

*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 24, 2005**

Spend some time in silence each day.  
Have a prayer time for saying nothing, and listening to the still, small voice of God.

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*Upcoming Events*

**THIS SUNDAY!!! 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**--Islamic Society of North America Interfaith Unity Banquet, 6 to 8:45 p.m., Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont. RSVP **no later than August 28** to 312-751-5324.

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

**September 3-4**--Convention of the Islamic Society of North America, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. RSVP **no later than August 28** to 312-751-5324.

**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**--ABCUSA National Ministries Executive Committee forum, Third Baptist Church, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, Third Baptist Church, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Lunch served at noon. RSVP to ABCMC, [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com) or 773-695-9791.

**September 24**--MMBB's "Managing for Ministry: An Employer Workshop," Third Baptist Church, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, 1-3 p.m. RSVP to ABCMC, [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com) or 773-695-9791.

**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.

**September 25**--Mission Fair, Community Baptist Church, 28W 144 Main Street (corner of Main Street and Warren Avenue), Warrenville, 9 a.m. to noon. Phone 630-393-9609 for more information.

**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

**October 30**--"Reviving Congregational Singing Using African-American Song" with Dr. James Abbingon.

**April 17-20**--Ministers Council's "Wait on the Lord" conference

## *Remembering Emmett Till* **THIS SUNDAY!!**

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).

## *Interfaith Unity Banquet*

The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago and the Islamic Society of North America cordially invite American Baptists to attend one or both of two major events at the 42nd Annual Islamic Society of North America convention. The first of these is the 8th Annual Interfaith Unity Banquet, Friday, September 2, 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom in the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont. They also invite us to attend the convention itself, Saturday, September 3-Sunday, September 4, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. This will be a unique opportunity to learn more about Islam and the Muslim community. The dinner and attendance at the convention are free, but RSVP for one or both events by Sunday, August 28 to 312-751-5325. When you call, just give the information requested on the attached registration form. Give the "American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago" as your organization.

### *Ministers Council Senate*

The ABCUSA Ministers Council Senate met at Green Lake August 20-23. Rev. Dr. Alice J. B. Davis, pastor of Irving Park Baptist Church in Chicago, was elected President of the national organization.

The Senate prayerfully and respectfully considered the by-laws amendment that had been proposed a year previously, and had been the topic of regional "Jerusalem Council" meetings, was not adopted. By a vote of 48 to 13, Senators adopted the following resolution:

**“Whereas a year ago an amendment to our bylaws proposing to govern the selection of senators to the Minister’s Council Senate was introduced for consideration, and**

**Whereas the Ministers Council determined to spend a year discerning the convictions of its members through a series of meetings patterned after the Jerusalem Council in the Book of Acts, and**

**Whereas the final outcome of those meetings and the individual responses received revealed a strong commitment throughout our constituency for the Baptist principles of the authority of scripture, autonomy, and interdependence,**

**Therefore, the Minister’s Council Senate:**

**Reaffirms that all representatives to the Ministers Council Senate must be members in good standing who uphold the biblical principles embodied in the covenant and code of ethics for ministerial leaders of American Baptist Churches**

**Urges our constituent councils to give due consideration to all the policies, resolutions, and statements of concern of the ABC/USA when electing representatives to the Minister’s Council Senate.**

**Resolved this twenty-third day of August, 2005 in Green Lake, Wisconsin”**

Other actions of the Ministers Council may be viewed from the new website at [www.ministerscouncil.org](http://www.ministerscouncil.org).

### *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](http://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>

### *From the Baptist Peace Fellowship*

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America finds Pat Robertson's recent comments about the duly elected president of a sovereign nation deplorable. "The way of Jesus is not the way of murder and violence," stated Gary Percesepe, Coordinating Director. "Jesus advocated nonviolence as a way of life, and in the spirit of Jesus the earliest followers of Jesus refused entirely to serve the Emperor, or to fight and kill in his armies. A consistent ethic of life would condemn all forms of killing and embrace without contradiction respect for a culture of life."

"Pat Robertson is not only wrong politically, he has revealed himself to be bankrupt spiritually," Percesepe said. "His hateful words should be condemned by every Christian, particularly those who take seriously the message of the nonviolent gospel of peace, expressed by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount."

The words of Pat Robertson contrast vividly with the life lived by Brother Roger of the Taizé community, who was killed by a deranged woman last week. Brother Roger carried deep within himself an abiding commitment to pray and work for the healing of the nations, not the assassination of its leaders. His was above all a spirit of kindness. As Brother Alois put it so eloquently at the funeral, "Brother Roger constantly returned to that Gospel value which is kind-heartedness. It is not an empty word, but a force able to transform the world, because, through it, God is at work. In the face of evil, kind-heartedness is a vulnerable reality. But the life which Brother Roger gave is a pledge that God's peace will have the last word for each person on our earth."

While many have remarked on possible punishment for Robertson, including dismissal from his post, revoking of his seminary degree, arrest for inciting terrorism, and more, the Baptist Peace Fellowship believes there is a more important need to be addressed. Percesepe states, "I would wish for him what I wish for myself and for all of us: a week spent in silence at a place like Taizé, where one experiences a 'parable of communion' with God and with one's fellow creatures. Perhaps in this way he would have time for reflection, and could reach a new clarity about the value and purpose of human life, the fruits of the Spirit, and the gospel of reconciliation among widely separated peoples."

### *Sermon*

Our Interim Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, preached on August 21 at Irving Park Baptist Church. His sermon manuscript is attached.

