

connections

August 2001

Volume 4 Issue 8

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.

She's not a lawyer, but Alliance board member Kathy Manis Findley has been chosen as a full faculty member for the National College of District Attorneys to address the group at its October meeting in Reno, Nev.

Kathy is president of the Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault in Little Rock, and was chosen by the attorneys because of her work in domestic and sexual violence.

It will be the second time Kathy has appeared before the group. "In 1998, I was invited to be the keynote speaker for their National Conference on Domestic Violence.



Kathy Manis Findley

You could have knocked me over with a feather," she said. "I was absolutely flabbergasted to be speaking to a group of more than 2,000 attorneys, judges, law enforcement professionals, health care and mental health professionals and domestic violence advo-

Alliance board member Kathy Manis Findley is no longer a pastor but her ministry is as strong as ever. She finds a forum

SPEAKING TO ATTORNEYS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

cates. These people were the experts in the field and I was so very honored."

She continued: "They invited me because 1) I was a survivor of domestic violence who had been able to heal and become an advocate for other victims; 2) I was the chairperson of the Little Rock Commission on Domestic Violence and the director of a program for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; and 3) I was a clergyperson who was involved in training other clergy and congregations to work with victims."

"That a clergyperson was trained to offer informed care to victims was rare to them," she said. "So I quickly became the resident expert in helping the other disciplines relate to clergy, tolerate their ignorance of victimization issues and, hopefully, show them ways of getting into religious communities to train. Since that year, I have facilitated the religious response to domestic violence portion of the conference."

During the past year, Kathy has spoken

extensively about domestic violence, and she recently founded The Center for Healing and Hope, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to training clergy and faith communities to deal with victims of sexual and domestic violence.

"All of that is what led them to invite me to change my status to full faculty this year," she said. "It really is a humbling experience. I am a part of a very elite multi-disciplinary group of domestic violence specialists."

Kathy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services from the University of Alabama, and a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Counseling from Southern Seminary. She has written several books on sexual and domestic violence.

Formerly bivocational pastor of a small church in Little Rock, Kathy said that now "I have concluded that perhaps I was not meant to be a pastor because I have really been welcomed and embraced in this new arena." And she is making a difference.

GOING WEST

For We Have Heard of Your Faith

Saturday, September 22

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church,
Oakland, CA

Sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists and
American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Coast

A few years ago when we changed our name from "Southern Baptist Alliance" to the "Alliance of Baptists," we indicated our desire no longer to be an entity bound to the south. Now, with our plans to hold a meeting on the west coast, we are putting action to our intention expressed years ago with our name change. We no longer intend to be just a "southern" organization. Meeting in the west is the Alliance's offer of hospitality and community to other like-minded Baptists wherever they are located. Come and join us in California as we begin a new day in the life of the Alliance!

— Alliance president Paula Clayton Dempsey

See the insert in this newsletter for details. The event is for everyone.

Jennifer Lynn Hornbuckle was ordained to the gospel ministry July 14 by Virginia-Highland Baptist Church, Atlanta. A longtime individual member of the Alliance, Hornbuckle is about to complete a clinical pastoral education residency with the Georgia Baptist Health Care Systems. She currently is interviewing for a chaplaincy position in Atlanta.

Alliance member **Guy G. Sayles Jr.** has been called as pastor of Alliance-affiliated congregation First Baptist Church,

Asheville, NC. He has been pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis since 1996. A service of installation is scheduled for Sept. 9. Guy grew up in Atlanta, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgia Southern University in 1978. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. Guy and his wife Anita have two children, Amanda and Eliot.

Larry Schultz has been called as minister of music by Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC. He goes to Pullen from First Baptist Church, Greenwood, SC, another Alliance-affiliated congregation.

Alliance member and volunteer **Timothy B. Tutt** is the new pastor of United Christian Church, Austin, TX, a congregation affiliated with the United Church of

Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He goes to Austin from the Alliance-affiliated Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, Bethesda, MD, where he was associate pastor.

