

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

October 7, 2005

May God give you grace to pause for rest in this busy time.

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Upcoming Events

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—"Worship Matters: Planning Worship that Connects with Your Congregation," Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, 2366 N. 80th Street, Milwaukee, 8:30 a.m. (check-in) to 4 p.m. \$15 fee due with registration by October 14. Phone church at 414-774-5005.

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.

October 27—CTS Advent-Christmas Preaching Workshop, Plymouth Place, 315 N. LaGrange Road, LaGrange Park, IL, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration due by **October 18**. Cost is \$30. Contact Micahel Montgomery at mmontgomeryl@ctschicago.edu.

November 5—Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. All tickets are purchased at the door.

November 6—Introduction of new song book, *Welcome God's Tomorrow*, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, The Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston. Hymn sing at 4 p.m.; book signing at 5 p.m.

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--ABCMC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana

Award for Mang Tiak

Mang Tiak received the Institutional Chaplain Merit Award from National Ministries, ABCUSA, at the 2005 Biennial meeting in Denver. Mang, a native of the Burma, earned degrees from schools in Rangoon, and later earned theological degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary and Chicago Theological Seminary. She was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Chicago.

Mang ministers at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. She has demonstrated exceptional care giving abilities in ministry with patients, families and staff in the hospital's emergency center, skilled nursing facility, and neurological and surgical care areas.

Mang mentors international Clinical Pastoral Education students as they learn English and U.S. social customs. She recently completed one year of intensive work as a member of the 2004 National Convention Planning Committee for the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC). In that capacity, she managed the culturally and theologically challenging task of planning and leading daily interfaith worship services, considered by many attendees to have set a new standard for APC national meetings. Additionally, Mang has been a longstanding and influential member of numerous local certification committees, and has assisted new chaplains as they seek Board Certification with APC.

A member of the Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, and part of the Burmese community, Mang frequently helps interpret Burmese culture to the wider church.

Head Start for Evacuee Children

The Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services (CYS) is offering services to children, from birth to age 5, who have suffered and been displaced as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina. They may enroll in any Head Start program in Chicago free of charge. Information is available at www.earlychildhoodchicago.org.

Welcome God's Tomorrow

You are invited to join in a celebration of new hymn texts by Ruth Duck on Sunday, November 6 at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, The Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston on Sunday, November 6. A hymn sing will take place at 4 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow at 5 p.m. Ruth Duck's new song book, *Welcome God's Tomorrow*, as well as her earlier books of sacred song, will be available for purchase.

The seminary is located on the campus of Northwestern University, between the Purple Line Noyes and Foster Street stops. Parking is available in the Northwestern University lot directly south of the main building. The event will be co-sponsored by GIA Publications, the United Church of Rogers Park, and the Garrett-Evangelical Arts Committee.

International Mission Opportunities

ABCUSA's International Ministries has informed us of a number of opportunities available through their Volunteers in Global Mission (VIGM) group. If you have the time and skills to give, and God is calling you to mission overseas, these would be excellent positions to pursue.

The Polytechnic Institute of Nicaragua is looking for someone to come help advance their International Relations department. This is an unusual request, a longer term assignment with interesting qualifications. Sammuk Christian Academy, a boarding school for grades 5-12 in Bang Saen, Thailand, is seeking two English teachers for the academic year beginning May of 2006. You can obtain a full description of these positions by going to <http://www.internationalministries.org/opportunities/Volunteers/documents/100305update.pdf> or by phoning 800-ABC-3USA (800-222-3872) and asking for VIGM.

Worship Matters

Worship Matters: Planning Worship that Connects with Your Congregation will be presented on Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, 2366 N. 80th Street,

Milwaukee. The program of the day will explore such questions as: What is worship really about? Why are there so many different sets of expectations? When we plan worship, can we expect that most worshippers understand what they are coming to do?

The registration deadline is October 14. The cost for the event will be \$15 per person. For registration materials and more information, please phone the church at 414-774-5005. This event is co-sponsored by the church and Calvin Theological Seminary.

Advent-Christmas Preaching Workshop

Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) will offer an Ad-vent-Christmas preaching workshop on Thursday, October 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Plymouth Place, e15 N. LaGrange Road, LaGrange Park. The program will feature Dr. Laurel Schneider, Associate Professor of Theology, Ethics and Culture at CTS; Dr. Michael H. Montgomery, Fellow, Ph.D. Center, CTS; and Mr. Robert E. Wooten, Jr., Music Director, Trinity United Church of Christ. The workshop will explore the intersections of meaning and human need in which our preaching and worship are rooted. Participants will explore, reflect and appropriate ways in which to celebrate the birth of Jesus as good news to real people.

Registration, and payment of the \$30 fee, will be due by October 18. For more information, contact the CTS Events Line, 773-322-0275, or Michael Montgomery at mmontgomeryl@ctschicago.edu.

Jail Ministry Dinner

Please join fellow supporters of ABCMC's Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner on Saturday, November 5 at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, for fellowship, a delicious dinner, testimonies, and Christian music. Fellowship will begin at 6 p.m. The dinner and program will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All tickets are purchased at the door. The cost will be \$15 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$100 per table. A free will offering for the Jail Ministry will be taken.

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.

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.

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.

APCN Breakfast

AIDS Pastoral Care Network (APCN), a program of Access Community Health Network is celebrating their 20th anniversary 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.

From International Missionaries

Bucky and Carole Sydnor, missionaries in Nepal, ask prayer for Dingla Baptist Church which was established in 1992 in Dingla (Bhojpur).

"Dingla is one of the more remote areas of Nepal. Dingla Baptist Church has its own church building which was constructed at the initiative of Pastor Abidhan Rai and by the believers' own contributions. More than 190 believers are in the church. However, about 6 months ago Maoist rebels asked for either a donation of about \$1500 USD or for 5 youths from the church for their team. But Pastor Abidhan Rai rejected the proposal. Then the Maoist rebels locked the church's door. Their demand is that until and unless the church fulfils the demand they will not unlock it.

"To mitigate the problem, a three member team has been formed as a Conflict Management Team. They will negotiate with the opponents soon. Please pray that the team will be able to persuade the rebels in Him. Please pray that the rebels will understand the problem and open the church.

"In early November there will be a prayer service of reconciliation. Some of the senior leaders have called it to signify their reconciliation. It will be a great day. God is working in this sad country. One just has to keep one's eyes open."

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.

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

Please lift up in prayer Dallas West, former Executive Minister of the Indiana Baptist Convention (now the ABC of Indiana and Kentucky, as well as his family. Dallas is in the hospital in Indianapolis, and is in the last stages of cancer.

Please remember in prayer Hazel Oldham, who had surgery recently.

Please pray for Mark and Sandy Jo Thompson, missionaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have resigned from International Ministries due to family considerations.

Please pray for Bucky and Carole Sydnor, missionaries in Nepal, and their family. Bucky's sister Carrie passed away recently.

Please be in prayer for Kim Brown, missionary in Thailand. Her father in Ohio is passing through the last days of life. Kim hopes to be home in time to be with him.

Please hold in prayer people in Niger, where there is dire famine and little aid. Please pray for members of the First Baptist Church of Arcata, CA, who are in Niger and trying to help.

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.