

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

May 25, 2005

We pray for you in your service to Jesus Christ,
and hope that you are experiencing your ministry as a blessing to others and to yourself.

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Upcoming Events

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 29--5th Sunday Unity Service, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

June 2, 9, 16--"One, Body, Many Parts!" Brown Bag Lunch discussion of evangelism, Baptist style, noon-1:30 p.m. Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, will host this series of meetings.

June 4-7--National Hunger Week. The Alliance to End Hunger presents *One Table: Many Voices* conference, in Washington D.C. June 4-7, 2005. For more information, visit www.onetableconference.org.

June 4, 11, 18, 25--Enlivening Congregational Singing Seminar, North Shore Baptist Church 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. plus fifth session TBD. Contact Mark Bowman at worshipalive@comcast.net or 773-728-8274.

June 8--Prayer service for Ghana partnership, 7 p.m., FBC of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

June 9, 16, 23, 30--Enlivening Congregational Singing Seminar, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 171 N. Cuyler, Oak Park, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. plus fifth session TBD. Contact Mark Bowman at worshipalive@comcast.net or 773-728-8274.

June 20--World Refugee Day. For more information about World Refugee Day, see <http://www.churchworldservice.org/immigration/archives/2005/05/62.html>.

June 26--Ordination of Taku Longkumer to the Christian Ministry by Christ Community Church, 602 E. Geneva Road, Wheaton, 10 a.m. For more information, phone the church at 630-665-2259.

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

July 6-August 12--Xtreme Team Mission Adventure. Please see article.

July 25--A conversation with Imam W. Deen Mohammed and Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.: Faith and the Common Good, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center Auditorium, adjacent to Holy Name Cathedral, State and Superior Streets, Chicago, 7p.m. RSVP by July 18 to 773-456-5637.

July 28-30--Missional Church Conference, Cenacle Retreat Center, Chicago.

July 29--NCC's Green Ministries conference, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., ELCA building, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago. More information is available from Cassandra Carmichael at 202-544-2350 or www.nccecojustice.org.

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

August 6-11--World Mission Conference, Green Lake, WI. More information and registration materials available at www.internationalministries.org.

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Interim Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, writes a biweekly column of reflections on theology, scripture and public life for *The Common Good Network*, an electronic newsletter of Protestants for the Common Good (PCG). His most recent column is attached. We will make a practice of attaching his column to eWind. You can see back issues of *The Common Good Network* at the PCG web site, www.thecommongood.org. You may also subscribe to the newsletter there. There is no charge. You will probably enjoy this "fortnightly magazine of information, opinion, and resources relating faith to public life."

Ordination

The following invitation is from Christ Community Church, 602 E. Geneva Road, Wheaton.

We are pleased to announce the upcoming ordination of Taku Longkumer, Assistant to the Pastor at Christ Community Church of Wheaton. All are welcome to attend the service on Sunday, June 26th at 10:00 am and celebrate with us.

Taku had his second meeting with ABCMC's ordination commission in May, 2005. The commission was pleased to recommend that Christ Community Church proceed with his ordination.

International Mission Opportunity this Summer

- Xtreme Team

Since 1998, International Ministries has sponsored an exciting program for young adults entitled the Xtreme Team Mission Adventure. Over 100 young adults have participated in this unique month long mission experience designed to expose participants to global mission and build up mission leadership for the future.

The Republic of Georgia and the Dominican Republic are the two destinations in 2005.

International Ministries missionaries Dan Buttry and Madeline Flores are among the leadership of the teams. Originally fifteen participants were divided between the two teams, but an unusual amount of attrition has resulted in only twelve participants remaining. It is possible that one team will need to be canceled due to lack of participants.

Would you know of an American Baptist young adult 19-29 years of age interested in engaging in a mission experience this summer? The cost is \$3900 and includes airfare and expenses in the US and the host country for the entire experience. The dates are July 6 through August 12. The trip will begin with orientation at Judson College in Elgin, IL and concludes at the World Mission Conference in Green Lake, WI.

Those interested may register online www.xtremeteamonline.org or contact the Volunteers in Global Mission office at 800-222-3872 ext .2367 or 2164 with any questions.

Ecumenical Opportunities for Young Adults

The Stewards Program of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches offers a unique program for young adults (ages 18-20 years) to experience one aspect of the ecumenical movement from the inside. It involves learning about ecumenical theology and sharing with others the joy of worship and the excitement of fellowship with others in the ecumenical movement.

Julie Justus and Natlie Hanna, two American Baptist young adults, recently served as Stewards at the WCC World Missions and Evangelism Conference in Athens, Greece. To read about their experience go to the American Baptist home page www.abc-usa.org and click on the Mission Greece Blog.

Application for the National Council of Churches can be found at www.ncccusa.org. The application is due August 1, 2005.

