

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

August 18, 2005

Take time to let God's spirit nourish you.

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Upcoming Events

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

August 19--Faithful America's "Blanket the Nation in Prayer," noon, wherever you are, and Waco, Texas.

August 20--Rev. Tripp Hudgins performs with "One of the Girls," 7 p.m., High Risk Gallery, 1313 W. Belmont, Chicago. RSVP to 773-505-6766 or theatreentropy@hotmail.com

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 19-20--"Tested and Transformed: Healing Congregations after Conflict or Trauma," 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, and 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, at The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin. To register, phone 800-442-4617. Cost is \$225.

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

September 24-25--Workshop on African American Music with Horace Boyer, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. Tel: 847.823.4126. <http://www.stmarysparkridge.org>. Begins at 9:30 a.m. Registration materials attached.

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

Blanket the Nation in Prayer **THIS FRIDAY!!**

While President Bush is spending August at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Gold Star Mother Cindy Sheehan is camping a short distance away. Cindy's son, Casey Sheehan, was killed in Iraq. She is seeking to have a face-to-face conversation with the President.

Cindy Sheehan's situation, her pain in losing her oldest child, and her desire for answers from her President, have struck a chord with many Americans. Supporters from across the country have joined her at her camp site. Others have prayed for and praised her. Many Americans have regarded her actions as foolish or unhealthy. Whatever our opinion of Cindy or the wars, we can all take time to pray.

Faithful America invites us all to pray at noon this Friday, August 19:

"HIGH NOON IN TEXAS! Let's Cover Crawford with a Blanket of Prayer as we PAUSE FOR PEACE. Imagine--an entire nation in prayer together for peace! We can make it happen on Friday! Gold Star mother Cindy Sheehan has asked for a Friday noontime prayer service 'as an opportunity for Americans and others across the world to pray for our soldiers in Iraq, their families and in particular the mothers of our fallen.' President Bush and the First Lady have been invited to join with Cindy and the hundreds of supporters outside the Bush ranch..."

"I urge the President and the First Lady to join this brief and simple service," said the Rev. Dr. Bob Edgar, NCC General Secretary. Edgar visited the Gold Star mothers and their families outside the presidential ranch and conducted a worship service on August 12. The visit was at the invitation of his fellow United Methodist, Celeste Zappala, whose son Sherwood was killed in Iraq.

"This war, like any war, has generated terrible losses, immense pain and sharp divisions in our country," Edgar said. "Each day we see the pain in the faces of the Gold Star mothers and their families. It's evident that President Bush, who has faced agonizing decisions in this war, feels the pain as well."

"Whether or not we agree with Mr. Bush's decisions," Edgar said, "and whether or not he agrees with us, we can agree that we're all feeling a heavy burden of grief. Let's suspend the rhetoric for a few minutes on Friday and join together – commander-in-chief and families of the fallen – to seek strength from the God who sustains us all."

For more information, please go to
http://www.faithfulamerica.org/display_article.php?article_type=homepage&article_id=127&PHPS ESSID=946f9edc8e9b737bdc60696434b0d4ee

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Interim Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, writes a regular column for Protestants for the Common Good. His latest column, "Rock Solid," is attached to this issue of *eWind*. You will want to read his essay.

Christian Leader Stabbed to Death

Roger Schutz, the 90-year-old founder of the France-based Taizé Christian ecumenical community was stabbed to death during a prayer service on Tuesday. For more information, please go to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/europe/4158886.stm>. Some of the people at the prayer service reportedly overpowered and held a woman they say stabbed Brother Roger. She is in police custody.

Workshop on African American Music

Choirs and singers, will you be available for the mass choir at the ABCMC annual meeting in November? Let's warm up those vocal chords at this exceptional learning event.

You are invited to St. Mary's Gospel Festival Weekend of African American choral music with celebrated educator Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer. The event will take place the weekend of September 24-25, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. Tel: 847.823.4126. <http://www.stmarysparkridge.org>.. Everyone interested in choral singing in the African American tradition is invited to attend. Amateurs, professional singers, choral directors and instrumentalists are all welcome, regardless of religious affiliation or level of expertise.

The festival will kick off with a Saturday morning session on September 24, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. This workshop will focus on congregational singing of hymns, spirituals and gospel music using the hymnal *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*. Dr. Boyer was General Editor of this hymnal, which was published for use in Episcopal churches. However, the workshop will focus on style and interpretation, and will be relevant to any denomination.

Following a lunch and fellowship, the afternoon session, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., will be a choral workshop in which participants will learn several gospel anthems, including works by Dr. Boyer and other prominent composers. Choral workshop attendees are encouraged to return to St. Mary's on Sunday afternoon to sing four of these anthems as part of a mass choir in the 4 p.m. Gospel Concert finale.

The weekend festivities will continue on Sunday with the 10 a.m. Liturgy at the church. Dr. Boyer will be among the instrumentalists, and the service will incorporate the music from Saturday's workshop. The festival will conclude with the Gospel concert at 4 p.m.

