

## Thanks for a great 2017!

by Leslie Withers

Financially, 2017 was a very good year for the Alliance of Baptists.

The board had voted to adopt an “aspirational” budget. We knew we needed to make substantial improvements to our website, our “virtual home,” since we don’t have a main office people can drop in to when they’re in town. Deployed staff work from home offices across the country, so the best way for people to “visit” us is on the web.

The website needed updating, so the board agreed to spend money accrued in previous years, counting it as an investment in our future. Our budget projected about \$614,000 in income and \$620,000 in expenses. That’s not a balanced budget, but it was an investment in the future.

Thanks to that investment, plus the dedication and skills of our communications staff, the Alliance website is a more attractive and user-friendly virtual home. Visit us at [www.allianceofbaptists.org](http://www.allianceofbaptists.org) and watch for more fine-tuning as the year progresses.

The great news also is, thanks to you, our loyal members; and our development staff, the Alliance closed the 2017 budget year about \$25,000 in the black! Our total income for the year was about \$688,000 – a considerable improvement over the board’s estimate. So thank you Alliance members, thank you partner congregations and a big thank you to our wonderful staff, who continually build our theological home, enabling us to pursue God’s justice and facilitate our partnerships in mission.

*Leslie Withers is treasurer of the Alliance of Baptists’ Board of Directors and a member of congregational partner Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga.*