

Metro Chicago

eWind

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

A 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

June 29, 2005

Our prayer this week is that the General Board of ABCUSA;
the denomination's other leadership councils, committees and boards;
and those participating in Biennial 2005
may come together in God's peace and wisdom.
May our denomination emerge from this biennial meeting
with a renewed commitment to moving forward
as God's people in mission.

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Upcoming Events

June 27-30--ABCUSA General Board Meeting, Denver, CO.

June 28-29--ABCUSA REMC Meeting, Denver, CO.

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

July 3--ABCMC Communication Coordinator Rev. Lynne Kelley preaches at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 11 a.m.

July 3--ABCMC Communication Coordinator Rev. Lynne Kelley preaches at Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 6 p.m.

July 13--Protestants for the Common Good presents William Sloane Coffin Award for Justice and Peace to Mary Nelson, Cultural Arts Center, Beth-Anne Campus, Bethel New Live, 1140 N. Lamon Avenue (near Cicero and Division), Chicago, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Jim Wallis, speaker.

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 31--5th Sunday Unity Service, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 6:30 p.m.

July 28-30--Missional Church Conference, Cenacle Retreat Center, Chicago. Register at www.missionalchurch.org/seminars/convo05/main.html. Costs are listed on the web site.

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--Deadline for receiving applications for Accessible Faith Grants. See www.rff.org for complete information.

August 1-5--Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders, sponsored by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 675 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines. Brochures with registration form available from ABCMC. For more information, contact LMPC, 630-627-0507, or visit www.lmpeacecenter.org. Register before July 5 for best tuition rate, \$595.

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.

September 2-5--National ABC Singles Conference, Marshall, Indiana. Visit NSFellowshipABC@aol.com for more information.

Ministers: Please Respond Immediately

The deadline is fast approaching for your written comments on homosexuality to the Ministers Council. **July 3 is absolutely IT!**

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*.

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.

She's Alaska-Bound!

Rev. Constance Stone, a member of Community Baptist Church in Warrenville, will be the interim pastor of an American Baptist Church in Alaska for the month of July. She hopes to be able to send us an occasional report for *eWind*. Connie's daughter Heather is the Director of Christian Activities at the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Although Heather will be in the midst of Day Camps and really busy, Connie hopes to have some quality time with her. Connie's 7 year-old grandson John is looking forward to "some long overdue grandma time." Grandma is looking forward to that, too!

William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice

On the evening of Wednesday, July 13, Protestants for the Common Good will present the William Sloane Coffin Award for Justice and Peace to Mary Nelson, to celebrate her 26 years of faithful service as President and CEO of Bethel New Life. Bethel New Life is

Mary Nelson

a faith-based community development corporation on the west side of Chicago.

The organization came out of the ministry of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Ms. Nelson came to the community in the 1960's, when her brother became pastor of the church. She saw a run-down community on the verge of despair. But Ms. Nelson saw beyond the dilapidated houses and broken pavement, and imagined what could be. Through Ms. Nelson's vision, the organization has turned around the community in which it is located. Their focus has been on affordable housing, health care, job training and creation, and community-based child care and adult day care. Although Ms. Nelson will retire at the end of this month, the ministry she began will continue.

The program to present the award will feature guest speaker Jim Wallis, author of *God's Politics*. The event will take place at the Cultural Arts Center, Beth-Anne Campus, Bethel New Life, 1140 N. Lamon Avenue (near Cicero and Division). A reception will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The program will follow. Tickets for the event are \$30. You may make reservations with a credit card at www.thecommongood.org.

US Supreme Court Decisions

WASHINGTON — On Monday, June 27, in two decisions regarding Ten Commandments displays, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed a principle requiring religious neutrality by government and emphasized the rule that the constitutionality of government displays with religious content depends on the context.

In its decision in *McCreary County vs. ACLU*, the Court reinforced the idea that the door is not open for governmental establishment of religion.

In a 5-4 decision, the Court struck down Ten Commandments displays in two Kentucky counties that, after a federal court ordered them removed, were surrounded by other historical documents in an effort to pass constitutional muster.

"The touchstone for our analysis is the principle that that the First Amendment mandates governmental neutrality between religion and religion, and between religion and nonreligion," the opinion, written by Justice David Souter, read. "When government acts with the ostensible and predominate purpose of advancing religion, it violates the central Establishment Clause value of official religion neutrality, there being no neutrality when the government's ostensible object is to take sides."

K. Hollyn Hollman, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, said "both of the decisions uphold the neutrality principle, which is good for religious liberty."

"Proponents of government-sponsored religious displays should know they are on shaky ground," Hollman said. "The Court made it clear that offering sham secular purposes will not carry the day."

In *Van Orden vs. Perry*, a Texas resident challenged a granite monument on the state capitol grounds. He argued that it violated the First Amendment's ban on governmental establishment of religion.

Upholding the monument's constitutionality, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote a plurality opinion, meaning fewer than four justices agreed with his reasoning. That opinion was limited in scope. Rehnquist acknowledged the responsibility to "maintain a division between church and state" and affirmed *Stone vs. Graham*, noting: "The placement of the Ten Commandments monument on the Texas Statehouse grounds is a far more passive use of those texts than was in the case of *Stone*, where the text confronted elementary school students everyday."

