



crossbeams

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www.gladalliance.org

Plans Shaping Up for Tapestry 2006

This year's GLAD Event, "Tapestry 2006: Live, Love, Laugh and Lead," will be a joint gathering of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB), GLAD, and the United Church Coalition for LGBT Concerns.

The event is scheduled for June 26-29, 2006 at the University of Indianapolis.

Check the website for more details and tentative registration costs: www.tapestry2006.org.

Workshops of Interest to GLAD Members

Two workshops by friends and allies of GLAD are coming up:

Beyond Good Intentions: An Anti-Racism Workshop for White Allies in Faith-based Organizations

Beyond Good Intentions is a four-day workshop designed to provide a context for white people to educate ourselves about white racism and white privilege, hold each other accountable, and demonstrate good faith as we seek to build genuine and lasting alliances with people of color. Beyond Good Intentions is intended to supplement, not substitute for, contexts where people of diverse races strategize and work together to dismantle racism.

The workshop will be lead by Julia Watts Belser and Melanie Morrison at the Leaven Center in Lyons, MI. Melanie has graced

GLAD by speaking at a previous annual event.

For more information about the workshop go to www.leaven.org/upcoming.htm#Intentions

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice to be held March 10-13, 2006 in Washington, DC

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice began in 2003 as a gathering of 400 religious advocates concerned about U.S. foreign policy in Africa and the Middle East. In the second year, 2004, over 600 religious activists from 41 states and 15 countries came together to build bridges across issues faced by the poor and disenfranchised in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

The 2005 Advocacy Days (March 11-14, 2005) added a fifth region, the United States, and also broadened to cover Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, and Global Security issues. Over 850 grassroots advocates, policy experts, politicians, theologians, organizers, and students gathered to shape a new positive, progressive religious vision for U.S. foreign policy.

The 2006 conference "Challenging Disparity: The Promise of God – The Power of Solidarity" will be the largest national gathering of U.S. grassroots progressive religious activists focused on the broad spectrum of international and domestic policies.

You can find more information about Advocacy Days 2006 at www.advocacydays.org.

Letter from New Covenant Christian Church in Houston

GLAD recently received a letter from Todd Williams, pastor of GLAD's covenant partner New Covenant Christian Church in Houston. In the letter he tells of New Covenant's work with hurricane evacuees and homeless youth and of their new building. Todd serves as co-leader of GLAD's Strategic Action Ministry Team. You can read the letter at news.gladalliance.org.

GLAD Strategic Action Team Liaison writes for The Advocate

Steven Baines, GLAD Council Member and Strategic Action Team Liaison, has written an article published this month by The Advocate. The article, "Articles of faith: The religious right's high-profile moral and ethical failures could be a direct result of repressive religion," can be read at www.advocate.com.

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We'd can also save a stamp and a tree and receive only the e-mail version of Crossbeams.

Drop us an note at crossbeams@gladalliance.org.

GLAD Seminarian Gathering Disciples LGBTQ Ordination Stories for Final Project

Casey Williams, a seminarian at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, is gathering ordination stories from Disciples clergy and seminarians. The stories are for her final project towards her Masters in Divinity and her work towards a Certificate in Sexuality and Religion in May 2006. Casey is

compiling stories from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer Disciples who have gone through the process of ordination or are currently in seminary.

Casey's project intends to preserve the stories and histories of LGBTQ people who are either currently in seminary or have already attended one.

Casey seeks personal stories that can tell others what it is like for LGBTQ people attending seminary and seeking ordination in Disciples' regions, stories of both triumph and heartache.

Although Casey needs contact information, stories may be included anonymously.

Casey hopes that this project will be published to inform the church of the struggle LGBTQ people experience when we are called to share our gifts with the church.

You can read Casey's letter requesting participation in this project at news.gladalliance.org and you can contact Casey at sameloverights@yahoo.com.

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Breathing Life Off and Running

Breathing Life, the first Open & Affirming training event offered by our Open & Affirming Ministry Team, starts just a few days after this month's Crossbeams publication date. So far, over 80 attendees have registered for the three-day event in Las Vegas, NV.

Congratulations and thanks to the team for a lot of hard work, and we look forward to hearing all about it in next month's Crossbeams.

More Light Presbyterians Shares New Resource

The More Light Presbyterians have recently made available to us a new resource titled Biblical Views of Sexuality and Homosexuality by Rev. Barbara Swartzel Anderson.

You can read this resource at www.witherspoonsociety.org/2006/biblical_views.htm.

The copyright noticed gives permission to copy for personal use and sharing in small groups.

A Note From Vaughn

We have been praying for Vaughn who has been battling cancer. Recently Vaughn sent us greetings thanking GLAD for prayers and spoke of finishing treatment.

You can read his encouraging words at news.gladalliance.org.