

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.

Heifner's message:

Alliance shouldn't be shy about asking for money

Todd Heifner believes the Alliance of Baptists has done a lot with a little. His goal is to help us raise more dollars to do even more.

Todd joined the Alliance on May 1 as our consultant for financial development. He has spent his first couple of months making sure the right infrastructure and policies are in place, and now he's ready to start calling.

"I'm going to call each of our affiliated churches and hopefully speak with the pastor or key lay leader about the Alliance," he said. "I want them to think creatively

about people they know in their congregations, in their communities who might be inclined to support the work of the Alliance."

Todd's immediate efforts will be to increase giving to the Alliance's annual operating budget and mission offering. He will also work to establish an endowment fund from which earnings could be drawn each year to support ongoing work.

After talking with staff and board members, Todd set a goal to increase giving to the annual operating budget and mission offering by about 35-40 percent over a three-year period. That equates to about \$100-

\$120,000 on annual giving and another \$40,000-\$50,000 for our mission offering.

He will approach churches, individuals and possibly foundations to raise the funds.

"I want to remind our churches and members that they are part of an important



Heifner

Todd's early work with the Alliance was writing gift acceptance guidelines and policies and endowment spending policies. That work is now done and will be presented to the board of directors for final approval at its meeting in September.

work. I want to remind them of the ministries that we fund based on the gifts that they make," he said.

"I want to ask both our churches and members to consider increasing their giving to the Alliance," he said. "I also want to get the names of a few people who could make five-figure gifts to the Alliance on an annual basis. I want to make sure everyone knows that we need more than \$100 a year from them if they are able to give more. I'm going to be asking our members to step up their own giving, identify some major donors, and some people who could make estate gifts."

Until now, the Alliance has done little systematic fund-raising. Last year, for example, quarterly letters were sent to members asking for gifts to help the operating budget and mission offering. "For an organization no larger than this, we are doing a good job with the mailings but they won't raise big bucks," Todd said. "They do serve to keep the idea of giving before the membership and remind them of the ministries we do."

As he makes his calls, Todd said he will be reminding those he speaks with that the Alliance does not put money into bricks and mortar. The offices are housed at First Baptist Church Washington where no rent is charged. "We're putting our money into ministries, and I think it is important that we remind people of that," he said. "They're going to be willing to make significant contributions if they see the Alliance is about doing work. It plays to our favor that we are not building grandiose buildings. People today want organizations to put money into activity as opposed to building grander buildings."

Other strategies Todd plans are to get the

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ON-LINE GIVING

Alliance members and friends of the Alliance are now able to make gifts online. Go to allianceofbaptists.org. A link is on the home page that will allow you to make a donation.

2005 MISSION OFFERING

The deadline for applications for the 2005 Alliance of Baptists Mission Offering is Aug. 1. The guidelines and application are available at www.allianceofbaptists.org.

CD of Glenn Hinson interview available

The Advent Spirituality Center in Mars Hill, NC, announces the availability of a new resource — a CD of an interview Loyd Allen conducted with Glenn Hinson. The interview contains stories

happenings beginning with Hinson's childhood through his educational pursuits, his teaching career, and his spiritual awakening nurtured by Thomas Merton, Douglas Steer, and the devotional classics. The 15 tracks express concern for ecumenism, contemplation in action, and a vision for ministerial education. The Hinson CD is available from the Advent Spirituality Center for \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling. To purchase the CD send a check to Advent Spirituality Center, PO Box 191, Mars Hill, NC 28754 or call 828-206-0383 for more information.

Parker is new associate at Wake Forest

Susan Parker has been given a unanimous call as associate pastor of the Alliance-affiliated **Wake Forest Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC**, effective July 1. She has been serving as interim minister of education. Susan is a member of the inaugural class of the Divinity School at Wake Forest University.

Younger has written a new book

Brett Younger, Alliance member and pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, is the author of a new book, *Who Moved My Pulpit? A Hilarious Look at Ministerial Life*. Published by Smyth & Helwys, it can be ordered by calling 1-800-747-3016.

