Baker. Other committee members are Paula Clayton Dempsey, Ann Compere, Michael Usey, Dorisanne Cooper, Roger Underwood, Russ and Amy Jacks Dean.

Nobel laureates speak for peace

From time to time someone or some group of people will say something so significant and say it so well it's hard to imagine improving on it. My column this month is given over to such a statement, issued in December by 100 Nobel laureates on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize. Among these were several Nobel Peace Prize winners, including Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu (1984), His Holiness The Dalai Lama (1989) and Mikhail S. Gorbachev (1990).

"The most profound danger to world peace in the coming years will stem not from the irrational acts of states or individuals but from the legitimate demands of the world's dispossessed. Of these poor and disenfranchised, the majority live a marginal existence in equatorial climates. Global warming, not of their making but originating with the wealthy few, will affect their fragile ecologies most. Their situation will be desperate and manifestly unjust.

"It cannot be expected, therefore, that in all cases they will be content to await the beneficence of the rich. If then we permit the devastating power of modern weaponry to spread through this combustible human landscape, we invite a conflagration that can engulf both rich and poor. The only hope for the future lies in cooperative international action, legitimized by democracy.

"It is time to turn our backs on the unilateral search for security, in which we seek shelter behind walls. Instead, we must persist in the quest for united action to counter both global warming and a weaponized world.

"These twin goals will constitute vital components of stability as we move toward the wider degree of social justice that alone gives hope of peace.

"Some of the needed legal instruments are already at hand, such as the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Convention on Climate Change, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. As concerned citizens, we urge all governments to commit to these goals that constitute steps on the way to replacement of war by law.

"To survive in the world we have transformed, we must learn to think in a new way. As never before, the future of each depends on the good of all."

As citizens of the wealthiest and most powerful nation the world has ever known, flush with the latest demonstration of our military might, we of the United States of America have upon us a special obligation to heed such prophetic words. As citizens of the peaceable reign of God on this good Earth and in the world to come, we Christians have upon us the divine vocation of such prophecy.

perspectives



By Stan Haste
Executive Director

Lilly Foundation grant will give time away to Sisson and Weber

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gallery theme will be "Coming Home." A collaborative exhibition of art created by both Kelly and the congregation during the six-month sabbatical will open during the Lenten season of 2003, titled "The Sabbatical Journey."

Kelly is a native of Ashland, VA. She earned a BA in Communications Studies and Sociology from Virginia Tech and an M. Div. in Homiletics and Theology from New Orleans Seminary.

Glade has a long affiliation

with the Alliance and is a former recipient of Mission Offering funds.

Cindy Weber

Cindy Weber, pastor at Jeff Street for 17 years, will be taking a four-month sabbatical July-October. She will spend a week with the Iona community in Scotland, followed by two weeks of touring that will include time in the isolated Outer Hebrides Islands with her husband, Robert Owens, and two children, Jesse, 6, and Dylan, 10.

"Robert is a community organizer for CLOUT, Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together," Cindy said. "Because my church was able to get this grant for me, he will be able to enjoy some sabbatical time too."

Cindy will spend a part of her time at home, and will also participate in a conference at the Alban Institute, "New visions for the long pastorate."

From Tampa, FL, Cindy earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree from the University of South Florida,

and a master of divinity degree with emphasis in social work from Southern Seminary.

Her congregation has been a part of the Alliance of Baptists since the Alliance's beginning, and has been an ongoing recipient of Alliance Mission Offering funds. "When people ask what denomination we are, we always say we are an Alliance congregation," she said. "We have been supported by the Alliance, not just by the offering, but by the fellowship that we have enjoyed with like-minded people."



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.

The Alliance of Baptists
1328 16th Street NW
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2001 Operating Budget	
Through December 16	
Needs:	\$266,829
Receipts:	\$244,440
2001 Mission Offering:	
Goal:	\$92,000
Receipts:	\$64,982

January 2002

Link Elmore:
Virginia Alliance president wasn't looking for a home — but he found one

Link and Karen Elmore knew they had found a home in the Alliance when they attended worship during the 1997 Convocation in Raleigh, NC.

Recently elected president of the Virginia Alliance, Link is a 1998 graduate of the Baptist Theological at Richmond, a chaplain at Children's Hospital in Richmond and a member of Ginter Park Baptist Church.

"Neither Karen nor I knew anything about the Alliance until I went to BTSR," he said. "We went to the Convocation in Raleigh, and while we didn't know we were looking for a home, we found one."

Link grew up in Knoxville, TN, and went to college there, at the University of Tennessee, where he met Karen, a Lutheran from Memphis. "Our discovery of the Alliance of Baptists has been something we've done together," he said. "We went to Raleigh not knowing anybody, but we liked the way the Alliance worshipped. As we got to know more, we also discovered that we liked the way Alliance people live out their faith."

In particular, Link said, he wholeheartedly supports the Alliance statement on the death penalty so much so that he



Virginia Alliance President Link Elmore, and his wife Karen, a physician in Richmond.

led the Virginia chapter to adopt a similar statement which he wrote.

Link has been a chaplain at Children's Hospital since April, after finishing his Master of Science in Patient Counseling degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. That study included a year of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Medical College of Virginia.

As chaplain at the Children's Hospital, he works with children who are there either as long-term care patients, or who are in rehabilitation because of injury or illness. He knows the children and their

families very well, serves as a spiritual counselor to them, and acts as a liaison between them and the medical staff. He sees his role as very similar to that of a pastor of a local church. "I've worked as a chaplain in acute care where I dealt with death and dying, and other crisis situations," he said. "Here I get to develop relationships with the children, their families, and their extended families so that when a crisis comes, the relationship is already there."

To learn more about the Virginia Alliance Chapter, visit its website, <http://people.va.mediaone.net/linkelm/allianceva/index.htm>