

*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 20, 2005**

In the midst of summer's heat, we pray that your faith may be unwilling,  
and that your life and ministry may be showered with blessing.

### *In this Issue*

**Upcoming Events**

**What Happened at Biennial?**

**Do You Have One?**

**International Council of Christian & Jews**

**Fifth Sunday Unity Service**

**Sermon Attached**

**Recruiting for Peace**

**Church World Service and "Dear Sudan"**

**Remembering Emmett Till**

**Pastors Conference in Prague**

**UK Pastorate Exchange**

**Prayer Requests**

**Book Nook**

### *Upcoming Events*

**July 22-24**--Weekend conference on the music of Hildegard of Binge, Warrenville Cenacle, 29 W 012 Batavia Road, Warrenville.

**July 23**--Concert of the music of Hildegard of Bingen by Susan Lincoln, 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of the Warrenville Cenacle, 29 W 012 Batavia Road, Warrenville.

**July 28**--Brown Bag Lunch with report from Denver at ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago. RSVP by July 25 to 773-695-9791.

**July 28-30**--Missional Church Conference, Cenacle Retreat Center, Chicago. Register at [www.missionalchurch.org/seminars/convo05/main.html](http://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. See [www.nccecojustice.org](http://www.nccecojustice.org).

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

**August 1**--Deadline for receiving applications for Accessible Faith Grants. See [www.rff.org](http://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](http://www.lmpeacecenter.org).

**August 1-6**--30th Annual Gathering of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR. Visit [www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org).

**August 6-11**--World Mission Conference, Green Lake, WI. More information and registration materials available at [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org).

**August 10**--Meeting of group concerned about military recruiting in high schools, 7 p.m., The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mount Prospect. More information is available from [Libby.frank@comcast.net](mailto:Libby.frank@comcast.net).

**August 28**--Emmett Till memorial at Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street and North Avenue, 2-4 p.m. Make reservations at [www.chicagohs.org](http://www.chicagohs.org).

**September 2-5**--National ABC Singles Conference, Marshall, IN.

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

**October 12-13**--The National Conference on Black Religious Life: Members Voice Project presents "Economic Empowerment Through Partnership-Building" for pastors and lay leaders, Atlanta, GA. See [www.itc.edu/conference](http://www.itc.edu/conference).

**October 14-16, 28-30**--Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course, Jefferson City, MO. Visit [www.msr.crm.org](http://www.msr.crm.org).

**October 17-21**--Pastors Conference in Prague.

### *What Happened at Biennial?*

Clergy, lay leaders and others interested in hearing about events at the Biennial, General Board and Regional Executive Ministers Council meetings in Denver are invited to a brown bag lunch at the ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago on Thursday, July 28. Bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided. Larry Greenfield, Interim Executive Minister of ABCMC, and Francine Stark, staff minister at Third Baptist Church of Chicago, and our General Board representative, will fill us all in from noon to two. RSVP by July 25 to 773-695-9791.

### *Do You Have One?*

Community Baptist Church of Warrenville is planning a mission fair for September 25. To display at this event, they are looking for a machine that rolls bandages for white cross. If you have one, or know where they could get one to borrow, please contact Wendy Morris, [wem@ameritech.net](mailto:wem@ameritech.net).

### *International Council of Christian & 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.

### *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!

### *Sermon Included*

Reader response to the sermon included with last week's eWind was positive. Attached to this issue of eWind is "Weeds," a sermon that Interim Executive Minister Larry Greenfield preached on July 17 at The South Church in Mount Prospect. The text for the sermon is Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. You will want to take the time to read this interpretation of the words of Christ.

### *Recruiting for Peace*

The military is recruiting in our high schools. Does this concern you? Some parents and others in Chicago and the northwest suburbs are concerned. They want to make sure that students hear other sides of the story, options that military recruiters will not present.

A group is forming now to conduct "counter-recruitment" in area high schools. They are seeking not to undermine the military, but to educate young people. Their purpose is two-fold:

1. Provide counseling and information for students who are conscientious objectors.

Recognizing that all young men must register with the Selective Service at the age of 18, these folks will explain the legal meaning of "conscientious objector," and how to let the Selective Service know if they fall into that category.

2. Provide counseling and information to students who are considering the military so that they have considered all factors before they make a life-altering decision. Without demeaning those who make a living as military recruiters, these folks hope to present non-military options for educational funding and careers, as well as perspectives from those who have served in the military, and are not recruiters.

The group will meet monthly at The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mount Prospect. (This group is not a part of The South Church, but is grateful that the church is allowing them to meet in the church's building.) Meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be on August 10. For more information about the group, please contact Libby Frank, [Libby.frank@comcast.net](mailto:Libby.frank@comcast.net) or 773-292-0041.

