

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.

**April 5-7, 2002**

## 16th Annual Convocation *focusing on* **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

Winston-Salem, North Carolina • Wake Forest Baptist Church and Wake Forest University

The theme for this year's convocation, "Serving You By Loving All," is taken from the last verse of "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending," a hymn by Robert Edwards. The verse concludes:

"Open wide your hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all."

"The text is fairly new, written in 1961," said convocation chair Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, "but the tune is the old Sacred Harp tune, Nettleton. We will sing the hymn — and teach it — throughout the convocation."

Through worship and workshops we will explore the statement in our covenant: "... the servant role of leadership within the church, following the model of our Servant Lord, and to full partnership of all God's people in mission and ministry."

"There are two aspects of servant leadership," Richard said. "First, servant leadership

within the church. Second, the church itself as a servant leader in society."

These aspects will be addressed in sermons by Carolyn

Gordon of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, and Allen Neely, former professor of missions at Princeton Theological Seminary and one

of the founders of the Alliance, who will preach the Covenant Address. "No one is more identified with the origin, development and spirit of the Alliance than Allen Neely," Richard said.

"I am especially excited about the way the theme will be addressed in several workshops," he said. "The concept of servant leadership is problematic for some people who have been taught that submission was their role (fate?) in life."

Cherie Smith and Raye Nell Dyer will lead a workshop on "Servant Leadership and Women." The Missions Committee, along with some of our mission partners, will offer a workshop on partnership as a model for partnerships between religious groups.

There will also be a workshop on "The Power to Empower," as well as workshops in the relationship between servant leadership and the teaching ministry of the church and worship.

### **Carolyn L. Gordon** will

be the preacher at the opening worship service on Friday night. She is associate professor of church and community at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. She earned a Ph.D. from Howard University, and three degrees from Southwestern Seminary: an M.Div., an MA in religious education, and an MA in communication.



### **Alan Neely** will bring this year's

Covenant Address during the closing worship service Sunday morning. A founder of the Alliance, Alan also was acting executive director during 1987-88. He and his wife Virginia were missionaries to Colombia, where he taught at the International Baptist Seminary in Cali. He retired in 1996 as professor of missions at Princeton Theological Seminary, and now lives in Raleigh, NC.



### **Bluegrass, Barbeque and Story-telling**

*At the Vintage Theater in Winston-Salem*

Bluegrass band for entertainment and contra dancing  
Barbeque dinner provided. Please request special dietary needs in advance  
Cost: \$10. Tickets will be sold at the registration desks.

### **2001 Bridges of Hope Mission Offering: \$92,000 Goal Met**

**Good News:** Thanks for your support. The goal of \$92,000 for the 2001 Alliance Mission Offering was reached January 29, two days before the deadline. Additional contributions received since have given us a good start toward reaching the 2002 goal of \$95,000.



lliance member **Herman Greene** of North Carolina has been admitted to the Doctor of Ministry Program on Spirituality and Sustainability at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, beginning with the current semester. Herman is chair of the Alliance Work Group on Ecology, a unit already providing leadership in planning for the 2003 convocation that will

**happenings**

focus on theology and ecology. The specialized program at United seminary offers areas of specialization in Sustainability (described as “respect and care for the community of life and ecological integrity”); Human/Animal Bonds (“how animals have played an important role in Christianity and other religious traditions”); Interreligious Dialogue; Holistic Ministries; and Process Theology.

Worship resources for **Earth Day, Sunday, April 21, 2002**, are available from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA on its Web site, [www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org). Celebrated on the fourth Sunday after Easter, Earth Day “provides a uniquely visible time for churches to draw attention to the Christian’s call to care for all God’s creation.”

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION RESOURCE IN THIRD PRINTING**

Along with our partner organization, the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, the Alliance announces the third printing of the jointly produced *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Resource for Congregations in Dialogue on Sexual Orientation*. Co-edited by the BPFNA’s LeDayne Polaski and the Alliance’s Millard Eiland, this notebook is in growing demand as one of the finest resources available on its subject. It is available from the Alliance office for \$25, plus shipping and handling.

Alliance members **Mary and Steve Hammond**, co-pastors of the Alliance-affiliated Peace Community Church in Oberlin, OH, have been named Oberlinians of the Year by the *Oberlin News-Tribune*. In announcing their choice, the paper’s editors wrote: “The singular defining event of 2001 — the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. — made our selection ... obvious. We selected two individuals whose lives and careers stand in stark contrast to the evil destruction and hate visited on our nation on September 11, 2001. While we as a community struggled to understand these acts of war, these two individuals helped us, continuing to preach their message of peace, as they have since moving here in 1979.”

**Dan De Leon**, associate minister for youth at the Alliance-affiliated Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, TX, was ordained Jan. 20 at Austin’s First Baptist Church, the

congregation in which he grew up.

**Drew Purcell**, an Alliance member and graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, will be ordained to the Christian ministry March 10 by the Alliance-affiliated Calvary Baptist Church of Roanoke, VA. Drew is Calvary’s associate pastor for family ministries. His ordination is being celebrated under the auspices of the Alliance.

