

****EXTRA* Metro Chicago *EXTRA****

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

May 20, 2005

We received a number of news items after we had sent out this week's eWind on Wednesday. Since some of them are about events that will take place before next week's eWind goes out, we're sending this along to you now.

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Upcoming Events

Now through May 22--*Absolute Macbeth*, Breadline Theater, 1802 W. Berenice, Chicago, with Trish Austin as one of the witches. 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow; 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20, with group discounts available through 847-293-7705 or www.PETheatre.com.

Now through June 5--*Harry Chapin's Cotton Patch Gospel*, Chicago Dramatists Theater, 1105 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago. Tickets available through www.provisiontheater.org.

May 25--20th Annual Interfaith Memorial Observance for Indigent Persons, noon to 12:50 p.m., Chicago Temple (First United Methodist Church), 77 W. Washington Street (corner of Clark and Washington Streets, Chicago).

Interfaith Memorial Service Features Eric Zorn as Speaker

Please attend, and invite others to attend, a special service this coming Wednesday, May 25, 2005. The Chicago Temple (First United Methodist Church) will host the 20th Annual Interfaith Memorial Observance for Indigent Persons. The guest speaker will be *Chicago Tribune* columnist Eric Zorn. This memorial observance is being held to commemorate the lives of indigent persons who were recently buried by the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. Although these people had no resources, and no family to claim their bodies and bury them, they lived as a part of the Chicago community. This event will honor their lives. A reception and celebration will follow the service.

Cotton Patch Gospel

The Jeff-Nominated and award-winning bluegrass musical *Harry Chapin's Cotton Patch Gospel* will be at the Chicago Dramatists Theater, 1105 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago. This entertaining musical features the reverential retelling of the Gospels of Matthew and John in a contemporary southern setting, set to bluegrass music. The award-winning musical is based on the book *The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John* by Clarence Jordan, a Bible scholar and Civil Rights activist. Performances are April 28-June 5, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are available from the box office, 773-506-4429, or from www.provisiontheater.org. Tickets are \$22. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more persons.

Macbeth

Trish Austin, who is by day the secretary at North Shore Baptist Church, is by night and weekend, and in her heart, an actress. For the last few weeks *Patricia* Austin has appeared as one of the witches in *Macbeth*. Richard Engling is the director.

"The witches have a much larger role than usual in this production," Engling says. "They cast the ritual circle in which the action of the play takes place. They observe. They enter the action in masks, playing minor characters and shaping the action. They don't *create* the evil. The evil was in *Macbeth* from the beginning. When the witches greet him: 'All hail *Macbeth*, that shalt be king hereafter,' he reacts in shock, because he has *already considered* killing the king for his throne. They recognize the evil in him and act as catalysts to bring his wickedness to the surface. Only then can it be purged and balance restored to the kingdom. Our production uses *Macbeth* to represent the evil in our 'kingdom,' and to cast a spell for it to be purged." This production "is *Absolute Macbeth*, Shakespeare's words to the rhythm of drums, passion, choreographed battle, and sacrificial rite."

Absolute Macbeth is finishing its run this weekend at Breadline Theater, 1802 W. Berenice, Chicago. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets and information are available from 847-293-7705 or www.PETheatre.com. Tickets are \$20. Substantial discounts are available for groups of 10 or more persons. Sunday, May 22 is closing night.

Teaching Church Seminary

Central Baptist Theological Seminary, recognizing that "the growing population of theological students comes from those who are either second career, bi-vocational, or associate ministers," has become a multi-site seminary partnering with congregations in providing a progressive Baptist witness with ecumenical openness. Beginning this fall, students near Kansas City, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; Milwaukee, WI; Omaha Nebraska; and Murfreesboro, TN can work toward a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts degree from Central.

Being Neighborly

When Grace Baptist Church of Chicago needed space for a mini-retreat this Saturday, the pastor turned to other ABCMC congregations for assistance. Irving Park Baptist Church graciously made their space available. This is one of many ways in which our region's churches are being good neighbors to one another. Let us know about hospitality and neighborliness in your church.

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.
If you spot a typographical error in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or abcmchi@aol.com.