Metro is seeking an associate

Alliance-affiliated **Metro Baptist Church, New York City**, is seeking an associate minister with primary responsibility in the areas of discipleship, education and outreach. The position also entails service in the Rauschenbusch Center as director of programming for children and families. Interested candidates should send résumés to J. David Waugh, pastor, at 410 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018. For more information, visit the church's website at Metrobaptistchurchnyc.org.



Gathering planned for ministers serving youth and children

“How do we nurture the faith of youth and children in progressive Baptist churches?” That is the question posed for the upcoming Gathering of Ministers Serving Youth and Children, to be held Sept. 23-25 at Camp Thunderbird, near Charlotte. Registration is \$85 and includes meals and bunk-style lodging.

Send your registration check, along with name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address to: **Tim Dean, Myers Park Baptist Church, P.O. Box 6006, Charlotte NC 28207.**

“Join us in this Sabbath experience as we explore issues of faith formation with youth and children,” Dean said. “Believing that the Spirit empowers all of our ministries, we’ll share our collective wisdom, celebrate past success, and collaborate for future ministry.”

Your gifts support Alliance ministry partners in Cuba, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Santo Domingo, Ecuador, Georgia, Morocco, Bethlehem, New York, Mars Hill, Columbia, Richmond, Asheville, Little Rock, Washington, Bryson City, Nashville, Atlanta, Louisville, and Chicago. Your gifts are also critical to fund our day-to-day operating budget that includes some travel expenses for our staff to visit your churches.

Fundraising strategies

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staff, Executive Director Stan Hastey and Associate Director Jeanette Holt, out among the constituency. “When they go into a location, we want to have a focus group of people who may have been interested in the Alliance,” Todd said. “We want them to lay out the financial needs and concerns. We want them to have a bold vision about where we’re headed. We want them to say ‘It’s going to cost us X number of dollars to do this and we need you to be supportive in what your church does and what you do individually.’”

The first of these focus groups was scheduled in Birmingham at the conclusion of the General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at the end of June.

Todd said he will also encourage Stan and Jeanette to speak as often as possible in our churches about our work; and to have a “specialized communication” with each Alliance church at least once every year.

“There’s no reason we should shy away from telling people what our needs are,” Todd said. “I’m excited about the Alliance. It’s remarkable. When you look at our age and size, the amount and effectiveness of the work the Alliance has done is really mind-numbing. Our message is that we do a lot of work on a meager budget. Now we want to do more and it will require more.”

alliance **f**inances

Through May 31

2004 Operating Budget

Needs: \$141,605
Receipts: \$109,028

2004 Mission Offering

Goal: \$113,000
Receipts: \$51,744

An unfinished revolution

That the late Ronald Reagan, 40th president of the United States, rearranged the political landscape as did no other president since Franklin D. Roosevelt is indisputable. It is a large part of his legacy that Mr. Reagan both radicalized the Republican Party and forced the Democrats to the center of the political spectrum. These remarkable triumphs would not have been achieved without Reagan's creation and courting of what we now call the Christian Right.

As a reporter and analyst of two presidencies, those of Reagan and his predecessor Jimmy Carter, a significant piece of my assignment in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s was to cover the rise of the Christian Right, beginning with Jerry Falwell and his so-called Moral Majority. Created specifically by Reagan's top strategists to promote his run for president, the movement was successful beyond their wildest expectations.

One striking example was convincing large numbers of Southern Baptists to abandon their previous support of President Carter in favor of then-Governor Reagan. Whereas Southern Baptists had voted for Carter by a 3-2 margin in his successful campaign of 1976, they turned against him and went for Reagan by that same margin four years later. Reagan won 44 states in routing the incumbent.

Four months after returning to Plains, GA, Mr. Carter granted an interview to three Baptist journalists. Our first series of questions had to do with the reasons for his defeat. When I asked him what influence the Christian Right had on his loss, his response was immediate and emphatic: It was decisive, he told us.

That was in May 1981. Yet already, scarcely 100 days into his presidency and having survived John Hinckley's attempt to assassinate him, President Reagan was coming under attack from the far right. Richard Viguerie, editor of the *Conservative Digest*, was particularly vitriolic. In one issue after another of his monthly, Viguerie featured the views of the whole panoply of ultraconservative leaders who were bitterly disappointed in the new president. They were pleased, of course, with Reagan's early success in having Congress vote for the deepest personal income tax cuts in history.

