

connections

Our Mission is to make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings, foster relationships within and outside the Alliance, create places of refuge and renewal for those wounded or ignored by the church, side with the poor, pursue justice with and for the oppressed, care for the earth, work for peace, honor wisdom and lifelong learning, and hold ourselves accountable for equity, collegiality and diversity.

November 2000

Volume 3 Issue 11

BOARD REPORT

TERMS TO CHANGE; COMMITTEE STRUCTURE REVISED

Reorganizing itself to become more efficient and effective, the Alliance's board of directors at its September meeting voted to recommend to the Annual Meeting next spring that board members serve one four-year term.

The current bylaws allow for members to serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

The reorganization also calls for redefined standing committees: Member Services; Convocation; Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Budget and Development; Missions; Peace and Justice; and Women in the Church.

Special task groups may be appointed by the president and ratified by the board of directors.

Another change to the bylaws calls for the officers and past president to serve as the Budget and Development Committee and to deal with personnel matters.

A new name:

The board of directors, at its September meeting, voted to recommend to the membership a slight change in our organization's name, from The Alliance of Baptists, Inc. to **The Alliance of Baptists in the U. S. A.** The recommendation is being made for two reasons.

First, our overseas partners often encounter confusion between the Alliance and the Baptist World Alliance. We hope the name change will help eliminate some of that confusion.

Secondly, the change reflects the growing consciousness that the Alliance is truly a national organization, not just regional.

The change will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting next spring in Atlanta.



ALLIANCE OFFICERS

for 2000-01 are Paula Clayton Dempsey, president, chaplain at Mars Hill College in North Carolina; Craig Henry, vice president, member of Northminster Baptist Church in Monroe, LA; and David Gooch, member of Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, TN.

The board also approved the following:

- That the September 2001 board meeting be held in the San Francisco Bay area of northern California; and that the president appoint a task group to coordinate the arrangements for the board meeting and plan

an Alliance-sponsored conference to include worship and dialogue in conjunction with the meeting.

- That the theme of the 2003 Convocation have to do with faith and ecology.

- That the following be elected as the 2000-01 Nominat-

ing Committee: Bill Ingram, Chair (Clergy, VA), Kyle Childress (Clergy, TX), Alisa Monfalcone (Laity, GA), James Pike (Clergy, NC), and Ann Quattlebaum (Laity, SC).

- That the operating budget for 2001 be \$279,000 compared to the 2000 budget of \$249,000.

MISSION OFFERING

It's time again for our annual year-end appeal to reach our Mission Offering goal of \$82,250. Twenty organizations are counting on our support. Through the middle of October, we had received nearly \$51,000.

Former Alliance President **Ann Quattlebaum of Greer, SC**, has been named by Furman University to coordinate a recently awarded \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. The grant will establish a Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation to serve students, faculty, and interested laity

and clergy in the region. The center will sponsor a summer theology institute for pre-college youth, seminars, courses, and student service projects including one in Cuba in collaboration with the Alliance.

Alliance members **J. Russell Dean** and **Amy Jacks Dean** were installed Oct. 15 as the new pastors of Alliance-affiliated **Park Road Baptist Church** in Charlotte.

Alliance member **Morris Ashcraft** has been honored by an anonymous gift of \$100,000 to Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Morris was the school's interim president from its founding in 1990 until the election of Thomas Graves as president. Announcement of the gift came during BTSR's opening convocation of the new school year.

Two Alliance-affiliated congregations, **Broadview Baptist Church** of Temple Hills, MD, and **First Baptist Church** of Savannah, GA, have voted to sever ties



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
www.AllianceofBaptists.org

Send information for newsletter to:
Sue Harper Poss

P.O. Box 25461, Greenville, SC 29616
(864) 848-3346 Fax: (864) 848-5258
SuePoss@compuserve.com



RELIGION IN LIFE

Furman University in Greenville, SC, has hosted two Alliance speakers recently for its popular Religion in Life series. On Sept. 26, Alan Neely, professor emeritus of missiology at Princeton Theological Seminary, spoke on "Religious Pluralism in the U. S.: How Does It Impact You?" On Oct. 10 Executive Director Stan Haste spoke on "Campaign 2000: Religion's Rightful Role."

with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Duke University's Divinity School has enrolled 105 Baptist students for the fall term, a new record. **Furman Hewitt**, director of the school's Baptist House of Studies, has announced his retirement, effective at the end of the current academic year.