**Elizabeth Edwards** has been called as associate minister for youth and education at the Alliance-affiliated Lakeside Baptist Church in Rocky Mount NC. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Princeton Theological Seminary.

The **Nominating Committee** is working on filling slots on the Board of Directors. Suggestions may be sent to Millard F. Eiland, 2220 Arlington St., Houston, TX 77008-2614; [mfeiland@aol.com](mailto:mfeiland@aol.com); 713.863.9647.

**FURMAN UNIVERSITY OFFERING SENIORS FREE PROGRAM ON VOCATION**

Furman University in Greenville, SC, is looking for 30 high school students to participate in a free 12-day summer institute on faith and vocation. Students who will graduate in 2003 are eligible to apply at <http://www.furman.edu/lilly>.

“Our hope is that churches will recommend mature, thoughtful students to attend the program,” said Ann A. Quattlebaum, Director of the High School Theology Institute and former President of the Alliance. “The selection committee will choose 30 students from diverse religious, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic backgrounds.”

The summer institute is funded with a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment given to Furman to explore the relationship between faith and vocation. This is the same grant that made it possible for Anne and other Furman faculty and students to spend 10 days in Cuba beginning Feb. 23, accompanied by Stan Hasteley.

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Woodbrook Baptist Church, in suburban Baltimore, Md., seeks creative, energetic pastor. Please send resumes, by June 15, to Pastoral Search Committee, Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD, 21212. [www.woodbrook.org](http://www.woodbrook.org)

Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, is accepting recommendations and applications for a Minister of Education and Discipleship. Contact Cindy Johnson, Chair, Education Search Committee, 305 W. Broadway, Fort Worth 76104. [www.broadwaybc.org](http://www.broadwaybc.org).



**The Alliance of Baptists**

1328 16th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Executive Director: Stan Hasteley  
Associate Director: Jeanette Holt  
(202) 745-7609  
Fax: (202) 745-0023  
[AllianceofBaptists@cs.com](mailto:AllianceofBaptists@cs.com)  
[www.AllianceofBaptists.org](http://www.AllianceofBaptists.org)

Newsletter Editor:  
Sue Harper Poss  
P.O. Box 25461  
Greenville, SC 29616  
(864) 848-3346  
Fax: (864) 848-5258  
[SuePoss@charter.net](mailto:SuePoss@charter.net)

# Campaign finance reform: debate is long overdue

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 -- As this column is written and filed, one topic dominates the public debate here -- campaign finance reform.

The debate is long overdue. But spurred on by the collapse of the Enron Corporation, previously reluctant members of Congress have found it not only respectable, but mandatory, to do something about the blight of big-money campaigns for federal office.

As of this writing, the House of Representatives has passed, by a decisive margin of 240-198, its version of the bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Reps. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) and Martin T. Meehan (D-Mass). The measure would curb currently unlimited "soft" money to political parties from corporations, unions and individuals. In addition, it would restrict so-called "issue" advertising by advocacy groups when such ads target specific candidates for defeat just before elections.

Although the Senate adopted a similar measure last year during the first session of this Congress, the newly-passed House bill has been sent to the Senate for action. There it faces the possible pitfall of a filibuster, a parliamentary maneuver designed to keep a measure off the floor for a vote. Both supporters and opponents of campaign finance reform in the Senate are claiming they have the necessary 60 votes in favor of or against a possible filibuster.

Last year's Senate measure, co-sponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.), garnered 59 votes in the Senate, a number so close to the magical 60 so as to make the final outcome of a new vote uncertain.

Meantime -- and again, as of this writing -- President Bush has given indications he will sign such a bill into law provided it meets certain unnamed criteria. How the president responds to the fierce opposition to the legislation by the conservative wing of his party will mark an early test of his repeated promise to work in a bipartisan manner on key legislative initiatives in Washington as he

did in Austin while governor of Texas.

Make no mistake about the ferocity of the opposition. House Speaker Dennis Hastert has declared that the enactment into law of Shays-Meehan would mark the Republican party's "Armageddon," by which he meant Republicans may lose control of the House of Representatives as early as 2004, the first election that would be affected by the new law.

In the Senate, lead opponent Mitch McConnell, a Republican from Kentucky, has argued against any reform bill for years on free speech grounds. This is a sham, coming as it does from a public servant who is not otherwise known as a champion of free of speech. Of all those who have prevented passage of campaign reform legislation over the years, none is more blatantly hypocritical than McConnell.

Nearly 30 years have passed since Congress passed a significant campaign reform law. That legislation, enacted in the immediate aftermath of

Watergate, effectively barred the buying of elections by the wealthy few by limiting the amount individuals may contribute to campaigns. Yet in banning some avenues of "hard" money, the post-Watergate law left open loopholes for soft-money electioneering. As that law has worked itself into the system, its end result has been a cure worse than the disease it was supposed to remedy.