Federal law (the "No Child Left Behind" law) requires that schools receiving federal funds give the names and contact information of students to military recruiters. Recruiters are well-trained in the job of aggressively seeking out and attracting young people who may consider the military as a career option after high school. This is a recruiter's job. Military recruiters have vast resources to provide a polished argument that the military is the best choice. If they have a child's contact information, they may pursue the child at home, school, or wherever.

Parents may "opt out" by providing the school a document indicating their desire that their child's name and contact information not be given to military recruiters. Not all parents are aware of this, however. Schools are not required to tell parents that schools must give information to military recruiters; nor are schools required to tell parents that they may opt out of having their student's information given to recruiters.

The group that is forming hopes to provide an educational service for both students and parents. The group hopes to be an asset to schools as well, by helping students make informed choices.

## *Church World Service and "Dear Sudan"*

NEW YORK - The global humanitarian agency Church World Service (CWS) announced this week that a local grassroots awareness and fund-raising campaign for conflict victims in Sudan is expanding nationally and will channel donations to CWS. Concurrently, Church World Service says it will further support the "Dear Sudan" national initiative through related promotional efforts.

"We applaud this creative, grassroots effort and urge communities across the country to join in," says Rev. John L. McCullough, Executive Director and CEO of Church World Service. "It's an interfaith effort in each community, and religious organizations lead the way," he added.

"Dear Sudan" began in Petaluma, California, in the fall of 2004, to help alleviate the suffering of people uprooted by violence in Darfur, western Sudan. The movement is now expanding nationwide and will further embrace the crushing needs of victims of what has been termed genocide in Sudan's western Darfur region as well as the more than 4 million people uprooted by the just-ended 21-year conflict between North and South Sudan.

More than 2 million people in the Darfur region of western Sudan have been uprooted from their homes by widespread violence, including the burning of villages. As many as 400,000 people have been killed by ethnic violence or have died from hunger or disease. The U.S. Congress and others have named it genocide. Most of the displaced families are living in makeshift camps in west, north, and south Darfur, and more than 200,000 have fled across the border into Chad. Humanitarian needs are urgent.

The group launched its national "Dear Sudan" website this week ([www.dearsudan.org](http://www.dearsudan.org)). Links to "Dear Sudan," background information on Sudan's conflicts, humanitarian accounts, and emergency response in the Darfur region and elsewhere in Sudan also appear on the CWS website at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).

CWS has been active in calling for the international community to act to stop Sudan's ongoing violence. A January 2005 peace agreement ended Sudan's 21-year north-south war that killed at least 2 million people.

Many of the more than 4 million displaced people are now traveling from encampments in the north back to the south at a rate of about 1,500 a day, most without any means of assistance or support. Food supplies are inadequate, and the infrastructure was decimated. For those refugees who are now returning home, CWS is helping to provide reconstruction assistance, seeds, agricultural tools, household and other supplies.

CWS and its 36 member denominations are outspoken about the need for lawfulness in Sudan, and are supporting appeals to aid Sudan's displaced populations and for peacemaking and conflict resolution. Denominations specifically supporting the "Dear Sudan" campaign include: United Church of Christ -- One Great Hour of Sharing; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Week of Compassion; United Methodist Church; American Baptist Churches USA; Reformed Church in America.

Contributions may be sent through the Dear Sudan website or directly to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515, attention "Dear Sudan." Credit card contributions can be made at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) or 800-297-1516, ext. 222.

### *Remembering Emmett Till*

In conjunction with its exhibit "No Sanctuary," the Chicago Historical Society will present "Remembering Emmett Till: The Murder that Changed America" Sunday, August 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m. The event will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the violent murder of 14-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till.

The program will feature a discussion on racial violence with Christopher Benson, author of *Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America*; Emmett's cousin Wheeler Parker, who accompanied him to Mississippi; and moderator Bonita Blue, a freelance researcher who has spent decades studying Emmett's murder. The afternoon also includes an opportunity to talk with Franklin McMahon, artist of the drawings from the Emmett Till murder trial.

While this will be a **free** event, reservations are recommended to ensure admission and seating. You can make a reservation for the Emmett Till event on the CHS web site, [www.chicagohs.org](http://www.chicagohs.org).

### **Pastors Conference in Prague**

ABCUSA General Secretary Rev. Roy Medley invites pastors to participate in the October 17-21 Pastors Conference in Prague, the Czech Republic.

The event will focus on the future of congregations in the post-modern world, and will be led by our mission partner, the International Baptist Theological Seminary. Drawing upon its excellent faculty and extensive involvement with churches in both Eastern and Western Europe, the seminary will guide participants in exploring how the Church in Europe is meeting the challenge of ministry in a post-modern era.

If you participate, you will gain insights related to discipling, Baptist and Anabaptist spirituality, how the church's life as a missional community grows even in a culturally hostile context, and the results from the Lily-Funded "Pulpit and Pew" project with US churches.

