

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

September 23, 2005

We give God thanks for the freedoms that we as Baptists claim.

In this Issue

Upcoming Events
Thinking Theologically
From the American Baptist Family
Book Table Ministry
Ghana Mission Partnership Trip 2006
Congregational Revitalization and Worship
Enlivening Congregational Singing
The Life Center
Anniversary Celebration
Stewardship
International Ministries
Summer Collegium
APCN Breakfast
Prayer Requests

Upcoming Events

September 29-October 2--*If This Hat Could Talk: The Untold Stories of Dr. Doroth Height*, a musical drama about the civil rights movement, Arie Crown Theater. For more information, visit www.vanjo productions.com, or phone Deloris McBain at 708-333-6558.

October 8-10--World Council of Churches conference for Young Adults, "Shift Your Space - Transform the World," Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Information available at www.wcc-usa.org.

October 9--Annual Fall Festival and Fashion Show, immediately following worship, First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

October 10-12--World Council of Churches U.S. Conference, O'Hare Crown Plaza Hotel, Chicago. Information available at www.wcc-usa.org.

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 13--Revitalization and Worship seminar, Jefferson City, MO. For more information, contact krystalmsr@earthlink.net or call 800-626-5924

October 14--Celebration of the grand opening of The Life Center of Third Baptist Church of Chicago, 1551 W. 95th Street, Chicago. Tours at 6:30 p.m. Worship service at 7 p.m. RSVP to 445-8500, ext. 307.

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

October 16--172nd Anniversary Celebration, 4 p.m., First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

October 17-21--Pastors Conference in Prague

October 22--"Good Company Coffee House," Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m. Phone the church, 773-334-9003, for more information.

November 10--APCN Breakfast, 8 a.m., Ballroom, School of the Art Institute. Contact stib@sinai.org or ticket information.

November 11-12--Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

November 18-20--"Befriending the Bible" retreat for GLBT Christians, Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, MI. Phone Grace Baptist Church, 773-334-9003, for more information.

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

May 10-24--ABCNC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana

Thinking Theologically

ABCNC's Interim Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a column every other week for the fortnightly epublication *Common Good Connection*. His most recent column is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

From the American Baptist Family

Last week, ABCNC sent forth by email a message to the American Baptist Family regarding a recent recommendation from the executive committee of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest (ABCPSW) that the region withdraw from the American Baptist Family. We invited responses. We were grateful to hear from ABCPSW's Executive Minister, Rev. Dale Salico:

Dear Brothers and sisters,

I hope that you will abide by your own counsel in respect to the ABCPSW, that "the principle that all children of God are to interpret the Bible for faith and life, without coercion of human authorities, but according to the leading of the Holy Spirit."

We received responses from other persons as well:

God bless our Family Cabinet for the wisdom, consideration of differences, and for holding strongly and lovingly to our Baptist Principles. Thank you for your strength and Christ-centered response to PSW. -- Rev. Francine Stark, Associate Pastor, Third Baptist Church of Chicago.

I'm very appreciative ? it?s a very well crafted letter. --Rev. Diane Pomeroy, Pastor, Community Baptist Church, Warrenville.

Truly an excellent response. --Rev. Dr. Emma Justes, Professor of Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; Member, Bethany Baptist Church of Christ, Evanston.

I want to thank the Family Cabinet for crafting such a beautiful, non-polarizing statement ... This is the kind of perspective that allows, encourages and makes it possible for the Lake Street Church of Evanston to stay connected to ABCUSA. --Rev. Robert Thompson, Pastor, Lake Street Church, Evanston.

Thanks so much for forwarding the letter. It is very well done. I commend our Executive Committee for taking this action. --Rev. Connie Stone, Member, Community Baptist Church, Warrenville.

Thank you for your clear and gracious response to the proposed action of American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest. I will hope that your words reach the hearts of leaders of our churches in the southwest. For God's gift of direct and loving speech, given just now through you, I am most grateful. --Rev. Brooke Rolston, Member, University Baptist Church, Seattle, WA.

We appreciate all of these gracious responses. It is our hope and prayer that all of us will be faithful in recognizing and appreciating various perspectives among our fellow Christians, both inside and outside the American Baptist Family.

Book Table Ministry

With increasing numbers of people seeking quality Christian resources, the Judson Press Book Table Ministry enables local churches to offer outstanding publications from their denominational publisher, while at the same time generating income for church ministries. The program works very simply. Churches select a minimum of twelve, non-returnable Judson Press books that they believe would be of interest to their congregation. The more books they order, the greater the discount. Discounts range from 30%-40%, and when churches sell the books for the suggested retail price, they can dedicate the sales to church ministries. Books can be selected from the Judson Press catalog, or churches can choose from several theme packages.

In addition to the generous discounts, the Judson Press Book Table Ministry also provides churches with a free, preassembled, attractive case in which to display their books. A full-color poster and publicity ideas are also included to help promote the program. For more information, please contact kim.shimer@abc-usa.org.

Ghana Mission Partnership Trip 2006

ABCMC's Mission Partnership Task Force has negotiated dates with the Ghana Baptist Convention for our Partnership Trip. The dates are **May 10-24, 2006**. We will leave Chicago on May 10 and arrive in Accra on May 11. We will depart Accra on May 23 and arrive back in Chicago on May 24. We have received a *very good* quote for airline tickets of \$1,247.17. A \$125 deposit made out to ABCMC is due to the ABCMC office by Wednesday, October 19.

You will find a tentative agenda attached. This will be a multi-purpose trip and wonderful opportunity to meet women in ministry as well as Chicago representatives to travel to their

respective sister churches. If you are interested in developing a sister church relationship this will be a great opportunity to have face to face conversation and begin the process.

