



The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Associational

A Ongoing eNewsletter from the Executive Director

Issue 20 ~ April 17, 2006

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About Associational

Associational is published monthly by the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, an organization of churches, groups and individuals that advocate for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons with Baptist churches.

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From the Executive Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For ten years, Dr. H. Darrell Lance has nurtured, instructed and inspired our movement through his excellent editorials in AWAB's quarterly newsletter, *The InSpiriter* (TIS). Darrell, who has been the editor of TIS since its inception, will be retiring from this position at the end of June, 2006.

AWAB will offer Darrell tribute and love gifts at the Southern Welcoming & Affirming Baptists Luncheon at Southside Church, Birmingham, AL, Sunday, April 23, 12:30 pm. Please submit written tributes and financial gifts on Darrell's behalf by April 19th, 2006, to AWAB, P.O. Box 259257, Madison, WI 53725. Written tributes may also be emailed to ken@wabaptists.org.

With love,

Rev. Ken Pennings

Executive Director, The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
ken@wabaptists.org, (608) 255-2155

Earlybird Discount for Tapestry Ends April 30th Register today!



Joint Gathering of
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender and Affirming
Christians

Tapestry 2006
Live, Love, Laugh and Lead

June 26-29
Indianapolis, IN

Each day of the gathering will lift up the empowering aspects of what it is to be a person of faith in an affirming Christian community through keynote speakers, worship, workshops, and opportunities for group discussion and meditation. The sponsoring organizations are The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB), Gay Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance (GLAD), and The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns (Coalition).

Register today at www.tapestry2006.org

Southern AWAB Gatherings of W&A Baptists (April 23-26)

“Turning Brokeback Mountain into an Open Range”

April 23: Calling all kissin’ cousins from the Alliance of Baptists and the ABC-USA to attend a Luncheon for Welcoming and Affirming Baptists on April 23rd, 12:30-3:00 pm, at Southside Baptist Church, 1016 19th Street South, Birmingham, AL, 35205-4804, (205) 933-8381, \$5 at door.

April 24: At 6:30 pm, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church [961 Getwell Rd., Memphis, TN, 38111, (901) 327-8479] will host an informal discussion with W&A Baptists and AWAB Director Ken Pennings.

April 25: At 6 pm, Glendale Baptist Church [1021 Glendale Lane, Nashville, TN, 37204, (615) 269-0926] will host a light supper and informal discussion with W&A Baptists and AWAB Director Ken Pennings.

April 26: At 6:30 pm, Oakhurst Baptist Church [222 E. Lake Dr., Decatur, GA, 30030, (404) 376-3677] will host an informal discussion with W&A Baptists and AWAB Director Ken Pennings.

For more information about the Southern AWAB Gatherings, contact Ken Pennings (608-255-2155, ken@wabaptists.org)

Churches Seeking Pastors

Granville, OH: First Baptist Church, Granville, Ohio, a small, active Welcoming & Affirming congregation, seeks a full-time pastor steeped in social justice. We welcome applicants from any denomination who value substance over style and questions over answers. For more information, see our Website: www.firstbaptistgranville.org. Contact: Reverend Alan Newton, Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of the Rochester-Genesee Region, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester, NY 14620. Phone: (585)340-9520. Email: anewton@crcls.edu.

Memphis, TN: Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Memphis, TN (ABC/Alliance of Baptists/BPFNA), is beginning its search for a senior pastor. Rev. Martha Brahm will be leaving in mid-January. Tom Walsh is a member of the search committee, and will be receiving resumes and profiles at pastorsearch@prescottchurch.org. Write to Prescott

Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell Rd., Memphis, TN 38111, 901-327-8479.

Ithaca, NY: First Baptist Church, Ithaca, NY, is seeking an interim pastor, and eventually a full-time senior pastor. Contact (607) 273-5800. Or write FBC, Dewitt Park Mall, Ithaca, NY 14950.

Madison, WI: first Baptist Church, Madison, WI, is seeking a Minister of Discipleship. Contact (608) 233-1880. Or write FBC, 518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, WI 53705.

Palmer, AK: Church of the Covenant is looking for a staff person. “We’re looking for a seminary graduate, who is committed to social ministries. While Church of the Covenant cannot afford a full-time pastor, our related ministries certainly can. A gay person, male or female, would be welcomed. A partnered person would be welcome. The idea is to find someone who ultimately would replace me. After all, I am 78. Palmer is a great place for someone who wants a little adventure and who loves a variety of people.” – Rev. Howard Bess, pastor of Church of the Covenant.

Long Beach, CA: 1st Congregational in Long Beach, CA is looking for a director of youth and family ministries. This is a large, liberal, urban, open & affirming, just peace, social justice church. Visit: www.firstchurchlb.org

Kent, WA: Panther Lake Community Church, a member of Evergreen Association, will be looking for a new pastor. Marilyn Marston has left. They may have an interim. They are not W&A but may be open to a gay pastor. Panther Lake Community Church, 10630 SE 204th, Kent, WA 98031-1512, 253/854-4540.