Virginia and Alan Neely celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 28. Alan served the Alliance as acting executive director during the organization's formative period, while Virginia — with former Alliance President Anne Thomas Neil — co-edited *The New Has Come*, an Alliance-produced volume on women in ministry.

Alliance member **Matthew Wood** is the

new pastor of Central Baptist Church in Mineral Springs, AR. Matthew is a graduate of Baylor University's Truett Seminary, and is a doctoral candidate at The Graduate Theological Foundation.

Former Alliance board member **Winnie Williams**, a member of First Baptist Church in Clemson, SC, has written a new book, *Women I Can't Forget*. It is based on her experiences as a volunteer in countries around the world, including China, Haiti, Thailand, and India. The book is to be released in December and is available on amazon.com. Winnie is also a new member of the board of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

BJCPA: In September, Stan Haste attended his first meeting as a board member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Haste worked for the BJC for 15 years prior to coming to the Alliance. He is shown here with Larry Chesser, his successor at the BJC, who was honored upon completing 15 years at the Washington-based religious liberty organization.



Haste and Hasty

Stan Haste, speaking Oct. 10 at Furman University in Greenville, SC, met student Shelley Hasty from Tifton, GA.

Following some early missteps, the four candidates of the major political parties seem to have decided that religion should not be exploited in their zeal to gain the nation's two highest offices. Such a decision is to their credit and the country's collective good. In several recent election cycles we've had far too much God-talk.

To be sure, George W. Bush has claimed Jesus as his favorite political philosopher. And Joseph Lieberman went a bit overboard in some of his early declarations of faith in the immediate ecstasy of his selection as Al Gore's running mate.

The Gore-Lieberman campaign went well out of bounds in trying to sign up religious leaders in a misguided "Pledge of Support" effort that asked not only for the clergyman's name but his/her church and title as well. To do so is no better than what the Christian Coalition does in its notoriously partisan candidate report cards designed to rally the troops to go to the polls and vote Republican.

Of the four candidates, Lieberman clearly has made the most of his religion. That's not all bad, to be sure, but it is fraught with risk. To his credit, the Connecticut senator seems to have understood some of his early religious declarations crossed the line.

But let me be clear as well. Al Gore's choice of a running mate who is an Orthodox Jew is something to be celebrated. Lieberman's candidacy is one more reminder that religious barriers continue to fall, albeit painfully slowly, thereby renewing our hope that one day we will live up to the provision in Article VI of the Constitution that "... no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

Nor is it to be lamented that Lieberman has referred to his

religion as one of the guiding lights of his life in public service. To do so does no violence either to Article VI or to the First Amendment's prohibition of an establishment of religion. The simple truth of the matter is that the First Amendment to the Constitution does not declare that religion and politics don't mix. Of course they do. They always have mixed. To say that the separation of church and state envisioned by the nation's founders forbids a robust public discussion of religious and spiritual themes betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of their motives.

No, Joe Lieberman is not out of bounds when he invokes religious themes. Nor is any other candidate wrong in so doing. Where Lieberman did go wrong, however, was in getting so carried away early on that he would declare to the annual convention of B'nai B'rith in August, "Our nation is chosen by God and commissioned by history to be a model to the world." During the same convention, George W. Bush said much the same, matching Lieberman's

declaration on the nation's chosenness word for word.