Application for the World Council of Churches can be found at www.wcc-assembly.info. The application for the WCC is due June 15, 2005.

Youth Advocacy Project Freedom Summer

The Community Renewal Society is offering the young people of your congregation the chance to seek peace and promote justice. The Youth Advocacy Project (YAP), sponsoring Freedom

Summer, is an intergenerational, interracial and interfaith fellowship fighting for civil and human rights while reforming the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Participants in Freedom Summer will meet people who fought for civil rights, and visit the places where those struggles took place. They will also have the opportunity to participate in demonstrations, poetry and writing contests, and a three day youth organizing seminar. Encourage your youth to become truth messengers and learn how to take action against hate to make the world a better place.

Those involved in the project will be taking a stand against hate. It will be a journey to stop the more than 50,000 hate crimes that occur each year. These crimes against humanity are crushing American values and destroying our youth. 62% of all hate crimes are committed by people under age 25, and 34% of the victims are children.

To kick off Freedom Summer and the demise of hatred CRS will hold an anti-racism conference on Saturday, June 18. The conference will be 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 18 at the Logan Square YMCA, 1834 N. Lawndale, Chicago. The conference will include the viewing of a video on hate crimes, and a discussion of the video.

All are invited! RSVP to Julie Barki or Don Washington at 312-427-4830 by June 10.

Please Don't Leave It Blank!

Recently your church received its 2004 Cooperating Church Annual Report form. Annual Reports are used to gather statistical, financial and leadership data on our member churches. They are one of the primary data-gathering vehicles for the ABCUSA. It is critical for the denomination to have current data on our member churches. We cannot do accurate projections on the trends within ABC without it. Your church's participation in the Annual Report process will have a significant effect on our ability to move the denomination forward.

Your church's Annual Report will become a part of your church's *Congregational Profile*, which includes ten years of giving history, five years of statistical history and a complete pastoral history for your church. The Congregational Profile is used for many purposes. It is provided to speakers who come to your church. It is used by Pastoral Search Committees, and also by pastors who might be interested in coming to a church. If you find incomplete or incorrect information on the report, please feel free to make corrections and include the *Congregational Profile* with your annual report so that corrections can be made.

Position Open

The Chicago Interfaith Committee for the Homeless (ICH) is searching for an interim executive director to begin immediately. The executive director is responsible for overall leadership and day to day activities of the ICH. The executive director is expected to work collegially with an excellent staff and be experienced in grant oversight. Knowledge of homeless service provisions would be helpful. Interim can be a candidate for the permanent position. Send resume and questions to revjustice@hotmail.com.

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.

Ministers Council Response Form

On August 24, 2004 the Ministers Council Senate approved a process to enable Ministers Council Senators to listen fully to the concerns of their constituents regarding the issue of homosexuality. One piece of this process is that every member of Ministers Council and every American Baptist engaged in professional ministerial leadership is invited to respond in writing (500 words or less) on the matter. This information will be reviewed by the facilitation team, and a full range of responses will be summarized at Senate 2005.

The following guidelines are offered as a framework for response:

1. Reflect on this issue of homosexuality in light of Christ's greatest commandments to love God and neighbor.
2. Under what circumstances do you believe you can be faithful to God and remain in fellowship with others who hold strong convictions opposite your own, regarding homosexuality?

Forms are available from www.ministerscouncil.org. The ABCMC office also has forms. Please mail your completed response form to the address on the form. Responses *must be received by July 3, 2005*.

Remembering Elmer Johnson

A number of those in attendance at the memorial service for Elmer Johnson expressed appreciation for the words that Larry Greenfield spoke on behalf of ABCMC and the Baptist Theological Union. Larry's comments are attached.

Fifth Sunday Unity Service

Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, will host its regular Fifth Sunday Unity Service, on May 29, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Soong In Moon, pastor of Hallelujah United Methodist Church. The reception following the service will offer a "Taste of Korea." Everyone is welcome to participate in this multi-cultured worship and fellowship experience.

One Body, Many Parts!

Celebrate God's work of evangelism *Baptist-style*. Are you interested in colleagues' understandings of Good News or the strategies and lessons others have found helpful in sharing their Good News? Interested clergy and lay leaders are invited to this 3-part brown bag lunch discussion to explore the shape of evangelism among local churches in Metro Chicago. Each week two or three local pastors will make brief presentations on their own approach, lessons and questions. Ample time for discussion and prayer will be provided. Join others in celebrating the distinct local church expressions of evangelism in Metro Chicago's American Baptist family, and bring your questions and resources to share. Thursdays, June 2, 9 and 16, noon to 1:30 p.m. at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Contact co-planners Doug Harris (dharris@northshorebaptist.org) or Jacki Belile (GBCFriends@aol.com) for more information.