Regional AWAB Gatherings 2006 Expanding the Welcoming Church Movement 12-Stop Tour

Chicagoland Gathering

June 2-4

Contact Ken Pennings, (608) 255-2155, ken@wabaptists.org

June 2

- 6 pm: Wine and Cheese Reception (\$5 donation appreciated)
- 7:30 pm: Inspirational Music / Message (Ken Pennings preaching) Lake Street Church, 607 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 864-2181

June 3

- 9 am – 2 pm: Community Building Event
Lake Street Church, 607; Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 864-2181. In a relaxed informal setting, connect with others through story-telling, information-sharing and breaking-of-the-bread. Lunch: \$8. If child-care needed, contact Ann-Louise Haak to make arrangements - alhaak@lakestreet.org, (847) 864-2181.

June 4

- 10:30 am: Worship – Ken Pennings preaching at The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056, (847) 253-0501;
- 6 pm: Worship – Ken Pennings preaching at Grace Baptist Church; 5253 N. Kenmore Ave, Chicago, IL, 60640, (773) 334-9003.

New England Gathering**July 21-22**

Hosted by First Churches, 129 Main St, Northampton, MA, 01060, (413) 584-9392. Contact Bruce Baker at bpenke@aol.com, (617) 669-2974

North Carolina Gathering**September 22-24**

Hosted by Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Contact Ken Pennings, (608) 255-2155, ken@wabaptists.org.

Upper Midwest Gathering**September 29-October 1**

(MN/WI). Contact JoAnne Juett (715) 832-0642, jjjuett@sbcglobal.net.

Northwest Gathering**October 13-15**

Hosted by Seattle First Baptist Church and University Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington. Contact Craig Darling (craigdarling@companis.org) or Tim Phillips (tim@ubcseattle.org) for more information.

Texas AWAB/Open Circle Retreat**October 20-22**

Hosted by University Baptist Church, 2130 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78705. Contact Bill Cox, (512) 619-4909, bcoxal@yahoo.com.

Philadelphia Area Gathering**November 3-5**

Hosted by Drexel Hill Baptist Church, 4400 State Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Contact (610) 259-2356, rickardsh@msn.com

Events Sponsored by AWAB's Partners:

See www.welcomingresources.org (calendar)

April 21-23, 2006 Alliance of Baptists

Convocation: *We Have This Ministry – Reconciliation* Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

Speakers:

- James Abbington is associate professor of music and worship at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.
- Chris Hamlin is director of the HIV/AIDS African American Initiative and chaplain at the University of Birmingham's 1917 Clinic. He is also pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Birmingham.
- Joyce Hollyday is a United Church of Christ minister and co-pastor of Circle of Mercy, Asheville, NC, an ecumenical congregation aligned with the Alliance of Baptists and the UCC.
- Willie Jennings teaches systematic theology and black church and cultural studies at Duke Divinity School.
- Sarah Shelton is pastor of Baptist Church of the Covenant in Birmingham.

July 10-15, 2006 BPFNA Summer Conference:

Becoming the Beloved Community, Atlanta, GA. Keynote: C. T. Vivian. Contact (704) 521-6051, bpfna@bpfna.org.

July 14-15, 2006, Whosoever Ministries, Inc. will

host a conference at Virginia Highland Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The "***Reaping the Spiritual Harvest***" conference will feature many inspiring workshops and keynote speeches from Harry Knox, director of the Human Rights Campaign's faith and religion program and Candace Chellew-Hodge, the founder of Whosoever Ministries, Inc. Renowned lesbian Christian singer Marsha Stevens will give a special concert. Visit www.whosoever.org/conference

July 27-30, 2006 *Together in Toronto: Claiming an Open Spirit*

Joint gathering of Affirm United, the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Interests (BMC), and Lutherans Concerned / North America (LC/NA). Contact Ralph Carl Wushke (416) 532-8591, rwushke@interlog.com.

Resource

A Biblical Defense Guide for Gays, Lesbians and Those Who Love Them (Trafford Publishing) explores the scriptures which are used to marginalize

and victimize LGBT people by fundamentalist and conservative groups. It also shows that the Bible has been mistranslated and misquoted to promote an anti-gay agenda. The book reinforces that God's love is for all and not just a few. Available at www.amazon.com

Associational is a periodic e-newsletter of the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, a network of 59 churches and hundreds of individuals who have joined together to advocate for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons within Baptist communities of faith. Please forward this e-newsletter to interested friends. Copy relevant information into your organization's bulletin and newsletter. To subscribe, send an e-mail to subscribe@wabaptists.org with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To be removed from this list, send an e-mail to unsubscribe@wabaptists.org with REMOVE in the subject line. To read back issues of Associational, go to: www.wabaptists.org/associational.htm.

To learn more about the Association, go to: www.wabaptists.org.