Linda McKinnish Bridges has been elected associate dean of the college at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. For the past decade she has been professor of New Testament at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, where she was the first person elected to the faculty. She is a member of the Alliance.

Curtis Freeman is the new director of the House of Baptist Studies at Duke Divinity School, succeeding the unit's founding director, Furman Hewitt. During last year's Alliance convocation in Austin, TX, Freeman stood in for theologian James McClendon by reading his Covenant Address. Freeman goes to Duke from Houston Baptist University.

happenings

ALLIANCE ENDORSEMENT

Chaplains and pastoral counselors seeking endorsement from the Alliance should contact **Beth Jackson-Jordan**, the new chairwoman of the Endorsing Committee.

Mailing address: 162 Trail Crest Drive, Rockingham NC 28379

E-mail address: jackson5@toolkitmail.com

Telephone: 910/246-3158

The following people have recently been endorsed by the Alliance

Russell H. Davis	Chaplain Member Certified Supervisor	VA National Chaplains Center AAPC ACPE
William August von Dohlen	Chaplain Associate Chaplain	St. Thomas Hospital Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains
Maurice Briggs	Chaplain Board Certified Chaplain	ACPE Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains
Donald A. Simpson	Chaplain	Medical University of SC
Karrie Ann Oeertli	Associate Supervisor Board Certified Chaplain Chaplain Supervisor	ACPE Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains Integris Baptist Medical Center ACPE
Ward Franklin Carver	Board Certified Chaplain Chaplain	Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains Gateway Health System
David R. Julian	Board Certified Chaplain SIT, ACPE	Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains The McFarland Institute
Stacey DeAnn Cruse	Board Certified Chaplain Chaplain	Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains Hospital Chaplaincy/ Rex Healthcare
Jeffrey Lane Sims	Supervisor in Training	ACPE
Elizabeth Harris-Lamkin	Chaplain	Air National Guard
Joshua Villines	Part-time Chaplain	Assoc. of Prof. Chaplains ACPE GA Baptist Healthcare System Center for Safe Youth
Todd DuBose	Pastoral Counselor	NC Board of Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors



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The Alliance and American Baptists

Throughout our nearly 15 years the Alliance of Baptists has interacted at various levels with the American Baptist Churches in the USA. From our beginnings we sensed the encouragement, offered at times officially and on many other occasions unofficially, by many of the elected leaders and top staff of ABC/USA.

When the Alliance voted in 1989 to create what would become Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, the then-chairperson of our Theological Education Committee, Tom Graves, invited key American Baptist educators to participate in the initial discussions about founding the new school. One of these, Larry Greenfield, at the time president of Colgate Rochester-Crozer-Bexley Hall, became the principal author of BTSR's mission statement. Other American Baptist leaders, including Board of Educational Ministries Executive Director Jean Kim, encouraged the process all along the way.

For several years during the infancy and early childhood of the Alliance, we maintained an official dialogue with ABC/USA. Together we looked at two major possibilities of collaboration which in the end did not work out — joint appointment of overseas missionary personnel and development of a new church school curriculum. And together we co-sponsored a series of get-acquainted sessions designed to introduce Alliance congregations to ABC/USA and encourage their affiliation with the mother body of Baptists in this country.

When the Alliance office was moved to Washington and Jeanette Holt and I were employed in 1989, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board took the unheard-of step of inviting the two of us into its retirement plans in spite of the absence of an organic link between the Alliance and ABC/USA. Last year that exception was expanded to include all Alliance-affiliated congregations and Alliance-endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors.

Besides these official connections, we have enjoyed a natural partnership with the Roger Williams Fellowship of American Baptists, a progressive caucus within ABC/USA for more than a half century. We have been present with one

another at our respective annual gatherings and jointly sponsored a successful regional conference.

More recently, as tensions within ABC/USA have mounted over issues related to homosexuality and the churches, the Alliance has been enriched as a growing number of American Baptist congregations have voted to affiliate. Although we have been deliberately non-aggressive in making our appeal to

such churches, we have welcomed them nonetheless and anticipate welcoming numerous others in the days to come.

