

FELLOWSHIP

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA



BTSR is recipient of major gift from Peace estate

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR) has received an unexpected bequest from the estate of a strong South Carolina friend.

The seminary received a \$100,000 gift from the late Dorothy P. Peace, a member of First Baptist Church in Greenville.

Mrs. Peace was a loyal BTSR supporter during her lifetime, said Bob Spinks, a Furman graduate who now serves as director of development for the seminary.

"In addition to annual contributions, she also funded the Greenville First Baptist Church Scholarship Fund for South Carolina students in 1999," Spinks said. "That fund was established as a part of the seminary's 10th anniversary celebration and in honor of the role her church had in BTSR's founding."

First Baptist Church Greenville was the host for the March 1989 meeting of the Alliance of Baptists at which the seminary was voted into existence.

The bequest came to BTSR without restrictions as to its use, Spinks said. It has been credited as a gift to "Building the Future ... Together," the seminary's current campaign for capital and endowment needs.

In accepting the gift, BTSR President Tom Graves expressed the seminary's gratitude for Mrs. Peace's life of service, her dedication to good causes, and her generosity. "This bequest is in perfect keeping with who she was and is an excellent example of her lifelong Christian stewardship," he said. "We are sincerely grateful for her friendship and her investment in the lives of our students."



Dorothy Peace, a member of First Baptist Church in Greenville, who died last year, left a substantial gift to BTSR.

Shoes for Angola

Laurie Christie follows in mission footsteps of her father

By Brenda Pitts

Providence Baptist Church, Charleston

Laurie Christie, a recent graduate of Wando High School in Mt Pleasant, spent two weeks in Africa during the summer of 2004.

While preparing for her trip, Laurie shared with friends and customers at the bagel shop where she worked, some of the needs in Angola. With one customer named Steve, she shared the need for shoes for the children in the IDP (internally displaced persons) camps. When asked what they wanted, the children had told visitors last year that they wanted shoes and school uniforms.

When Steve learned of the specific need for shoes, he found a way that he could help. He collected money from others and bought 30 pairs of children's

shoes for Angola.

Laurie went to Angola with her father, Scott Christie, her friend Taylor Bauer, and three others from the US. In South Africa their group was joined by CBF field worker Lonnie Turner who lives in Cape Town, and Daniel Houser an MK from Johannesburg.

In addition to the shoes, the group distributed children's clothes, books,

crayons, markers, soccer balls, and craft supplies in the three cities they visited in Angola. They also provided medical care in various clinics, taught adult literacy classes, led singing, and preached in many of the churches they visited.

Children in Angola hold up the shoes that Laurie Christie brought for them.



I think I surprised a church recently by telling them that I am a Jesus freak. I am a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:15 says that if we want to see God, we need to look at Jesus. We worship and adore Jesus Christ as Lord. We are not Levites or Davidians (Some of them are still around.) or Paulists. We may value the writings of Paul, and call them inspired, but he is not Jesus. The Bible and human history peaked in Jesus.

It was uphill until Jesus and it has been downhill since Jesus. Neither Jeremiah nor James is in the league with Jesus. Some people are on a quest for the historical Jesus, reading between the lines of the Bible and history to get to the real Jesus.

I would settle for us getting to the Jesus of Holy Scripture, the Jesus that the church (when in its right mind) has



I'm a
**Jesus
Freak**

By Marion Aldridge
Coordinator

been in love with for twenty centuries. That would satisfy me. "You study the scriptures diligently, supposing that in having them you have eternal life; their testimony points to me." (John 5: 39-40)

A few years ago, in my daily devotional reading, I read every book of the Bible roughly the same number

of times, Isaiah as often as the Gospel of John as often as the epistle to the Ephesians. Now, my pattern is to read the Gospels twice for every time I read the remainder of the New Testament and four times as often as I read the Old Testament. I am a better Christian for it.

"Tell me the story of Jesus," we sing, and then we act as if Jesus was just one ordinary Bible character among others. "Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea."

Sometimes the Christian church is not pretty and religion will disappoint. But I am always glad to point people to Jesus. One of the serious mistakes the Christian church, including evangelicals, keeps making is that we try to win people to the church. We introduce people to Christianity. Why not introduce people to Jesus instead?

Myrtle Beach in the spring

Sehested will lead conferences for women, women in ministry

A conference for women of the church will be held March 11-13 in Myrtle Beach. Theme is Companions for the Journey: Biblical Stories of Hope. It begins at 7:30 p.m. March 11 and ends at mid-day on Sunday, March 13. The conference will be held at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort at Kingston Plantation. Cost is \$25 per participant. Deadline for registration is Friday, February 18, 2005.

To register for either conference, send registration fees to Christy McMillin-Goodwin, Oakland Baptist Church, 1067 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Please send one check covering all your church's participants along with contact information for your group.

Preceding this general conference will be a two-day conference for Women in Ministry. The theme will be Peril and Promise: The Use and Abuse of Power. The session begins at 3 p.m. on March 10 and ends around noon on March 11. Cost is \$50 per participant and includes dinner on Thursday evening and all conference materials.