There will be an organizational meeting in the very near future but because of the possible increase in airfare we wanted to lock in the prices. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Joanne Lindstrom at kjoanne@ameritech.net or 773-538-4378. She looks forward to hearing from you soon.

Congregational Revitalization and Worship

Registration is still open for an exciting one day event on **October 13th** with Rev. Ed Varnum, founder of CORE Ministries. The event will be held at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City, MO from 10:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m. This event, based on Psalm 95:2 calls God's people "Let us come into the presence with thanksgiving!" Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! "Worship in the vital church offers praise to God and engages people. Can your church more fully in those two directions, as it maintains its congregational integrity and lives out the richness of its traditions? How to do this is the question addressed by this Vital Church Seminar.

The event cost is \$50 which includes lunch. CEU's are available. For a registration form contact Krystal Jacobs at krystalmsr@earthlink.net or call 800-626-5924.

Enlivening Congregational Singing

Series of five hands-on training sessions for church musicians, worship leaders and clergy that builds skills in leading and strengthening congregational singing.

Monday evenings--October 17, 24, 31, November 7 plus 5th session to be determined. Exact time and location to be determined for convenience of participants.

Each three-hour session includes presentation and discussion of topics such as:

- role of music and singing in worship
- skills for effective song leading
- creating environment that enhances singing
- selecting sacred repertoire
- tips for introducing new songs
- teaching groups to sing in harmony
- using choir to enable congregational singing

PLUS opportunity for all participants to practice leading singing.

COST: \$150

Facilitated by Mark Bowman, minister of music at the United Church of Rogers Park in Chicago. Over the past five years Mark has enlivened congregational singing and crafted a new repertoire of spirited song in this multi-cultural congregation. He has studied congregational singing and worship song with John Bell, Ruth Duck, Marty Haugen, Michael Hawn, Jorge Lockward, Marcia McFee, Brian Wren and others. He also brings his passion for worship renewal and spirited congregational singing to Chicago area churches through the *Worship Alive!* workshop series. For more information, contact worshipalive@comcast.net.

The Life Center

Please join Third Baptist Church of Chicago and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland, to celebrate the grand opening of **The Life Center of Third Baptist Church of Chicago** on Friday, October 14 at the church, 1551 W. 95th Street, Chicago. Life Center tours will be given at 6:30 p.m. A worship service will follow at 7 p.m. RSVP to 773-445-8500, ext. 307. Come to this event, *and wear purple* to celebrate the royalty of our Lord.

Anniversary Celebration

The First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, is the oldest Baptist Church in the city of Chicago. The congregation will celebrate its 172nd anniversary on Sunday, October 16 at 4 p.m. The special guest speaker will be Rev. Marshall Hatch, pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, Chicago. You are cordially invited to attend.

Stewardship

The Alban Institute has excellent resources for congregations who are thinking about stewardship in the coming year. *Plain Talk about Churches and Money* and also *Ministry and Money: A Guide for Clergy and Their Friends* may be helpful. Order them from www.albaninstitute.org.

International Ministries

International Ministries is kicking off the 2006 Discovery Team season with a trip to Santiago, Chile. Pastors who are mission trip first timers are eligible for scholarships. The team will have the opportunity to assist in much-needed construction and renovation at the Baptist Theological Institute in Chillan. There may also be opportunity to engage in outreach ministries including VBS, music evangelism and miming. The cost will be \$950 plus airfare plus \$100 U. S. entry tax. For more information and application forms go to www.discoveryteams.org or contact herb Rogers, Jonathan Hilsher or Angela Sudermann at 800-222-3872, exts 2017/23672164. Applications and \$75 deposit will be accepted into November, 2005.

Summer Collegium

SMALL-CHURCH CLERGY are invited to apply now for **The Summer Collegium**, an ecumenical project of Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifetime Theological Education. ***All transportation, housing, meals, books, and other expenses are paid*** by the seminary through a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. The Summer Collegium seeks to celebrate ministry in smaller congregations (fewer than 100 average Sunday attendance) by hosting a 9-day conference for 25 small-church clergy and their spouses/partners. The conference will bring small-church experts from a variety of denominations to the Alexandria campus for education, encouragement, refreshment and renewal, and will include a Small Church Religious Arts Festival, showcasing the arts and crafts of local small congregations. For more information and for application materials, please visit our web site: www.vts.edu/education/collegium, email SummerCollegium@vts.edu, or call 703-461-1752. Completed applications must be received by December 15, 2005, to be considered for next summer's conference.

APCN Breakfast

AIDS Pastoral Care Network (APCN), a program of Access Community Health Network is celebrating their 20th, with an "early" Tree of Life Awards Breakfast and a new location: the Ballroom of the School of the Art Institute. This is happening on Thursday morning, November 10, at 8 a.m. You are cordially invited to attend. For information about tickets, please contact stib@sinai.org.

Befriending the Bible

The third annual "Befriending the Bible" retreat for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Christians will be held November 18-20 at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan. This retreat will include study, fellowship and worship for GLBT people. It will create a unique space transcending the defensive approach to "clobber passages" common in debates about the Bible and sexual diversity. Jacki Belile, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Chicago, will be the facilitator. For more information, please phone Jacki at 773-334-9003 or see www.gracebaptistchicago.com/befriending%20the%20Bible.htm.

Prayer Requests

Let us all join in thanks to God that the First Baptist Church of Chicago has been ministering for 172 years, and celebrate the congregation's anniversary celebration.

Please support in prayer the continuing ministries of the AIDS Pastoral Care Network.

Please lift up in prayer all those who are ministering with victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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.