

*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 13, 2005**

We pray that in this week you will experience gratitude for our American Baptist family,  
especially for blessed unity in the midst of our God-given diversity.

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### *Upcoming Events*

**April 15-16--**Visitation for Mrs. Julia Castillo, First Baptist Church of Waukegan, 401 N. Genesee, Waukegan: Friday 5-8 p.m.; Saturday 9-10:30 p.m. Funeral Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

**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--**ABCMC Family Cabinet Meeting, noon-1:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 401 S. Fifth Avenue, Maywood.

**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.

**POSTPONED--NEW DATE TBA. 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 21**--Brady Lectures, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard.

**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.

**May 7**--Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner and Spring 2005 Fund-Raiser, First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 280 Ontario Street, Oak Park, 6 p.m.

**July 1-3**--ABCUSA Biennial Meeting, Denver, CO.

**August 1-6**--30th Annual Gathering of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR.

### *Castillo Visitation and Funeral*

Rev. Keith Cerk of the First Baptist Church of Waukegan has extended this invitation on to the ABCMC family:

This week the First Baptist Church of Waukegan will host the visitation and funeral for Mrs. Julia Castillo, who passed away on April 9. Her husband, Rev. Miguel Castillo, preceded her in death a number of years ago. Miguel formerly served the First Baptist Church of Waukegan's Spanish congregation. Both Miguel and Julia were well-loved in Waukegan and around the region. Visitation will be held Friday, April 15, 5-8 p.m., and Saturday, April 16, 9-10:30 a.m. The Funeral will be Saturday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m. The church is at 401 N. Genesee in Waukegan. For more information, please call 847-623-2821.

### *Jerusalem Council-*

### *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 regarding the sexual orientation of Ministers Council Senators.

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](http://www.ministerscouncil.org). Please read this information prior to the meeting.

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

**Ministers: 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](mailto:ferkat92@sbcglobal.net) by April 13.

### *Scholarships*

Christian Community Credit Union will award \$30,000 in scholarships for 2005 through its "Focused on the Future Scholarship Program." Scholarships are open to members of Christian Community Credit Union, and range from \$500 to \$2,000. Eligible students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or seminary. The application deadline is June 15. For more information, please call 800-347-2228, or visit [www.mycccu.com](http://www.mycccu.com) to download an application.

### *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](http://www.abc-usa.org). Please let the ABCMC office know at 773-695-9791 or [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com) if you are going to Biennial.

### *At Biennial-*

#### *Ministers Council of the ABCUSA*

The Ministers Council web site has just been updated with Biennial information. To learn more please click on this link:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Biennial/Biennial2005.aspx> for details.

### *America for Christ Offering*

Many ABC congregations received their American for Christ offering in March, the traditional time for doing so. It is still not too late. In the United States more than 75 million people are unchurched. Many Americans are hungry for the transforming experience of the Lord Jesus in their lives. Many Americans have other needs that ABC ministries and institutions are striving to meet. Whether they need physical nourishment, clothing, shelter, spiritual nourishment or education, American Baptists are working to meet those needs. American Baptists have been generous in giving to the World Mission

Offering, and to Tsunami relief through One Great Hour of Sharing. Please help with your generous gifts to the America for Christ Offering.

### *Lectures at NBS*

Northern Baptist Theological Seminary will welcome Dr. Philip Jenkins, Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University, and author of *The Next Christendom: the Coming of Global Christianity*. Dr. Jenkins will deliver two lectures at the annual William W. Brady Lectures on April 21. The morning lecture, "The Next Christendom: the Coming of Global Christianity," will take place at 10:30 a.m. The afternoon lecture, "Reading the Bible in the Global South," will take place at 1:30 p.m. Both lectures will be delivered in Kraft Hall at Northern's Lindner Conference Center.

In the morning, Dr. Jenkins will discuss how Christianity's center has shifted from the industrialized West to developing nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He will examine the confrontations between "jihad" and "crusade" around the world while taking a look at how this shift will drastically challenge the power and politics of Western churches. In the afternoon he will discuss biblical interpretation in cultures of the global south.

The cost for the Brady Lectures is \$55, including lunch and refreshments. You may register online at [www.mollyguard.com/event/15553521](http://www.mollyguard.com/event/15553521), or phone Melissa Pearson in the seminary's Advancement Office at 630-705-8250.

### *Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner*

On the evening of Saturday, May 7, the Cook County Jail Ministry will hold a dinner at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. Cost is \$15 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$100 per table. All tickets are purchased at the door. Fellowship will be 6-6:30. Dinner and program will be 6:30-8:30. A free-will offering for the jail ministry will be received.

### *Enlivening Congregational Song Seminar*

Mark Bowman of Worship Alive! offers a series of five hands-on training sessions for church musicians, worship leaders and clergy. The goal is to build skills in leading and strengthening congregational singing.

Each three-hour session includes presentation and discussion of topics such as:

- role of music and singing in worship
- skills for effective song leading
- tips for introducing new songs
- selecting sacred repertoire
- creating environment that enhances singing
- teaching groups to sing in harmony
- using choir to enable congregational singing

PLUS opportunity for all participants to practice leading singing.

The cost of the seminar is \$150, and it is limited to 12 persons. Can your congregation benefit from this kind of training in the summer of 2005? Persons interested in this seminar or other training opportunities on congregational singing or global song can contact Mark Bowman at [worshipalive@comcast.net](mailto:worshipalive@comcast.net) or 773-728-8274.

### *Prayer Requests*

Please pray for the ministry of Jorge and Hermelinda Damasceno, ABC missionaries in Albania. They are leading congregations in Lezhe and Tirana. Both congregations are growing in size and in Christian pilgrimage.

Please pray for our Ministers Council's Jerusalem Council meeting this Saturday.

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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 necessarily 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](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com). We will email the newsletter each Wednesday.