

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.

Addie Davis will preach at Watts Street 40 years after her ordination

By Linda Gilliam

Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC

1964 was an important year for North Carolina Baptists. Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham ordained Miss Addie Davis to the gospel ministry — the first woman ordained by a Southern Baptist congregation in the state.

She had sensed God's call to pastoral ministry as a child and in 1962, while a third-year student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, she approached Warren Carr, her pastor, to ask if the church would consider ordaining her. Warren was open to the idea if she met certain criteria.

Addie was asked to become a member of Watts Street and to delay her ordination until she had a call to serve a church as a minister. She was licensed to preach by Watts Street in 1963 and was later called by First Baptist Church of Readsboro, Vermont.

Upon passing the examining council of the Baptist Association in Durham, the membership of WSBC affirmed Addie Davis's call to pastoral ministry and ordained her on August 9, 1964.

In the years since Addie's ordination, the membership of Watts Street Baptist Church has ordained six other women. The determination of Watts Street to uphold the Baptist principles of the priesthood of all believers and the autonomy of the local church has strengthened the church's resolve to respond in faith and affirm the spiritual gift for leadership without regard

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Going to New England

One-day mini-Convocation is planned for area where our numbers are not strong

Former Alliance President C. Welton Gaddy and former Vice President Shanta Premawardhana are among the principal presenters at a mini-Convocation scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18, in Worcester, MA. Nationally renowned speaker Peggy Campolo, an Alliance member who serves on the board of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, will be the day's featured preacher. She is a member of the Alliance-affiliated Central Baptist Church, Wayne, PA.

The one-day event marks a second major effort to reach out to American Baptists in regions of the country where the Alliance is not numerically strong. The first such event, held in Oakland, CA, in January 2002, demonstrated that interest in the Alliance runs strong among more progressive American Baptist congregations and individuals.

In addition to inviting all interested American Baptists in New England, the Alliance is reaching out to congregations affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the region. Last year the Alliance entered into a partnership in mission and ministry with the UCC and Disciples, both of which also have longstanding ties to the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

Gaddy, president of the Interfaith Alliance, will be the keynote speaker and a workshop leader in Worcester, where the Sept. 18 event is to be held in First Baptist Church. Alliance board member Tom McKibbens, pastor of the host church, is convener of the planning team.

Premawardhana, associate general secretary for ecumenical affairs of the National Council of Churches, will lead another workshop, as will Jeanette Holt, associate director of the Alliance. Holt's session is designed to introduce interested participants to the Alliance. Premawardhana's workshop will focus on both the Alliance's and National Council's respective emphases on ecumenical matters, and Gaddy's on the churches and election-year issues.

McKibbens is coordinating worship services for the event, the second of which will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper. William Ness, minister of music and arts at First Baptist Worcester, will coordinate the day's music.

During the morning worship service, traditional sacred music will be led by the host church's sanctuary choir, supplemented by volunteers in attendance. The afternoon service will feature gospel music.



Gaddy



Premawardhana

MINI-CONVOCATION: SEPT. 18

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Percesepe named director of BPFNA

Gary Percesepe has been named coordinating director of the **Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America**, a partner group of the Alliance, effective July 16. An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches in the USA, he is currently associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, OH.

happenings

In a news release issued by President April Baker of Nashville, TN, the BPFNA described its new leader as a “committed peace activist” who has served as a pastor, professor, fundraising consultant and director of non-profit organizations. Most recently he founded the Springfield Call to Renewal and Justice-Action-Mercy, an interfaith, congregation-based action organization.

Percesepe has taught philosophy at the University of Dayton, Wittenberg Univer-

sity, and Saint Louis University, and is the author of four books. He is currently senior editor of the journal *Public Scrutiny*.

Noel takes new job

Alliance member **Tim Noel** of Charlottesville, VA, has been named chief missions officer at Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center in Danville, KY, starting July 20.

Roberts appointed pastor of Methodist congregation

David H. Roberts of Birmingham, AL, an Alliance member since 1990, has been appointed pastor of West Town United Methodist Church in Albany, GA, an African-American congregation in the Thomasville District in southwest Georgia. Ordained as a Baptist minister in 1976, Roberts recently retired from teaching after 28 years as a college English professor, including the last 14 at Samford University in Birmingham. He and his wife Madonna, a

former director of the Alliance, were Baptist missionaries in Zambia. Ten years ago they became Methodists.

Chesser leaves BJCPA to open business in AR

Another longtime member of the Alliance, **Larry Chesser**, has left the post of director of communications at the **Baptist Joint Committee**, to establish a printing business in Benton, AR.