Hotel reservations may be made by calling (800)445-8667. Deadline for the reduced rate is January 10. Please mention "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Women's Conference."

Both conferences are sponsored by CBF and CBF of South Carolina.

Flyers with more details about the conferences are posted on the website, www.cbfofsc.org.



Nancy Hastings Sehested, co-pastor of Circle of Mercy Congregation, Asheville, NC, and a prison chaplain at Marion Correctional Institution, will be the facilitator of the two conferences.

2005 State Missions Offering

**\$110,000
Goal**

to support

- In-state partnership efforts with the Union of Baptists in Belgium.
- Work with internationals at various sites in South Carolina.
- The partnership with Christ Central Ministries among the poor in Allendale.
- And Metanoia, our SC/CBF urban ministry in Charleston.

Promotional materials available from the SC/CBF Resource Center.



A 2004 report on Metanoia, our SC/CBF urban ministry program in Charleston directed by Evelyn Oliveira and Bill Stanfield.

New assistant Ariel Moore works with one of the Young Leaders.

Building Up

by Evelyn Oliveira

2004 was a year of building up. At Metanoia, what has been most thrilling is the building up of COMMUNITY. Our proudest achievement this year was how we, as a community, united to keep our neighborhood school open.

Chicora Elementary, the heart of our community, was slated to be closed in 2005. Thanks to the hard work of parents, students, church leaders and friends, architects are now drawing up plans for a new school to be built in the same location in 2009.

Bill and our board chair, Tony Joyner, attended the Governor's Institute for Housing and Economic Development. There, they worked tremendously hard at a plan to rehab 10 houses in our neighborhood. Alongside this project, Metanoia has a new partnership with the Charleston Homeownership Resource Center and Chicora Elementary School. Together, we are offering quarterly home ownership and credit counseling classes which provide \$5,000 home buying assistance for first-time homebuyers.

Metanoia as an organization has been "built up" by adding two new staff members. We now have our own chef for the Young Leaders Program:

Ariel Moore, a student at Johnson and Wales University. We also have an administrative assistant: Elizabeth Boyd, a dynamic asset in our community. She is a native Puerto Rican from New York City who gets right to the point and gets the job done. Our staff is being built up both in numbers and capacity. This year, we were able to take two of our staff to Atlanta for the Christian Community Development Association Conference. We all came back inspired and with new tools to do what we do everyday.



Oliveira

Last, but definitely not least, the Young Leaders Program has also been built up. Our program now has 25 children who come on a daily basis to "build up" their wonderful gift of leadership. Our second year of the program has been such a joy. Whereas

last year we had to work hard to establish our expectations, this year, our 2nd year students have done that work for us. They have set a wonderful example for the new students both at Metanoia and at school. Our parents were more involved this year. They provided more than 400 hours of participation in our community for the months of August-November. Together, we are building up our wonderful neighborhood.

We express a special thanks to the following partners in 2004: the W.C. English Foundation, Providence Baptist Church in Charleston, First Baptist Church in Aiken, the Baptist Church of Beaufort, St. Matthew Baptist Church and CBF of South Carolina. We are building up our community together with all of you. We expect 2005 to be a year where we continue to build up our mission statement: "People pushing forward into a new relationship with God and one another to create strong communities."



The Young Leaders program now has 25 participants. These are three of the new students.

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
of South Carolina**

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PHOTO COMING

Through the 'stuff of life'

Kevin Roberts is new pastor of Kathwood

One month into his job as pastor of Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia, Kevin Roberts expects his goals for the church in 10 years to be the same as they are today: "to pastor this congregation through the stuff of life, through the joys and sorrows, the pleasures and pitfalls. I want us to be an authentic community. I want us to do life together the best we can."

Kevin, 37, came to Kathwood in December from St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, where he was chaplain for a year. He is a former pastor of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, KY, and Shiloh Baptist Church in Crawford, TX.

Kevin earned a Master of Divinity (cum laude) at George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in 2000 and his Master of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 1996.

Prior to attending seminary, Kevin

was the executive director of the student service organization Breakaway at Vanderbilt University, and was in pharmaceutical sales for several years.

Kevin got connected to Kathwood through Harry Rowland, pastor of The Baptist Church of Beaufort. Kevin, as a junior high student, was on the search committee that brought Harry to Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville as youth minister. "He knew of my situation and recommended me to Kathwood," Kevin said.

Kevin's wife, Alyson Diane Hiatt, also a Nashville native, is a school psychologist. They are parents to Grace Ann, 10; Jake, 6; and Ellie Kate, 4

Beyond church and family, Kevin said he spends a lot of time on his bicycle. He also loves to camp and backpack.

"CBF has been my home," he said. "I've been to seven General Assemblies, and was a CBF leadership

The new pastor of Kathwood: Kevin Roberts and his family

scholarship recipient while at Truett. Hopefully I can bring a good return on that investment through my pastorate at Kathwood. We will live graciously and lovingly with the expectation that God can do great and marvelous things in our midst."

SC/CBF General Assembly • April 22-23
Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach