

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 27, 2005

May God's Holy Spirit be as refreshing to you as rain to flowers.

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Upcoming Events

TOMORROW!! 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.

FRIDAY July 29--NCC's Green Ministries conference, 8:30-11:30 a.m., ELCA building, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago. See www.nccecojustice.org.

SUNDAY 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 for complete information.

August 1--Evanston City Council Human Services Committee meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 2100 Ridge, room 2402.

NEXT WEEK! 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.

NEXT WEEK! August 1-6--30th Annual Gathering of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR. Visit www.bpfna.org.

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

August 10--Meeting of Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project, 7 p.m., The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mount Prospect. More information is available from Libby.frank@comcast.net.

August 18-19--Roots of Racism !V, Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO. Registration form attached. For more information, please contact Krystal Jacobs at krystalmsr@socket.net, or 573-1187.

August 28--Emmett Till memorial at Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street and North Avenue, 2-4 p.m. Make reservations at 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.

October 14-16, 28-30--Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course, Jefferson City, MO. Visit 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 **TOMORROW**, 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.

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Interim Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, writes a fortnightly column for Protestants for the Common Good. His latest column is attached.

Fifth Sunday Unity Service

Everyone is invited to the 5th Sunday service **THIS COMING SUNDAY EVENING**, 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!

Evanston City Council Human Services Committee to Consider Anti- War Resolution

On Monday August 1 @ 7pm in room 2402 at City Hall (2100 Ridge) a coalition of Evanston based organizations will begin the initiative of introducing a Resolution calling for the end to the war and occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of all military (and privatized) forces. This resolution will be presented to the Human Services Committee with a request that it be passed on to the full council for review, public debate and adoption. Evanston will again be in the forefront of this move which is now beginning to build steam in cities across the country. The sponsoring organizations hope this will provide a forum for a critical public dialogue on this issue, and ultimately culminate in a valuable symbolic statement by city government. The meeting will be open to the public. For more information contact Dickelle Fonda at 847-491-9748

Death in our ABC Family

We extend our sympathy to Dallas and Elna West at the death of their son Dallas Jay West, Jr. Jay died July 21, 2005 at the age of 52. A private memorial service was held on Sunday, July 24. Interment will be at Lakeview Cemetery, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin.

Please keep the West family in your prayers. Dallas West, Sr. was Executive Minister of the Indiana Baptist Convention (now the ABC of Indiana and Kentucky). Cards and notes of sympathy and concern can be sent to:

Dr. Dallas and Elna West

4225 Brown Road

Indianapolis IN 46226

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.

They have formed a new group, Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project. Among other things, they will 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 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 Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project hopes to provide an educational service for both students and parents. The group aspires to be an asset to schools as well, by helping students make informed choices.

Report from Alaska

We have a report from Rev. Connie Stone. She is a member of Community Baptist Church in Warrenville. This month she is serving as an interim pastor in Alaska. She wrote:

The view from the pastor's study is probably one of the most beautiful views any church could have. The harbor of Kodiak lies at the base of a hill. The old Russian Orthodox Church is to the left down the hill, and the bells ring out on the hour. The mountains are off to the right and circle the harbor. Depending on the weather, the sky is a beautiful blue or gray, ready for fog to slip in at any moment, and the clouds are beautiful. The sunrise early in the morning over the ocean is breathtaking.

I have been at the Community Baptist Church in Kodiak, Alaska for the month of July while the pastor is on sabbatical. The congregation is about 100-150 members, but in the summer they are blessed with many visitors. Some of the visitors are mission work groups that come to the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Others are tourists, National Guard personnel, and family members who return to visit. The congregation has been very open and welcomed me as the pastor for this month. I have made visits to the Care Center and to the home of a member who had triple by-pass surgery. I have also visited several volunteers in the work group.

A special blessing last night was meeting Rev. Joyce Smith. She is 80+ and is still ministering in Uzinki on Spruce Island. She and her husband, Norman, took the Evangel boat around the islands for many years. They minister to the natives, who attend the Orthodox services, but when they need special help with

health, family matters or schooling, they come to her. She is able to tell story after story of how God has worked in their ministry.

This location is a paradise for people who like to fish. Here also are wonderful opportunities for Mission Work Groups, and for young people to come as counselors either at Woody Island (their Camp Grow), or in the Day Camp Program held at the Kodiak Baptist Mission. They also need volunteers to work at their food bank, the sale house, the pre-school and general office work. You will find the welcome mat out and abundant opportunities.

Roots of Racism !V

First Time Participants: August 17, 2005 1:00 –8:00 p.m. Wednesday

Additional registration fee of \$50 (\$25 Commuter)

Dates: August 18-19, 2005

Times: 10:00 a.m. Thursday to 3:00 p.m. Friday

Cost: \$75 includes lodging and meals \$50 Commuter

Location: Rickman Center, Jefferson City, MO

This workshop will continue the conversation with historian Gary Kremer that began with "Roots I" in 2002. As was the case with "Roots II" in 2003 and Roots III in 2004, the Reverend C. W. Dawson will join Gary Kremer in presenting "Roots of Racism IV." First-time attendees will meet at 1:00 p.m. on August 17 with Gary Kremer for an afternoon of orientation and discussion of the legacy of slavery and segregation in Missouri. The Rev. Dawson will join the group later in the afternoon to talk about the "Theological Foundations of Racism." Returning attendees and newcomers will join Dr. Kremer and the Rev. Dawson on the morning of August 18 for the Roots IV workshop.

The premise of this workshop, as with the first three, is that African Americans and whites see the world differently, and that their different perceptions are based in large part on their different histories. Hence, the purpose of the workshop is to help those in attendance understand how and why those different histories have emerged and what can be done to remedy their negative effects. Included in this year's workshop will be one or more field trips to sites where the group as a whole will be able to "confront the sin of racism," i. e., places where egregious examples of racism occurred. Because at least one of these places is in a somewhat remote, rural setting, attendees are encouraged to bring with them comfortable walking shoes and clothing.

This workshop will be conducted in a discussion format, with the presenters providing ample opportunity for interaction between and among participants. Attendees will be invited to share reflections on their first experiences and encounters with racism as well as ways in which they have devised to deal with issues of racial bias. Guest presenters will include previous workshop attendees Sister Antona Ebo, Mr. Kerry Washington, and Ms. Dee Campbell-Carter. In addition, Dr. Larry Brown will make a presentation on the Christian Identity Movement in Missouri. At least one session will be devoted to a discussion of attitudes toward and treatment of Hispanic Americans in Missouri. Special attention will be paid to a discussion of the role religious leaders and churches can play in promoting racial harmony in the 21st Century.

The Rev. Dr. C.W. Dawson, Jr., is a fourth generation minister in his family and one of less than 50 African American philosophers in the United States. He is the Riley Scholar in Residence at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. He is the former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Fulton, MO. He completed his undergraduate education at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, with a triple major in Philosophy, Religion and Political Science. He received his Master of Divinity from Princeton in 1986, and Master of Art from the University of Missouri in 1990. Dawson is A.B.D. with the University of Missouri and has received two honorary doctorates. He has published several articles in the areas of Philosophy of

Religion and Liberation Theology. Dawson is a gifted public speaker and preacher who has been the invited guest of several churches, colleges and universities across the country.

Gary R. Kremer is a Professor Emeritus of History at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri, and Executive Director of The State Historical Society of Missouri. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lincoln University in Jefferson City and a Ph. D. in history from The American University in Washington, D. C. His mentor was the distinguished African American historian Lorenzo Johnston Greene. Prior to joining the faculty of William Woods University in 1991, Kremer served as the State Archivist of Missouri and as a Professor of History at Lincoln University (1972-1987). Gary Kremer is the author of dozens of articles and nine books, including three on African-American history [*George Washington Carver: In his Own Words* (1987); *James Milton Turner and the Promise of America* (1991); and, *Missouri's Black Heritage* (1993).

If you have any questions, please contact Krystal Jacobs at krystalmsr@socket.net; 573-635-1187. The registration form is attached.

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.

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.

From the Mission Field

Janine and John Gravley, ABCUSA missionaries to Hong Kong, report on ministry in a nursing home that mission partner Haven of Hope Christian Service opened this spring:

The Sister Annie Shau Nursing Home opened on 9 May 2005. The very next day God provided an opportunity for the staff to fully realize their hope for this service. This is their report:

“A healthy elderly lady, was supposed to join her daughter, a Christian translator, to stay in China. However, due to a hand fracture, she was hospitalized and was directly discharged to the Nursing Home on May 10th. Our nursing home was chosen by the daughter because of Haven of Hope's Christian traditions. The daughter requested daily “Quiet Time” for her mother. Every day staff read the Bible and sang hymns with her and very soon this attracted other residents to join the activity. From then, quite quickly, a daily fellowship group of residents was formed. This lady is now recovered and in China with her daughter. It seems that the Christian work of our nursing home has been started by the help of an elderly lady with a fractured hand in the period of 8 weeks while she stayed with us.”

ABC eGiving

Would your church be interested in accepting tithes, offerings, or donations online? ABCUSA is developing, as a service to our churches, the capability to **accept online donations** from members, directly to the church. Based on recent input from churches, they have created a **FAQ** that includes responses to the most commonly raised issues. See <http://www.abcusamissions.org/> for more information

Prayer Requests

Please hold in prayer Dallas and Elna West at the death of their son, Dallas Jay West, Jr.

Please pray for harmony and continuing unity in the ABCUSA.

Please keep in prayer Rev. Connie Stone and her ministry this summer in Alaska.

Book Nook

Christian Education in the Small Church

by Donald L. Walther and Judy McKay

This book is part of Judson's "Small Church in Action Series." It contains field-tested plans for achieving quality Christian education with limited resources. It also includes new ideas for tailoring programs to community needs, designing a curriculum, selecting resources, building relationships between education and worship, equipping leaders, and much more. It is available from www.judsonpress.com for \$10.40.

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.