Horace Clarence Boyer, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Music Theory and African American Music at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has served as Curator of Musical Instruments at the Smithsonian Institution, and Distinguished Scholar-at-Large at Fisk University, where he conducted the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

If you would like to attend this unique event, please complete the registration form attached to this issue of *eWind*. Groups of ten or more are eligible for an all-day group rate of \$15. Please call the church office or email Tim Carlson at tacarlson2@comcast.net for more information.

Churches Urged to Raise Awareness of "First Freedoms"

Leaders of First Freedoms Project, a partnership with congregations to celebrate and support a free press and religious liberty, said many Americans are not aware of the freedoms protected in the First Amendment of the US Constitution. This group says it is vital that churches take a leadership role in educating their members about those freedoms.

John Pierce, executive director of the publication *Baptists Today*, pointed out a *USA Today* article that said only 20 percent of Americans surveyed recently believed freedom of religion was part of the First Amendment, and only 16 percent thought freedom of the press was included.

Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, said his organization has been concerned for many years by the trend that First Amendment freedoms are not being taken seriously in local churches. It is worrisome that American congregations do not include this information in their Christian education programs.

To help local churches present this material, First Freedoms Project has produced a CD-ROM that includes worship resources, bulletin inserts and other materials to teach church members about these precious freedoms. For more information on the First Freedoms Project, or to order a resource CD-ROM, visit www.firstfreedom.com. First Freedoms Project is a cooperative effort by the Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and *Baptists Today*, as well as participating congregations.

Healing Congregations after Conflict or Trauma

September 19-20 the University of Wisconsin at Madison will offer an excellent educational event for pastors. "Tested and Transformed: Healing Congregations after Conflict or Trauma." This seminar will help us understand current theories of social constructivism, narrative therapy and appreciative inquiry, and how we can use those theories to help with dialogue and healing in hurting congregations.

The seminar leader will be Rev. Susan Nienaber, a senior consultant with The Alban Institute. As a parish pastor, hospital chaplain, marriage and family therapist, and mediator, she has walked with hundreds of people through the most difficult moments of their lives. She began working with conflicted and traumatized congregations in 1993. Through her experience she created an original technique for assessment and intervention in these churches.

This excellent continuing education event will take place at the University of Wisconsin's Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison. The fee of \$225 includes instruction, materials, CEU, refreshments, and non-refundable administrative fee of \$20. Meals are on your own. A map and information about lodging and parking will be included with your registration confirmation. For more information and registration, phone 800-725-9692.

Openings at Church World Service

Church World Service has started the search process to gather applicants for two positions: Emergency Response Program Director and Chief Development Officer. Descriptions of both positions are attached in a zip file. The search for the Emergency Response Program Director will close on September 2. The search for the Chief Development Officer will close on September

21. If you or someone you know has the necessary qualifications and interests, follow the directions on the position descriptions to apply.

Wait on the Lord

April 17-20, 2006 the Ministers Council will host "Wait on the Lord," a national conference on spiritual formation for pastoral leaders. Full conference details are available at www.ministerscouncil.com. Online registration for the conference has commenced at the following link:

<https://gmhost1.gomembers.com/clients/t-abcc/etrakWebApp/meetings.aspx?DirectLink=WOL406>

One of the Girls **THIS SATURDAY!**

The Reverend George "Tripp" Hudgins will perform Saturday, August 20, with his band, "One of the Girls." The performance will be at 7 p.m. The band's repertoire includes Irish folk music, bluegrass, etc. The upcoming event will be a benefit concert for Theatre Entropy, a small Chicago-based drama company. Theatre Entropy is known for its talent and creativity, and received the "Best Ensemble Show" award at a 2004 theater festival in Columbus, Ohio.

Theatre Entropy Benefit

High Risk Gallery
1113 W. Belmont
Chicago, IL
Tickets are \$30.00,
or \$20.00 with H/R
RSVP by calling 773.505.6766 or
theatreentropy@hotmail.com

For more information about Tripp's band visit <http://www.oneofthegirls.net>.

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. Rev. Glenn Loafmann, formerly pastor of the

Community Church of Barrington, attended this conference last year. It was excellent. He strongly encourages ABCMC pastors to attend.

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.

Prayer Requests

Please hold in prayer the Taize community as they mourn the death of their founder, Brother Roger, who was brutally murdered during a prayer service this past Tuesday.

Please pray for the people of Thailand, who have suffered terrible storms and flooding. They will face much cleaning up and repair work. Please include in your prayers our missionaries Duane Binkley and Kim Brown.

Sharon Buttry, wife of Dan Buttry (ABCUSA's Consultant for Peace and Justice) will have surgery in the near future. Dan asks that we pray for Sharon. Let's pray for Dan and their children as well.

The people of Haiti need our continuing prayers during this time of turmoil there.

Please pray for our nation's leaders, our military personnel, their families, and the families who have lost loved ones in the U.S.-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to pray also for Iraqis and Afghans during this time of conflict and uncertainty in their homelands.

Book Nook

Keepers of the Faith: Illustrated Biographies from Baptist History

by Jeffrey D. Jones

This book will beautify your coffee table and educate you about our Baptist heritage as well. The drawings and historical data depict more than 70 well-known Baptist figures as they aced out the faith that has inspired so many. It is available from www.judsonpress.com for \$22.00.