They both were wrong, as noted by *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen. "Is that so?" Cohen retorted. "Did God choose slavery, which persisted in this country long after it was outlawed elsewhere? Did God choose to nearly eradicate the American Indian? Did God choose to incarcerate the Japanese during World War II? Where was God when blacks were being lynched and bigots planted bombs in southern churches, killing innocent little girls? Are these the models God wanted for the rest of the world?"

These are the kinds of questions all politicians ought to ask before trying to turn Almighty God into a tinny national mascot.

perspectives



By Stan Hastey
Executive Director

CHURCH NEEDS

First Baptist Church, Savannah, GA, seeks an assistant minister to complete a ministerial staff of three. This individual will lead multi-generational activities to include education, outreach and pastoral duties. Send resume with cover letter by Feb. 1 to Ginger Pruden, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 9551, Savannah, GA 31412-9551.

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, is searching for a Minister of Outreach and Adult Education. Strong relational skills, a passion for social ministry, adult education experience, and seminary degree preferred. See job description and church profile at www.Pullen.org.



The Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe held its 37th Annual Congress in Gweru recently. Alliance Executive Director Stan Hastey was the principal speaker. Here, President C.H. Chiromo delivers his report to the congress. Chiromo is pastor Emmanuel Baptist Church in Harare.

2000 Operating Budget:	
Needs:	\$207,638
Receipts:	\$207,016
2000 Mission Offering	
Goal:	\$85,250
Receipts:	\$50,638

November 2000

from the president

COMMITMENT AND VISION

by Paula Clayton Dempsey

With joy and gratitude I ended my first board meeting as President — joy for the spirit of enthusiasm present and gratitude for the commitment and vision of the Alliance Board of Directors.

This commitment and vision led the board to approve and recommend to the annual meeting a name change that will communicate clarity concerning our identity.

The enthusiasm present led the directors to plan to extend hospitality and welcome to Baptists on the west coast, as approval was given for next fall's board meeting to occur in the Bay area of California with an extended general session of fellowship and enrichment with like-minded Baptists in the area.

A resounding vote of approval also accompanied the presentation of the proposed budget for 2001. The budget increase presents a challenge to our supporting churches and individual members to demonstrate their support for the work of the Alliance. According to my calculations, if each individual member of the Alliance will recruit one new dues-paying member, our 2001 budget can be met. I invite you to join me in that challenge!



The Alliance board has set a challenging goal of **\$92,000** for the 2001 Mission Offering, to be distributed among 24 recipients.

ALLIANCE CHAPLAINCY ENDORSEMENTS


The following people have recently been endorsed as chaplains by the Alliance's Endorsing Committee, chaired by Jim Hightower of New Orleans.

- Rose Stewart Young of Richmond, VA, a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, Staff Chaplain at Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital.
- Catherine Balance of Macon, GA, Staff Chaplain at Hospice of Houston County, Inc.
- Pamela L. Taylor of Houston, TX, Staff Chaplain at Memorial Hermann-Memorial City Hospital.
- Elizabeth Snow of Winston-Salem, NC, Staff Chaplain at Forsyth Medical Center.
- Mary R. Ellers of Richmond, VA, Staff Chaplain at Bon Secours Richmond, St. Mary's Hospital.
- M. Carson Rogerson III of Columbia, SC, Chaplain at Palmetto Health Alliance, Supervisor-in-Training, ACPE.
- Stephen Lemons of Columbia, SC, Chaplain at Palmetto Health Alliance, Supervisor-in-Training, ACPE.
- Karen S. Moore of Charlotte, NC, CPE Board Certified Chaplain of the Association of Professional Chaplains, Chaplain at Hospice at Charlotte/Hospice of Lincoln County/New South Health Care.

C O M I N G N E X T Y E A R

April 20-22: The 2001 Convocation and Annual Meeting of the Alliance will be held at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, GA. The theme: A STILL MORE EXCELLENT WAY, focusing on gender equity.

July 9-14: Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Summer Conference (a.k.a. Peace Camp). The theme: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS. Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH. www.bpfna.org, 704/521-6051.



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.