But they were practically apoplectic in their anger over Mr. Reagan's failure to put some of them in key administration posts and to promote their social agenda. This agenda consisted of three principal issues – abortion, school prayer and tuition tax credits for parents with children in religious schools. As to the latter complaint, the simple fact is that Reagan never came through for them in eight years as president, thereby leaving an unfinished revolution. How and why

he failed them is, in my view, one of the least analyzed facets of the Reagan presidency.

In pushing through Congress both the tax cut and a huge increase in military spending, along with deep cutbacks in social spending — all these in his first year in office — the new president worked tirelessly. His cajoling of members of Congress into adopting his radical economic program became the stuff of legend. Contrary to public opinion, Reagan put in long hours on the job when it came to convincing Congress to buy into his plan. He talked personally with hundreds of members of Congress, working the telephone late into the night and hosting early-morning breakfasts for senators and representatives of both parties.

Yet on the social issues he did virtually nothing, not in the first year or at any time in his eight years in office.

Yes, rhetorically he always supported the social agenda of the Christian Right and invariably seemed credible in blaming Congress for not adopting it. But the reality was he didn't much care about it himself. As governor of California, he had signed into law one of the nation's most liberal abortion laws. School prayer, a hot issue in the Northeast and across the Bible belt, was never a feature of the daily school routine in the West. As for tax breaks for sectarian schools, while he said he approved of them, Reagan never pushed them.

Despite all this he managed to keep all but the most rabidly ultraconservative on his side. Falwell, for example, never complained of Reagan's failures. On the contrary, he became a fawning admirer, pointing repeatedly to the invitations he received to come to the White House. What Falwell wanted, quite simply, was recognition and respect. Always the consummate politician, Reagan was pleased to oblige him.

This is not to say, however, that the Christian Right is not still pursuing its agenda. One of the mistakes many analysts made, this one included, was that the movement would be short-lived, that having accomplished its initial objective of helping elect Ronald Reagan president it would fade away.

Not only has it not faded away, the Christian Right is now the heart and soul of the Republican Party. Its agenda is now that of President George W. Bush, Reagan's true ideological heir. If reelected, President Bush can be expected to do everything in his power to see that agenda, now greatly expanded, enacted into public law and policy.

perspectives



By Stan Hastey
Executive
Director

MEMBERSHIP

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.

July 2004

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Six other Alliance-affiliated congregations are also members

Wake Forest Baptist Church joins NC-COC

Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, has joined the North Carolina Council of Churches, making it one of seven Baptist congregations in the state to participate in the Council as a member.

The Council's House of Delegates, in Greensboro for its annual meeting in May, unanimously approved the church's request for membership.

"I have had contact with members and staff of WFBC

going back to my very first days in North Carolina more than 25 years ago," said George Reed, the Council's Executive Director. "I am delighted to have them join the Council as we work together for Christian unity and towards a more just society."

Members of Wake Forest Baptist meet in Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University and include faculty and students from WFU. Former Alliance president

Richard Groves is pastor.

Wake Forest joins Knollwood Baptist Church, also in Winston-Salem; Mars Hill Baptist Church in Mars Hill; Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte; Olin Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill; Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh; and Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham as congregational members of the Council. All are Alliance-affiliated congregations.

While most of the Council's members are the judicatories of the state's major religious denominations, individual congregations may join if their judicatory does not belong to the Council.

The North Carolina Council of Churches represents 15 Christian denominations committed to the twin goals of ecumenism and social justice. More than 1.5 million North Carolinians are members of congregations under the Council's umbrella.

Alliance-endorsed chaplain called to active duty in Iraq

Dave Dinkins, endorsed by the Alliance as a military chaplain in 2002, has been called to active duty with US forces in Iraq.

He is pastor of Highlands Baptist Church in La Marque, TX.

"As a Navy chaplain, I'll be deploying to Iraq serving the 1 Battalion 23rd Marines, he said. "This

should be a 10 month call-up to active duty."

Dave expects to leave for Iraq late this summer. "For now, we're training at Twenty-nine Palms, CA," he said. "This will be my first deployment overseas other than training."

Dave is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and Brite Divinity School's Baptist Studies program.