### *National Ministries*

Mark your calendar now for an important event at the Heritage Plaza Third Baptist Church of Chicago, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago. From 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, there will be an opportunity for pastors and lay leaders in ABCMC to be a part of a forum with the ABCUSA National Ministries Executive Committee. Learn more about ABC's missions for God in the USA. RSVP to the church, 773-779-1800, or ABCMC, 773-695-9791.

### *Managing for Ministry*

Plan to attend an important learning event on the afternoon of Saturday, September 24, at the Heritage Plaza Third Baptist Church of Chicago, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago. The Ministers

and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) invites pastors and other key leaders from ABCMC congregations to attend their seminar, "Managing for Ministry: An Employer Workshop." The seminar will present an approach to church staff budgeting that benefits both the staff and the church. It will also educate people responsible for church finances about compliance with IRS regulations. Additionally, it will promote the three ways churches and church employees can save for retirement through MMBB. This workshop is designed for church treasurers and finance committees, and for those who are responsible for overseeing the salaries and compensation of church staff. RSVP to [abcmchi@aol.com](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com).

## *Missions Fair*

Community Baptist Church of Warrentville invites you to a Mission Fair! There will be interactive mission displays and activities for children, youth and adults. The fair begins at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 25 and will include a 10:30 a.m. worship service. Activities will resume for a while after worship. Judy DeRolf, recently retired as missionary to Japan, will be with us. Proceeds of our sale of organic fair trade coffee will go toward financing a new curriculum being written by Costa Rican Baptists working with missionary Ruth Mooney. Everyone is welcome! Suggested admission price: used glasses (to be donated to the Cap Haitian Eye Center in Haiti), school supplies for Kids Hope United, travel-size hygiene items for the Night Ministry, or non-perishable food for the church food pantry.

## *Leading from Spirit*

*Leading From Spirit: A Training in Leadership Development* will take place September 26-27, 2005 at The Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan

*Leading From Spirit* is an innovative training that taps the power of the human spirit and offers creative ways to build community and work for justice. This two-day training is designed for individuals and organizations that seek to bring more of their spiritual gifts and power to the creation of economic, social, and spiritual justice. *Leading From Spirit* helps individuals and communities avoid burnout by staying grounded in what they are working for rather than what they are working against.

Through presentations, story-telling, self-reflection, small and large group activities, and journaling, you will:

- identify and address the internal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural barriers that get in the way of effectively living your mission and values;
- explore how systemic oppressions such as racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, etc. are held in place and what is needed to transform them;
- practice creating an atmosphere that is truly participatory and inclusive across differences of race, class, gender, etc;
- investigate ways of using spiritual resources in your work;
- deepen a sense of your purpose and gifts;
- explore the ways in which transformation happens.

Although it is not a requirement for attendance, the Leaven Center recommends that organizations and groups send a team of staff, board, and/or volunteers to this training.

**Leaders:** Donna Bivens and Meck Groot

**Time:** Monday and Tuesday, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Cost:** \$225 (\$75 deposit + \$150 balance due) Lodging is available for an additional \$25/night.

Since 1985, **Donna Bivens** has been co-director of Women's Theological Center (WTC) in Boston. In her tenure at WTC, she has created, developed and administered *Loves Herself. Regardless.* — a program for women of African descent. In collaboration with Mass School Age Coalition, she has also designed and facilitated Spirit in Leadership, a program in leadership development for after-school care providers of color. Awards for her work include Woman of the Year 1999 from the Irish Immigration Center, Woman of Justice 1997 from Network in Washington, DC and Drylongso 1995 from Community Change in Boston, for her efforts in working against racism. She also holds an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Marian (Meck) Groot** has worked at WTC since 1990 – first as office manager and now as co-director with Donna Bivens. The focus of much of Meck's work is on the transformation of white culture through the development of the spiritual leadership needed to address the injustices of racism. In partnership with both Boston-based and national groups, she has organized a series of annual conferences on whiteness and is currently working with a network of white people that seeks to support anti-racism work in the Boston area. Meck received a Drylongso award in 2004. She holds a Masters degree in feminist theology.

Together, Donna and Meck work with WTC partners to develop and deliver resources in spiritual leadership development. Their aim, in keeping with the mission of the Center, is to engage and support such leadership for the purpose of strengthening individuals and communities, bridging differences and working for justice.

**The Leaven Center** in Lyons, Michigan, is midway between Lansing and Grand Rapids. The main floor of the Lodge and Guest House are barrier-free. The center is located on 40 beautiful acres of land and the meeting room in the Lodge faces the Grand River.

**You may register** online by credit card or download a registration form at the Leaven Center web site: [www.leaven.org](http://www.leaven.org). For more information about The Leaven Center or to inquire about scholarships, call 989-855-2606 or e-mail [leavencenter@leaven.org](mailto:leavencenter@leaven.org).

### *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](mailto: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.firstfreedoms.com](http://www.firstfreedoms.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.

### *Prayer Requests*

Please pray for Dan and Sarah Chetti, ABC missionaries in Lebanon. Remember especially the young women in prison in Lebanon, and the Chettis' ministry with them.

Please pray for Jan and Larry Martin, ABC missionaries in Thailand. They are celebrating two years of ministry in the District of Ban Luang.

Please lift up in prayer Wendy Bernhard, ABC missionary in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She works in the Bible Institute, where Congolese Christians are learning to be ministers.

Please remember in prayer the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the political climate is tense, and war and violence are not uncommon.

Please hold in prayer those who are suffering with allergies in this season.

### *Book Nook*

Baptist Life and Thought: A source Book, Revised Edition  
Edited by William H. Brackney

This updated version of a Baptist classic contains well-known, seminal historical documents in Baptist History. It also presents previously unpublished works that provide insights into the development and identity of Baptists. This book is a must for those interested in Baptist history. It is available from [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com) for \$18.