

Metro Chicago

eWind

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

Weekly Electronic Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
A patchwork of varied news and announcements
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

April 6, 2005

We pray that in this week God will bring renewed hope and vigor to your ministry,
and to your spiritual journey.

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Upcoming Events

April 7--American Baptists concerned about issues of Church and State may wish to attend a Church-State Policy Address by Rev. Barry Lind of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Temple Shalom, 3480 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, 7:30 p.m. Phone 773-525-3502.

April 11-12--Alpha Conference, Calvary Church, 9 S 200 State Route 59, Naperville. Information and registration at www.alphausa.org.

April 12--Workshop for Clergy and Friends of Protestants for the Common Good, "Biblical Interpretations Behind the Politics of the Christian Right" by Margaret Mitchell of the University of Chicago Divinity School, First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park, 8:45-11:00 a.m. Phone 312-787-6232 to register.

April 16--ABCMC Ministers Council meeting, "Jerusalem Council," First Baptist Church, 401 S. Fifth Avenue, Maywood, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. RSVP for lunch to 773-783-9774. Facilitators will be Rev. Dr. Kate Harvey, Executive Director, Ministers Council

of the ABCUSA, and Rev. Francine Stark, Staff Minister, Third Baptist Church of Chicago.

April 16--Church World Service's educational conference, "Just Eating: Putting Justice on the Table," Union Church of Hinsdale, 137 S. Garfield Street, Hinsdale, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Phone 888--297-2767 to register.

April 16--"Good Company" coffee house, 7 p.m., Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. All are welcome to come and perform at this open microphone event, and/or be a part of the audience for this fun evening.

April 17-23--ABCUSA National Volunteer Week.

April 23--Church Legal Check-Up Seminar, Christ Community Church, 1151 E. 170th Street, South Holland, IL. Phone ABCMC, 773-695-9791, for more information.

Interim Executive Minister

Please welcome ABCMC's new Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Larry L. Greenfield. He will serve in that capacity for the next six months. Larry will attend the meetings of the Regional Executive Ministers Council and the General Executive Council (in San Antonio) the latter part of this week. He will be available in the ABCMC office next week. He has sent ABCMC's pastors a letter sharing his vision for the interim period. Larry will be happy to hear from clergy and laity alike. Please share with him your vision for the region, and let him know of any ways in which he may minister with your congregation.

Ministers Council of ABCMC

The Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago will meet on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will be our **Jerusalem Council** meeting facilitated by Rev. Dr. Kate Harvey, Executive Director, Ministers Council of the ABCUSA, and Rev. Francine Stark, Staff Minister, Third Baptist Church of Chicago. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss proposed changes in the Ministers Council by-laws.

Information about the proposed changes, as well as the Jerusalem Council process, plus other important information related to the meeting, can be found at www.ministerscouncil.org. Please read this information prior to the meeting.

All members of the Ministers Council are urged to attend and participate.

Have you paid your Ministers Council dues? If not, please mail your check for \$45 to the Ministers Council treasurer, Rev. Glenn Loafmann, 748 Concord Lane, Barrington, IL 60010.

The all-day Jerusalem Council meeting will include lunch. RSVP to our president, Rev. Kathy Taylor, at 773-783-9774 or ferkat92@sbcglobal.net by April 13.

Ministers Council of the ABCUSA

The Ministers Council website has just been updated with Biennial information. Please click on this link <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Biennial/Biennial2005.aspx> for details.

ABCUSA Biennial Meeting

The American Baptist Churches in the USA will gather for their Biennial Convention in Denver, Colorado July 1-3, 2005. The theme will be "Lift Up Your Eyes (Ps. 121)." Much information appears in the Winter 2005 and Spring 2005 issues of *American Baptist in Mission*. You can also find information about the event and registration on the denominational web site, www.abc-usa.org.

Bible and Politics: A Workshop for Clergy

Ministers, please save the morning of Tuesday, April 12 for a special program. Professor Margaret Mitchell of the University of Chicago Divinity School will be the speaker for a breakfast and program hosted for clergy by Protestants for the Common God at the First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park. Professor Mitchell will address the subject "Biblical Interpretations behind the Politics of the Christian Right." she is a dynamic speaker, an engaging teacher, and a scholar who is quickly being recognized as one of the leaders in the field of New Testament. Two pastors will respond to her presentation by sharing their ideas of practical consequences of this topic for their congregations. Clergy may make reservations by phoning Nancy Brandt at 312-787-6232.

Recent Ordinations

Melissa Sprock, a graduate of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, recently successfully completed the process with ABCMC's Ordination Commission. Her husband, Andrew Sprock, also a graduate of NBTS, successfully completed the process as well. Upon the enthusiastic recommendation of the commission, Christ Community Church ordained both of them in February. They are now living and ministering in Anderson, Indiana.

The First Baptist Church of Park Forest ordained and installed as their pastor Rev. Carol Jamieson Brown on Sunday, April 3, 2005. The church first called Carol, a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary, to be their interim pastor. Some months later the church felt led to call her as their long-term pastor. We congratulate both church and pastor.

Anniversary

Rev. Jesse M. Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, and President of ABCMC, will celebrate his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor at First Baptist. The celebration will be on May 1. Further information will be forthcoming.

International Ministries

House of Love, an ABC ministry to children in Thailand, celebrated its tenth anniversary on February 12, 2005. All of the children received new clothes for the event. The

younger children of the House of Love shared their talents by performing dances for the occasion.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Larry Greenfield in his new position of leadership in our region. Please hold him in prayer especially as he attends meetings in San Antonio this week.

Please pray for ABCUSA's Regional Executive Ministers Council (REMC), which is the Executive Ministers of all the regions in ABCUSA. They will meet in San Antonio this week.

Please pray for ABCUSA's General Executive Council (GEC) as they meet in San Antonio this week. The GEC includes General Secretary Roy Medley, National Ministries' Executive Director Aidsand Wright-Riggins, International Ministries' Interim Executive Director Charles Jones, and the REMC.

Please pray for Rev. Margaret Cowden, a member of ABCUSA's national staff. Margaret underwent successful surgery this week. She is recovering well. You may send cards and well-wishes to Margaret's attention to P.O. Box 40, Bridgeport, PA 19403.

The Metro Chicago eWind is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessary express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to abcmchi@aol.com. We will email the newsletter each Wednesday.