Now is the time to try another cure, even if the new law is not perfect. Of this we can be sure: Political parties and candidates of all persuasions will do everything they can to raise money in order to win elections. If admitting that amounts to cynicism, we've earned the right to be cynical -- up a point.

That point is crossed when we throw up our collective hands and give in to the despair that nothing can be done to reform the system. If that happens again now, our democracy most assuredly will be shaken to its foundations as millions of citizens, especially younger people, simply check out.

perspectives



By Stan Hastey  
Executive Director

## CUBA

### First Baptist Church in Matanzas has a new pastor 'Paco' takes on new role

Orestes Roca is the new pastor of the historic **Primera Iglesia Bautista, Matanzas, Cuba**, one of three founding congregations 13 years ago of the Alliance's partner group, the **Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba**. Roca succeeds the church's longtime pastor, **Francisco (Paco) Rodés**, currently the Fraternidad's president, who served the century-old congregation for 36 years. Rodés resigned as pastor in December, citing a new call to help prepare clergy and lay leaders for the Fraternidad, in part as professor of church history at the Seminario Evangélico de Cuba in Matanzas, where he already directs that ecumenical institution's Program of Baptist Studies.

In remarks offered at a joyful service celebrating Roca's installation, Rodés recalled that he too followed a pastor of long standing: "I wasn't as he was, and the new pastor was accepted and respected. In this same way I hope the church will respect and support the new pastor. He is different in many ways, as he has to be. It is not good to make comparisons. He has his own gifts and personality. As a disciplined church, we must support him."

**2002 Operating Budget**

Through January 31

Needs: \$24,378  
Receipts: \$30,270

**2002 Mission Offering:**

Goal: \$95,000  
Receipts: \$19,902

March 2002

The Alliance of Baptists  
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*Baptist Union there is Mission Offering recipient*

**Religious violence in Republic of Georgia warrants attention**

In 2002, for the second year, the Baptist Union of Georgia is one of the recipients of Alliance Mission Offering funds.

This union has grown out of the Baptist movement that survived underground during 70 years of Communist rule. Our grant of \$4,500 will provide for some members of this union to continue their theological training.

Roger Crook, a member of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, an active member of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and a retired professor of religion at Meredith College, has been the Alliance's primary liaison with Georgian Baptists.

"The rapid growth of the Baptist movement — from fewer than 100 baptized members at the end of the Communist era to nearly 10,000 today — makes the demand for stable and well-educated leaders urgent," he said.

While Georgian leaders have said they support religious freedom and do not condone religious violence, Roger said

there have been some events recently which cause concern.

One such incident occurred on Feb. 3 when a group broke into property of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia in Tablisi, put several thousand Bibles and other Christian books outside in the courtyard and burned them.

Roger has suggested several things that concerned

Alliance members can do:

1. Write letters of protest about the burning of Bibles in Tablisi to the office of the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. Fax: 011-995-32-999-630.
2. Encourage the U.S. ambassador to Georgia to pay attention to the issues of religious liberty in Georgia. Currently the mission is headed by interim Charge

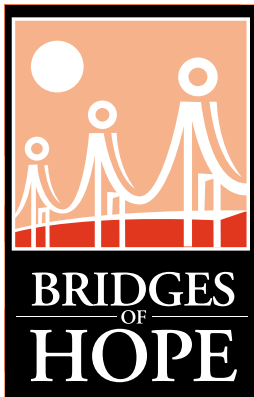
d'Affaires Philip Remler. The address is The Embassy of the United States of America, 25 Atoneli Street, Tablisi, 380026, Georgia. Fax: 995-32-93-37-59.

3. Make a financial contribution to the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia (the denomination), which has suffered a loss of more than \$100,000 dollars for the last ten months. Roger suggests making contributions to the Alliance, which can then make one funds transfer, saving the cost of individuals having to pay for this service.

4. Write a letter of support to Malkhaz Songulashvili, Presiding Bishop (equivalent to our "Executive Secretary" position) of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia at [Malkhaz@bible.ge](mailto:Malkhaz@bible.ge).

Roger also recommends that those interested in learning more about Georgia visit the Keston news service website, which covers the religious situation in Eastern Europe: <http://www.keston.org>.

Roger H. Crook, [rhcrook@intrex.net](mailto:rhcrook@intrex.net)



**Violence surrounding elections in Zimbabwe is also cause for concern**

Other overseas recipients of Alliance Mission Offering funds include the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe and its seminary. Presidential elections in Zimbabwe are scheduled March 9-10. "It appears violence is on the increase," said Alliance board member Bonnie Dixon, our primary liaison with Zimbabwe. "Many international observers are having their invitations revoked. I hope that Alliance churches and individuals will pray for our partners and the people of Zimbabwe — prayers for peace and calm preceding, during and after the elections; for wisdom and discernment on the part of Zimbabwe leaders and international bodies responding to human rights issues; and strength and courage for the Zimbabwean people to participate in elections, even while enduring economic and political crisis."