In nearly 20 years at the Washington-based BJC, Chesser established himself as one of Baptists’ preeminent journalists. For the past 14 years, he has edited *Report from the Capital*, the BJC’s flagship publication and a must-read for those who follow church-state developments in the U.S. and around the world. He has covered the Congress, Supreme Court, and White House, initially for Baptist Press, then for the BJC’s own news service. Said Brent Walker, BJC executive director, “Larry simply is the best at what he does.”

Prison ministry in Middle Tennessee depends on Alliance Mission Offering

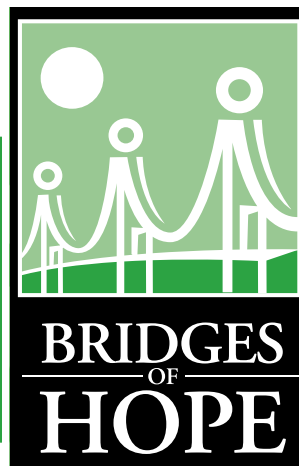
Reconciliation, a ministry to families of prisoners in middle Tennessee, is a recipient of Alliance Mission Offering funds again in 2004. “We are the only agency in the state that advocates for this particular population,” said Alice Arceneaux, the director of the program.

Annually, Reconciliation directly serves an average of 1,600 families and 300 children of Tennessee prisoners. Indirectly, the agency serves 17,000, Alice said. Reconciliation is funded through Foundation grants and donations from individuals and groups such as the Alliance.

“Through no fault of their own, family members of offenders suffer emotional, financial and social hardships as a result of their loved one’s incarceration,” Alice said. “Children are especially susceptible to emotional problems and have difficulty coping with their parent’s imprisonment.”

One of Reconciliation’s current goals is to enhance programs to children of prisoners. It is in the first stages of starting a mentoring program for these children and plans to launch an after-school and summer program.

Reconciliation will receive \$1,700 from the 2004 Alliance Mission Offering.



These services will be in addition to the support groups, summer camping trips, free family lodging and other advocacy services that Reconciliation already provides to families.

Statistically, children of prisoners are 70 percent more likely than their peers to encounter trouble with the law, Alice said.

“By embracing these children, we want to minimize the inter-generational cycle so these children can have a hopeful future,” she said. “Without the faithful support of the Alliance of Baptists, these often-invisible victims of crime would be forgotten.”

Addie Davis

(continued from page 1)

to gender.

A 40th anniversary celebration commemorating Addie’s ordination is planned for August 8. She will bring the message during the morning worship service beginning at 11:00. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall.

A collection of call stories by women in vocational ministry is being assembled to create a more lasting remembrance of this occasion and will be available at the luncheon.

The public is invited. Additional information and luncheon reservations are available by phone through the church office at (919) 688-1366 or on line at www.wattstreet.org.

Well-earned unanticipated political payback

“Fidel Castro is not a good man,” Alliance member Ana Karim of Richmond, VA, recently told Alexandra Starr of *Business Week* magazine. “But I get very, very offended when someone tells me how to engage with my family,” the 32-year-old Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond graduate declared. Karim, a Mennonite pastor, regularly visits an aunt and two ailing uncles in Cuba, Starr wrote.

In her July 12 article, Starr cited a March poll by Florida International University revealing that 64 percent of younger Cuban Americans favor unrestricted travel between the U.S. and Cuba. This statistic alone demonstrates why President Bush may have been guilty of a political miscalculation in imposing severe new restrictions on Cuban Americans’ ability to travel to their homeland, rules that took effect June 30.

These new regulations, announced just two weeks earlier, are the cruelest blow yet to Cuban Americans isolated from their families on the island. They are intrinsically anti-family. And they fly in the face of our nation’s longstanding practice of encouraging travel by U.S. citizens to countries ruled by dictators, a policy premised on the belief that the more we interact with other people the better for the U.S.

The new rules, announced under the broad, discretionary authority of the Department of the Treasury in enforcing travel restrictions on U.S. citizens visiting nations against whom the U.S. has imposed economic sanctions, include the following:

- Cuban Americans hereafter are restricted to one trip every three years for no more than 14 days. This restriction is retroactive, meaning, to cite one example, that Alliance board member Cristina García may not spend Christmas this year with her family in Matanzas as planned because she last traveled to Cuba in the summer of 2002. Under the previous rules, Cuban Americans were allowed to travel once a year for unspecified periods. Furthermore, they no longer may travel for the purpose of visiting relatives beyond their immediate

family members, who are specifically limited to spouses, siblings, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren.