Justice Stephen Breyer joined only in the judgment, expressing reluctance to remove a free-standing monument that had been in place for 40 years.

"Though disappointed in the result, it's apparent the chief justice wrote a cautious opinion," said J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. "If the monument had been in place 40 days instead of 40 years, Justice Breyer may have voted the other way."

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty filed friend-of-the-court briefs arguing that both displays are unconstitutional. The briefs are available at www.BJConline.org.

Fifth Sunday Unity Service

Everyone is invited to the 5th Sunday service on July 31 at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, at 6:30 p.m. This is the third of the series of Multicultural Worship services. In July, the celebration will be in African American style, with Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland, pastor of 3rd Baptist Church of Chicago as preacher. The choir from 3rd Baptist will also be featured. After the service everyone will celebrate with traditional African American foods. All are welcome!

Dunns Endow Moyers Scholar Program

WASHINGTON -- A family relationship fostered under extraordinary circumstances nearly 50 years ago has led two stalwarts of religious liberty, James and Marilyn Dunn, to establish a scholar program in honor of their friends, Bill and Judith Moyers. Beginning in the spring of 2006, graduate students at Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C., may apply for the Moyers Scholar program, which entitles one recipient per year to a semester internship at the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. The BJC is a 70-year-old organization whose mission is to defend and extend religious liberty for all.

The Duns donated \$100,000 to the endowment fund, which will be managed by the divinity school at Wake Forest University with the proceeds going to the scholar program at the BJC.

"The name 'Moyers' has become a part of speech for all aware Americans," James Dunn said. "To suggest that someone is a 'Moyers,' means that he or she is informed on theology, infused with integrity, and in speaking truth to power, fortified with courage."

In 1958, while he was standing in a hospital waiting room after having just learned that his fiancée, Marilyn, had survived a car accident in which her step-sister was killed, James Dunn was approached by a lady named Ruby Moyers.

"The lady said, 'You're staying at my house tonight,'" James Dunn recalled. In fact, Dunn stayed at the Moyers' house two or three nights while visiting Marilyn in the hospital in Marshall, Texas, which was three hours from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary campus in Fort Worth, where he was a student.

At the time, Ruby's son, Bill Moyers, was a fellow student at Southwestern. Thus, a friendship with Moyers that had begun a few years earlier was solidified that day and has now lasted more than 50 years.

James Dunn, who served as executive director of the BJC from 1980-1999, is the president of the organization's endowment and a resident professor of Christianity and public policy at Wake Forest Divinity School. Dunn, a recipient of eight honorary degrees, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Wesleyan College and Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition, his postdoctoral study at the London School of Economics and Political Science changed his Th.D to a Ph.D.

Marilyn Dunn is the daughter of Edwin and Polly McNeely, both longtime professors at Southwestern. She is a lyric soprano who participates extensively in various musical events in Winston-Salem and throughout the region.

In his long career in broadcast journalism, Bill Moyers has won more than 30 Emmy Awards, two prestigious Golden Baton awards and nine Peabody Awards.

Bill Moyers served as a founding organizer of the Peace Corps, and was press secretary for Lyndon B. Johnson, before becoming the publisher of *Newsday* in 1967. He served as a reporter and anchor for public television before moving to CBS, where he became senior news analyst for the CBS Evening News.

Bill Moyers, who was given an honorary degree from Wake Forest in 1997, earned a B.A. in journalism from the University of Texas in 1956, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southwestern.

Bill and Judith Moyers currently collaborate with Public Affairs Television, Inc., an independent production company founded by Bill and headed by Judith. Before their retirement in 2004, Judith Moyers was executive editor and Bill Moyers was managing editor and anchor of *NOW with Bill Moyers*.

Judith Moyers has been recognized for her work as an advocate for children through groups such as the Girl Scouts of America and the National Council of Churches. She has served as a United States Commissioner to UNESCO, a member of the White House Commission on Children and member of the National Governors' Association Task Force on Education and Economic Development.

Born in Dallas, she is a graduate of the University of Texas, where she earned a Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude. She also holds several honorary degrees.

The Moyers have three children, John, William Cope and Suzanne. Suzanne is a 1984 graduate of Wake Forest.

Dr. Bill J. Leonard, dean of the Wake Forest Divinity School said the Moyers Scholar program "will forge bonds with the Baptist Joint Committee, help us recruit students interested in pursuing church-state studies and honor two great Americans [the Moyers]."

"It is a grand gift from two people [the Dunns] who have claimed our hearts and our consciences across the years," Leonard said.

J. Brent Walker, James Dunn's successor as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, said, "We accept this generous gift with gratitude and excitement.

"The BJC anticipates a lasting partnership with Wake Forest and looks forward to welcoming our first Moyers Scholar," Walker said. "This gift memorializes an already pervasive Dunn legacy and honors the Moyers' support of the BJC at the same time."

Prayer Requests

Please lift up in prayer our denomination during the General Board Meeting this week, and our biennial convention this weekend. May those gatherings be full of God's spirit of love, grace and welcome.

Please hold in prayer Rev. Connie Stone as she travels to Alaska, and begins her interim pastorate there.

Please pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Book Nook

THE WORK OF THE PASTOR

by Victor Lehman

This book addresses core pastoral duties including conflict management, worship preparation, transitions, team ministry, identifying giftedness, administration and more. The book is on sale for \$9.60, and 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 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.