

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 20, 2005

May God bless us with passion and compassion as ambassadors for Christ.

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Upcoming Events

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 23—Interim Executive Minister Larry Greefield preaches at Community Baptist Church, 28 W W 144 Main Street (Main Street and Warren Avenue), Warrenville, 10:30 a.m. Sermon: "Nursing."

October 24—Last date for giving ABCMC Ministers Council President Kathy Taylor your application for a Together in Ministry grant

October 27—Pastoral Care Week Recognition and Seminar, “Healing Wisdom,” Olson Auditorium, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, 836 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Brochure attached.

October 27— **Register by October 18 for** 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.

October 29—Stephen Ministry Workshop, Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division Street, River Forest. For information and registration, go to www.caringministry.org.

October 30—Fifth Sunday Unity Service, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 6:30 p.m.

October 31—Due date in Valley Forge for applications for Together in Ministry grants. BUT don't wait until the last minute. Get your application to ABCMC Ministers Council President Kathy Taylor by October 24.

November 3—Peace Vigil organized by Family Gathering for Peace, Evergreen and Northwest Highway, Arlington Heights, 6:30-8 a.m.

November 4-5—*Congregations: Agents of Healing*, Advocate Bethany Hospital, 3435 W. Van Buren Avenue, Chicago. For more information and registration, contact Denise Dowling at 847-385-3744 or denise.dowling@advocatehealth.com.

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—11 a.m. to noon, speakers from Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Irqq Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out and other organizations address the war and the inadequacy of veterans' benefits, especially health care and the missing Vietnam Veterans Fountain, corner of Wabash Avenue and Wacker Drive, Chicago.

November 11—1 p.m., Save Senn hosts a rally to protest the opening ceremony of the 'Rickover' Naval Academy at Senn High School. The rally will be in the park behind Senn High School, 5900 North Glenwood Avenue, Chicago.

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

November 12—Ministers Council Breakfast Meeting, 7:30 a.m., North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

November 12—*Developing a Parish Nurse Ministry in Your Congregation*, 8 a.m.-4 p.m, Advocate Bethany Hospital, 3435 W. Van Buren Avenue, Chicago. For more information and registration, contact Denise Dowling at 847-385-3744 or denise.dowling@advocatehealth.com.

November 12—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project's Armistice Day peace event, Countryside Unitarian Church, 1025 N. Smith Road, Palatine, 7 p.m.

November 18—ABCMC Women in Ministry gathering at the home of Connie Stone. RSVP to constance.stone@worldnet.att.net.

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.

December 29, 30—Youth Encounter, First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago. Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday.

January 18-25—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 22—6th Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service, sponsored by the Ecumenical Millenium Committee (of which ABCMC is a part), Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, 1500 W. Belmont Avenue, Chicago; 4 p.m.

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

May 10-24—ABCMC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana

Invitation to the ABCMC Annual Meeting

You and your congregation are entreated to attend
– and participate in – a three-act drama,
which will “play out” over a twenty-two hour period
on November 11 -12
at North Shore Baptist Church
5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

The title of this new (and old) piece of theater is “*Of...For...By*”—drawing on some old narratives from the New Testament (The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter Ten) but set in contemporary metropolitan Chicago and the wider stage of our modern world.

It’s what, in the past, has been called the Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, yet this year re-cast in a dramatic mode. (Yes, there will still be a business meeting – on Saturday noon over lunch – to transact business like the receiving of reports, electing of officers, and adopting of a budget, but even that is meant to be a part – and interlude – between the larger dramatic acts.)

We trust that this commissioned piece of drama – set to word and music and even silence – will – like all good theater – cause you to think and feel and engage the great issues of our age, and every age; that it will stoke the fires of the faith we hold most deeply; that it will focus our vision and lead us to venture into new challenges.

Reserve your tickets now for this one-performance-only drama by calling the office of ABCMC (773-695-9791).

ABCMC Mass Choir

Are you tuning up your vocal chords? ABCMC’s 2005 meeting will continue our tradition of having a mass choir singing in the Saturday afternoon worship service. Every congregation is invited to send at least 4 persons to the choir, which will rehearse in advance of the meeting. (It is suggested, but not required, that each church send a soprano, alto, tenor and bass.) We will

announce the musical selections and rehearsal information soon. Virginia Prince, minister of music and the First Baptist Church of Chicago, will direct the choir. To volunteer for the choir, or for more information, contact her at v-prince@sbcglobal.net.

Ministers Council Breakfast Meeting

Professional Church Leaders (PCLs), in the midst of the excitement of November 11-12 at North Shore Baptist Church, come together! The ABCMC Ministers Council will meet over breakfast on Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. All PCLs are urged to attend.

Update from Larry

Dear Colleague in Christ,

This is to inform you that the legislation to cut funds for human services was pulled from consideration by the House of Representatives because there were insufficient votes for passage. From what I understand, however, those seeking to cut funds for the needy will try again whenever they think they have the votes.