The event will begin with dinner and a reception on Monday evening, October 17 and conclude on Friday evening October 21. This schedule will allow for most to fly out after Sunday morning services on the 16 and arrive on the 17. Likewise, you will be free to fly out Saturday morning, October 22.

Costs for the core event are quite modest: \$500 (based on current exchange rates) for room and board and tuition for the week. For more information, please contact the Office of the General Secretary, 800-ABC-3USA.

### **UK Pastorate Exchange**

A pastor in England has expressed interest in an exchange of pastorate and housing with a pastor in the USA.

My name is David Warrington and I am an ordained minister of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. I am the Pastor of a small Baptist congregation situated in a rural area on the south-western edge of the Yorkshire Dales, not far from the village of Haworth - home of the Bronte sisters (near Skipton, Keighley, Leeds and Bradford). I am seeking to do an exchange with an American Pastor in the coming year (2006).

We are looking for an exchange anywhere in the United States but if it were possible would ideally prefer one with someone who is living and working within reasonable travelling distance of Los Angeles (where my brother lives).

We have a modest three bedroomed Manse set in a village location about ten minute's walk away from the church building. There are four of us, my wife, myself and two teenage children, one boy and one girl, and so would need three bedrooms in the States. My wife, Alison, has severe back and knee problems and so has limited mobility and has difficulties in negotiating lots of steps on a regular basis. She really needs to have access to a walk-in shower (i.e. not over the bath) and a ground floor WC for use during the day. We would be prepared to consider exchanging use of cars, if it is mutually suitable and we can arrange insurance cover for each other. We currently have a 7 seat Citroen C8 MPV.

Ideally we would like to exchange pastorates for an eight-week period in 2006, preferably between 10th July to 4th September. This would be on the basis that four weeks would be 'work' weeks - preaching and looking after the pastoral needs of the congregation and four weeks would be part of our annual leave. We would, with the agreement of our own diaconates/church meetings, retain our own salaries for the period thus incurring no entanglements with the British or American tax systems.

South Craven Baptist Church was formed from an amalgamation five years ago of two small rural churches but has a history going back about 300 years. The area is surrounded by moors and farmland on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales but is not far from several large towns and cities. The church has a membership of around 50 with a regular Sunday congregation of about 50/60. The church is largely what would be described as traditional, and is not "charismatic", but they are open to doing things differently including learning new songs. Although tending towards the more traditional in worship style they are not necessarily so conservative in thought (at least not all of them).

Further details of a mutual exchange can be discussed and negotiated later.

If you are interested I can be contacted as follows :

Revd D A Warrington  
10 Sunnybank Villas  
Glusburn  
KEIGHLEY  
West Yorkshire  
Great Britain  
BD20 8PY

Telephone Number ? 01535 637012  
(from abroad - 01144 1535 637012)

Email: [david.warrington@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:david.warrington@tiscali.co.uk)

## *Prayer Requests*

Please pray for Niger, and the Baptists ministering there. A recent article from the BBC states:

“Children are dying of starvation in feeding centers in Niger, where 3.6m people face severe food shortages, aid agencies have warned... The crisis in the south of the country has been caused by a drought and a plague of locusts which destroyed much of last year's harvest... Aid agency World Vision warns that 10% of the children in the worst affected areas could die... They say the international community has reacted too late to the crisis... Niger is a vast desert country and one of the poorest on earth. Millions of people, a third of the population, face food shortages.”

ABCUSA's International Ministries asks that we:

- Pray for rain (and protection from flooding!) for Niger.
  - Pray for wisdom and endurance for the Arcata First Baptist team that is reaching out to the Wodaabe people in Niger. (Arcata First is an ABCUSA congregation that has been reaching out to this unreached people group in partnership with International Ministries.)
- Please hold in prayer the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ongoing violence there is a threat to life and property.

A number of clergy and laity in our ABCMC family have recently been victims of theft and/or vandalism. Please pray for them as they deal with insurance matters, as well as the sense of violation that such experiences can bring.

Please pray for the people of war-ravaged Sudan, and for those who are seeking to help through CWS and the "Dear Sudan" campaign.

Please pray for persons who are suffering from chronic pain, whether physical, mental or emotional.

**Book Nook**  
**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO DR. SEUSS:**  
**SNITCHES, SNEETCHES AND OTHER CREACHAS**  
by James W. Kemp

The stories of one of the world's most beloved children's authors are both imaginative and entertaining. But a closer look at Dr. Seuss's stories reveals that many are inspirational as well as instructive. James Kemp has identified as his favorite theologian not Barth or Pannenberg, but the inimitable Dr. Seuss. In this readily accessible resource, Kemp finds parallels between the actions of cats in hats, Grinches, Snitches, Sneetches, and other Creachas and lessons found in Scripture. Thus, as the author shares his enthusiasm for the creativity and wisdom of Dr. Seuss, both the meaning and the relevance of many Bible passages come to life. The book is available from [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) for \$8.

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