

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

July 6, 2005

In this week, let us all be thankful for the freedom of life in Christ Jesus.

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Upcoming Events

July 10--Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield, Interim Executive Minister of ABCMC, will preach at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston. The service will be at 10:30 a.m. Larry's sermon title will be "Conspiracy."

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. Lamont Avenue (near Cicero and Division), Chicago, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Jim Wallis, speaker.

July 24--Opening Session of the Annual Conference of the International Council of Christians & Jews, 8 p.m., Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington Street (Clark and Washington), Chicago.

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.

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.

September 20--15th Annual Charity Golf Outing for Kids Hope United, Bonnie Brook Golf Course, Waukegan, 11:30 a.m.

October 14-16, 28-30--Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course, Jefferson City, MO. See article, and visit www.msr-crm.org.

Thinking Theologically

Interim Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a bi-weekly column for Protestants for the Common Good. This week's column is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Len Sharber

Len Sharber, Chief Executive Officer for Circle Family Care since 1984, passed away on June 29. His funeral was at Hope Community Church on July 5. He was an ordained ABC minister, and a 1975 graduate of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. His sudden death leaves an enormous void in the West Side community and in the professional circles of Human Services. Len is survived by his wife Linda; son Michael and daughter-in-law

Heidi; son Gregory and daughter-in-law Rakeda; daughter Kara Lynn; daughter Deandra; son Keith; and grandchildren Donovan, Sam, and Nessaja. The Sharber family has requested that donations be made to the Len Sharber Memorial Fund, Circle Family Care Development Department, 5002 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60644.

Report on the Quarterly Meeting of the General Board

General Board Representative Francine Stark Interim Executive Minister Larry Greenfield attended the meetings of ABCUSA's General Board in Denver the last week of June. Francine also attended meetings of the Board of National Ministries while Larry attended meetings of the Regional Executive Ministers Council. They both will be reporting on these meetings in the near future.

Report on the Biennial Meeting of ABCUSA

The Chicago area was well represented at the ABCUSA's biennial convention in Denver July 1-3. A number of ABCMC congregations sent delegates. The region hosted a well-attended reception on the evening of July 2.

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the ABCUSA, was the preacher at the worship service the first night of the convention. His sermon is available on www.abc-usa.org. Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall, President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary was the preacher on the second evening. She urged her listeners to have a "radical trust in God's faithfulness," and "to mirror God's own outreach [to us] to the world."

Delegates approved two Statements of Concern. One was "A Call to Responsible Action," and urged American Baptists to be involved as good citizens in civic action, all the while being involved in faith through prayer and Bible study. The other was "Re-affirming the Association Principle," and called on American Baptists to practice voluntary association in the midst of diversity.

Delegates approved resolutions amending ABCUSA bylaws. Changes related to the authorization of telephonic board or committee meetings; the dissolution of Educational Ministries; Associated Ministry Organizations; and changes to the Bylaws of MMBB. Another resolution, relating to how the number of Biennial delegates will be determined, was returned to the General Board.



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

Mary Nelson

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 helped turn 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.

Missionary Words

Missionaries Charles and Sarah West write from South Africa:

In Johannesburg we are ministering on a regular basis to some of our French speaking African Christian brothers and sisters who have come to South Africa as refugees. These people have left their countries because of murders in their families during war, rebel fighting, and because of genocide episodes between Hutu and Tutsi tribal groups in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some made it safely to South Africa, with their spouse and children, while others are still not sure of the status of parents, siblings and their other close family members.

One of the Congolese French speaking pastors who escaped the Congo, is living with his wife and 3 of his 4 children in a garage behind the church where he ministers. The conditions are poor, bleak, dangerous, extremely cold in winter and stiflingly hot in summer. Still, they continue to praise God for their lives and their beautiful children. We are asking you to partner with us in prayer for them and their countries.

International Council of Christians & Jews

You are welcome to attend the opening session of the annual conference of The International Council of Christians & Jews. It will be at the Chicago Temple (First United Methodist Church), 77 W. Washington Street (at Clark and Washington Streets), Chicago, at 8 p.m. on Sunday, July 24. Admission will be free.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, will be the keynote lecturer. Rabbi David Rosen, International Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee will be the respondent. Also on the program will be the presentation of the ICCJ International Sir Sigmund Sternberg Award to Dr. Mary Boys, Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

For more information, contact the Bernardin Center at 773-684-1056. Or you may visit the web site at bernardincenter@ctu.edu.

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 congregation's 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!

Golf Outing

Rebound, Wings and the Parent Group programs of Kids Hope United will present their 15th Annual Charity Golf Outing at the Bonnie Brook Golf Course, 2800 N. Lewis Avenue, Waukegan on September 20. The event will include lunch, golf, and dinner. Proceeds from the event will benefit ministries with troubled youth and challenged families. Read the attached brochure to learn more, and to register to play golf. The brochure also lists other ways in which you may choose to be supportive.

Parish Nursing

Parish nursing was conceived by Rev. Granger Westberg in the 1980's at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge. Parish nursing is a "re-invention" of Deaconess work for the 20th century. The Deaconess movement, coming out of the early Church and rekindled in Germany in the 1800's, was a recognition that the professional service ministry of the Church could involve more than the ordained clergy.

The parish nurse focuses on the whole person to emphasize wellness, disease prevention and health promotion, including healthy spirituality. Care is based on the belief that health is growth toward well being, and emphasizes the interrelationship of body, mind and spirit. Health is related to everything a person does, thinks, and feels; and is not merely the absence of disease. The nurse's ministry is of value in the setting of virtually any congregation, whether large or small; whether urban, suburban or rural.

A parish nurse serves a variety of roles in a local congregation and neighborhood. Her or his specific assignments are decided in consultation with other church leadership and/or a parish nursing advisory committee or health cabinet in the congregation. The roles of a parish nurse may include integrator of faith and health; health educator; health counselor; referral advisor; health advocate; developer of support groups; coordinator of volunteers.

If you are a nurse interested in exploring this ministry, you may want to participate in a basic preparation course October 14-16 and 18-30 at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. The \$600 fee for this continuing nursing education event covers tuition, lodging and meals. For more registration and more information, please visit www.msr-crm.org or phone the MSR Center for Rural Ministry, 573-635-1187.

Prayer Requests

We all join in prayers of thanksgiving for the safe return of our folks who attended Biennial. Please pray for Flint and Debbie Miller, ABC's missionaries to the Philippines. Due to security concerns, IM has decided not to send them back to that place of service, where they have contributed much to the ministry of the Asian Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary. IM is exploring other mission opportunities with them.

Please hold in prayer the Reverend Carol Jamieson Brown, pastor of the First /Baptist Church of Park Forest. Carol suffered a small stroke in June. She suffered no permanent damage, and she is recovering beautifully. She will be back in the pulpit on July 17.

Book Nook

AFRICENTRIC CHRISTIANITY: A THEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL FOR MINISTRY

by J. Deotis Roberts

This book reveals how Africentrism has affected the practice of Christian faith. It includes a chapter on Kwanzaa. 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.