- Cuban Americans, along with all other U.S. citizens, hereafter are restricted from sending quarterly remittances of up to \$300 to households in Cuba. From now on, only Cuban Americans may remit funds and these are limited to the remitters’ immediate families.
- Cuban Americans hereafter are limited to \$50 in daily expense money instead of the standard State Department per diem, currently \$167. These funds are being counted by Treasury Department agents at Miami International Airport before travelers are allowed to board their charter flights.

According to the Bush administration, the underlying purpose of all these new rules is to deny hard currency to the Castro regime. The real reason is a blatant appeal to the worst instincts of the hard-line, anti-Castro crowd who have been demanding that the president live up to his 2000 campaign promises of cracking down on Castro. In a further twist of irony, however, even the oldest of the anti-Castro organizations in Miami, the Cuban American National Foundation, has come out against the new rules.

President Bush may be facing an unanticipated political payback from Cuban Americans. If so, he will have richly earned it.

In recent days numerous Alliance members whose churches are in congregational partnerships in Cuba have asked if the new rules will affect their ability to travel there. The short answer is No. The most recent Treasury Department license issued to the Alliance authorizes Alliance members and members of Alliance-affiliated churches to travel to Cuba through November 2005.

It should be noted, however, that each time a license is issued the recipient organization is notified that the document may be rescinded at any time at Treasury’s discretion.

perspectives



By Stan Hastey
Executive Director

Alliance/UCC/Disciples hold get-acquainted session

Representatives from numerous congregations affiliated with the Alliance, United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) came together for a regional get-acquainted session June 23 in an event hosted by Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, AL. Representing the three bodies and making brief presentations at the Wednesday night affair were UCC Ecumenical Officer Lydia Veliko of Cleveland; Kathy Martin of the Southeast Conference, UCC, Atlanta; Disciples Regional Minister John Mobley; and Alliance Executive Director Stan Hastey.

Mobley, whose region comprises Alabama and northwest Florida, was coordinator of the event. “This was the first of what I hope will be several events in the region bringing folks together to learn about our partnership,” he told *connections*.

The event also serves as a prototype for similar get-acquainted sessions in areas of the country where all three bodies have opportunities for interaction. Such gatherings are strategic in the overall task of coordinating the unique partnership in mission and ministry approved last year by the three collaborating bodies.

alliance **f**inances

Through June 30

2004 Operating Budget

Needs: \$169,923

Receipts: \$129,386

2004 Mission Offering

Goal: \$113,000

Receipts: \$54,451

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Alliance members Pam Taylor, left, and Terry Thomas Primer with the quilts now hanging in the Texas Children's Hospital.

Alliance member's quilts hanging in Texas Children's Hospital

Alliance member Terry Thomas Primer has designed and made two quilts that now hang in the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, TX. Terry is the chaplain for Monroe Village, a full service retirement community owned by Presbyterian Homes and Services of New Jersey. She and her family are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Hopewell, NJ.

She became connected with the Texas hospital through Alliance member Pam Taylor, the hospital's chaplain. "When she became chaplain in 2002, she asked if I would be willing to make two quilts to be hung on either side of the central altar area," Terry said.

The quilts were commissioned and paid for by the Volunteer Auxiliary of TCH. The design is Terry's. "As I envisioned the quilts I thought of the many children and their parents who make their way to TCH for

specialized care hoping for the best," Terry said. "The chapel is a place where men and women around the world come to offer their prayers for the well-being of those they love. The chapel is accessible to staff, patients and family and is located outside of the surgical wing and the family waiting area."

Terry described the quilts: "The quilts, 27" x 65", feature trees in different seasons. The summer one has a tree in full leaf against a background of sunshine. It is the quilt of hope and high expectation. Children come from the core of our being and it is our ardent hope that the gift of his/her life will be long, fruitful and be a blessing to others. The second quilt is a tree in the winter season at either sunset or dawn. Families who come to hospital know that they are on the borders of life and death and seek solace, strength and comfort in their



religious traditions and rituals."

The first quilt was sent in October 2003 and the second one was sent in January. Both were dedicated earlier this year.

Terry has been quilting for 10 years and has commissioned pieces also hanging at St Lawrence Rehabilitation Center and Princeton Theological Seminary of Princeton, NJ as well as a Roman Catholic church in Gambia.

An Alliance member since 1997, Terry was endorsed by the Alliance in 1999.