Enlivening Congregational Singing Seminar

Mark Bowman, minister of music at the United Church of Rogers Park, Chicago, offers a series of five hands-on training sessions for church musicians, worship leaders and clergy. This program builds skills in leading and strengthening congregational singing. Each three-hour session includes presentations and discussion of topics such as the role of music in worship, skills for effective song leading, tips for introducing new songs and teaching groups to sing in harmony.

Two Chicago area churches will host Mark's seminar in June. North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago will have the seminar 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays June 4-25, plus a fifth session, date to be decided. Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 171 N. Cuyler, Oak Park will have the seminar 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays June 9-30, plus a fifth session, date to be decided.

The seminars are limited to 12 participants. The fee will be \$150 per person. For more information, contact Mark at worshipalive@comcast.net or 773-728-8274.

Prayer Service for Mission Partnership

A service of prayer and worship co-sponsored by First Baptist Church of Chicago, Third Baptist Church of Chicago, New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Evanston and the ABCMC Mission Partnership Committee will be held Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Chicago. The Ghanaian Baptist Fellowship will lead us in praise. There will follow a service of worship and prayer in support of our ministry partners, the Ghana Baptist Convention, as Reverend Alan Ragland, Reverend Taurus Scurlock and Reverend Joanne Lindstrom prepare to travel to Ghana as resource persons for Ghana Baptist Conventions annual Youth Convention. EVERYONE who is able is encouraged to come and join us in this time of prayer.

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.

Are you planning to attend Biennial, and interested in sharing a room, transportation, etc.? Give the ABCMC office a call at 773-695-9791. We may be able to help you find someone from ABCMC with whom to share expenses.

At Biennial-

ABCMC Reception

Please let the ABCMC office know at 773-695-9791 or abcmchi@aol.com if you are going to Biennial. ABCMC will host a reception at Biennial on the evening of Saturday, July 2 following the worship service. If you are going to Biennial, please let us know also whether you will attend the reception.

Christian Bodybuilding in a World Torn Apart

July 28-30 the Center for Parish Development will present a two-day conference on building up the body of Christ in today's world. Dr. Rodney Clapp, author of *A Peculiar People: the Church as Culture in a Post-Christian Society* and a number of other books, will be the featured speaker. Please visit www.missionalchurch.org/seminars/convo05/main.html for more information and to register. Since space is limited, please register soon. Costs are listed on the web site.

Mission U- -Mission You!

International Ministries invites you to attend Mission University, a 6-day program of drama and mission stories, worship and music, missiology, daily electives, Xtra credit with Xtreme teams and much more! God calls us into mission both to reach the world and to change our own lives. This year's World Mission Conference will be all about the life-changing learning that happens as we follow Christ by going global. The conference will be August 6-11 at Green Lake. It will include activities for adults, youth and children. Call 800-558-8898 today to reserve your room. For more information, visit www.internationalministries.org.

Green Ministries

Join together with other faith leaders to learn how to “green” religious congregations and institutions. On July 29, the National Council of Churches will offer a morning event designed for camp and conference center ministry leaders, clergy and denominational staff. The purpose of this conference is to empower and enable participants to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices in their institutions and increase environmental stewardship while reducing financial burdens. The conference will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago. (This is the building in which our ABCMC office is located.) For more information or to register contact Cassandra Carmichael at cassandra@toad.net or visit www.nccecojustice.org

Accessible Faith Grants

The Retirement Research Foundation's Accessible Faith Grant Program will have one more funding cycle in 2005. The deadline for receiving applications is August 1. The Accessible Faith Program enables houses of worship in Cook, Lake or DuPage counties to make accessibility improvements to their facilities. The full description of the program, application form, and tips for completing the application are available on the Foundation's web site (www.rff.org), or by contacting the Retirement Research Foundation, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 430, Chicago, IL 60631. The phone number is 773-714-8080.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the ABCMC staff, volunteers and others who are working to improve our technology for communicating more effectively.

Please lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for Christ Community Church in Wheaton, and Taku Longkumer, Assistant to the Pastor. The congregation will ordain Taku on June 26 during their 10 a.m. worship service.

Please remember in prayer IM missionaries Chuck and Judy DeRolf, who are retiring after 30 years of service in Japan.

Please hold in prayer all who are working hard to prepare for the Biennial Meeting of the ABCUSA.

Book Nook

Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy by Rosalie Hall Hunt. With writing worthy of a Victorian novel, the author provides an intriguing train of never-before-published discoveries about the Judsons--Adoniram, Ann, Sarah and Emily--the first international Baptist missionaries from the United States. Hunt examines events including the first trip to Burma, and the Judsons' influence on the formation of a denomination. She also tells of Adoniram Judson's imprisonment at Let Ma Yoon, and the ongoing ministry following the death of the Judsons. The book is available from www.judsonpress.com.

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. 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.