In addition, both Jeanette and I have consulted regularly with the new Coalition for Baptist Principles, whose principal objective is to work within ABC/USA to prevent the further fracturing of that body caused by some regions' exclusion to date of congregations who are openly welcoming and affirming of gay people. This year's

Alliance Mission Offering includes a grant to this courageous and visionary group.

Next month we will have the chance to tell the Alliance story to progressive American Baptists on the West coast and to learn of their determination to hold fast to Baptists' historic freedoms in the face of the crisis in American Baptist life. Together with the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Coast, a newly created association that aspires to become an officially recognized region, we will celebrate a gathering at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland following our Board of Directors' fall meeting.

This day-long event on Saturday, September 22, provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about American Baptists and their current struggle to remain faithful to Baptist principles while sharing the Alliance story of our similar struggle in another context. As you read these lines that gathering will be scarcely six weeks away. Nevertheless, if you are able to do so, why not make the necessary arrangements to participate in this historic gathering?

Our well-being as the Alliance, I am convinced, is linked to that of progressively inclined American Baptists. Perhaps we may even presume to believe that we have been brought close to these, our spiritual kin, for such a time as this.

perspectives



By Stan Hastey
Executive Director



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.

2001 Operating Budget

Through July 15

Needs: \$151,673
Receipts: \$134,310

2001 Mission Offering:

Goal: \$92,000
Receipts: \$44,911

August 2001

NEW ALLIANCE CONGREGATION

Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, ME, is the Alliance's newest congregation. Historically affiliated with the American Baptist Churches in the USA, the church has a long history of ministry in Maine's capital city. **Dcborah Davis-Johnson** is Immanuel's pastor. A warm Alliance welcome.

UCC Assembly approves continuation of dialogue

KANSAS CITY — The United Church of Christ has given overwhelming approval to the continuation of a dialogue with the Alliance of Baptists.

Endorsement of the two-year extension of the dialogue followed a brief debate July 16 by delegates to the 23rd General Synod of the 1.4 million-member body meeting here.

In language similar to that approved by the Alliance during its annual meeting in April, the UCC affirmed a dialogue team's recommendation "to develop an intentional ecumenical relationship ... which expresses our common vocation, mutual friendship, and developing collaboration through a covenant to be prepared for formal affirmation in 2003."

The brief debate that preceded approval of the resolution had to do with a proposed amendment requesting the dialogue team "to pursue intentional conversation around becoming multicultural, multiracial, open and affirming, accessible to all communities

of faith."

Invited by UCC Moderator Nancy S. Taylor to respond following passage of the resolution, Alliance Executive Director Stan Hastey thanked UCC officials and delegates for the "amazing grace" demonstrated in their encouragement of the Alliance and of the dialogue.

Speaking directly to the maker of the motion to amend the resolution and those who supported the amendment, Hastey said the dialogue team, which consists of six members from each body, is mindful of the need to produce recommendations that indicate a determination to "pursue justice" for all persons. He added, "I think you will be pleased with the result."

The Alliance representative also expressed thanks to the UCC for supporting the Baptist body's application for admission to the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, approved last November when the Alliance became the 36th member body of the nation's

flagship ecumenical organization. Along with the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., and the American



Baptist Churches in USA, the UCC played an active role in deliberations leading to admission of the Alliance into the NCCC.

Within the next few weeks, United Church of Christ Ecumenical Officer Lydia Veliko, in consultation with General Minister and President John H. Thomas, will appoint the UCC members to serve on the dialogue team during the next two years.

In its April action approving continuation of the talks, the Alliance authorized President Paula Clayton Dempsey and Hastey to name the Baptist group's team members. Several members of the team that worked over the past two years are expected to be reappointed.

Veliko and Hastey also will announce before summer's end the date of the new team's first session.

NORTH CAROLINA ALLIANCE

The North Carolina Chapter of the Alliance of Baptists will meet Oct. 5-6 at the Divinity School at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. For more information contact Steve Jolly at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in Cary, NC, 919/467-0481