I am one who believes—although I know some disagree—that it is our Christian duty to inform our elected representatives how we stand on these issues on a continuing basis. I hope, however, our shared faith commits us all to working to relieve the suffering of the poor, especially children. I also look forward to opportunities in the near future to discuss together the role of the Christian citizen in a democratic society.

Larry Greenfield
Interim Executive Minister

Pastoral Care

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center invites pastors to attend a Pastoral Care Week Recognition and Seminar, Thursday October 27th, from 8:30 am to 1pm. The event will include educational opportunities on Pastoral Care Topics and a free luncheon for attendees. It will take place in the Olson Auditorium at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, 836 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago. Attached is a brochure that gives full details about the event and how to register.

Together in Ministry Grants

The Ministers Council has announced that a Together in Ministry grant of \$1,800 may be awarded for 2006 to each collegial covenant group of six to eight persons. The group must fulfill the requirements spelled out on www.ministerscouncil.com. Applications are due in the national office by October 31. Applications are to be submitted through the Ministers Council of ABCMC. In addition, each national Ministers Council dues-paying member participating in a covenant group will receive \$100 for expenses.

Fifth Sunday Multicultural Unity Service

On Sunday, October 30, 2005 at 6:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church is holding the 4th of its 5th Sunday Unity Services, Celebrating Diversity, in which we worship in ways that are expressive of the cultural traditions of members of our denomination. You are all invited to celebrate with us in

the Euro-American tradition. The Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, Conference Minister for the Illinois conference of the UCC church will be our guest preacher. Music will be provided by the combined choirs of the Irving Park Lutheran and Irving Park Baptist churches and the Sweet Adelines. This is the final multicultural service for this year, and we will conclude with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. Please join us as we celebrate together the beautiful unity in the diversity that defines who we are as American Baptists.

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.

IRS Mileage Rate Change

Amid surging gas prices, the Internal Revenue Service has implemented a rare midyear adjustment to its allowable vehicle reimbursement rate for the remainder of 2005 to 48.5 cents per mile—8 cents higher than the rate for the first 8 months of this year. The rate is effective as of September 1, 2005.

Although IRS typically adjusts its annual mileage rate in the fall for the following year, the government agency is breaking precedent not only with the midyear adjustment but also by waiting to determine the 2006 rate. "With many predicting a decline in gas prices over coming months, we will hold off on setting the 2006 rate until closer to January," IRS Commissioner Mark Everson said in a statement.

New Life 2010

Good Thursday morning to you. Greetings in the precious and powerful name of Jesus!

Well, it's that time of the month again ... the 20th day when we remember if at no other time (and I hope you actually do) the unanimous action of the ABC General Board some six years ago to embark as a denominational family on the journey with God we have dubbed NEW LIFE 2010. It was the commitment then and our desire still to see 1,000,010 new disciples made, 1,010 new churches planted, at least an equal number of existing and established congregations undergo intentional transformation, and the numerous creation of caring, community based ministries (one per church would be nice wouldn't it?). Anyways, to date we have seen 400,000 baptisms indicative of some type of spiritual decision and discipleship, 300 new churches planted, over 800 existing congregations are or have been in national, regional, or local transformation initiatives, as well as countless new caring ministries making an eternal difference for Christ in the lives of our congregations and communities. PRAISE THE LORD!

How did it all begin? How is it sustained? PRAYER! Therefore, we remind you to please take just a few minutes at 10am or 10pm on this the 20th day of the month to pray for the components of NEW LIFE 2010 ... evangelism, new church planting, congregational (and personal) transformation, as well as Biblical justice impacting and improving society.

In the words of Paul, "... I am certain that God who began this good work with you will continue this until it is finally finished ..." (Philippians 1:6) What a blessed promise to know that God is in this thing with us. Rejoice ... and again I say rejoice!

Be faithful and be blest!

Jeff Johnson
ABCUSA National Ministries

Stop the Military Takeover of Our Community High School

The Chicago Public Schools is installing a Naval Academy in Senn High School. Hundreds of teachers, students, parents, and activists from the neighborhood and beyond have spoken out to oppose this military takeover of a wing of Senn High School. Many local American Baptists have been among those raising objections to the militarization of youth in this way, and discrimination against those students, faculty and staff who do not choose to be a part of the military program. Save Senn (www.savesenn.org) continues to fight against the militarization of this public school, and for the kind of community high school that will meet area needs. The group also hopes to raise public awareness of the financial mistake of accepting this sort of project, which will cost Chicago Public Schools dearly in the future. Learn more about this situation from www.savesenn.org, and at a gathering on November 11 at 1 p.m. in the park behind the school, 5900 N. Glenwood Avenue, Chicago (near North Shore Baptist Church, Rogers Park Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church).


Women in Ministry: Self Care

All ABCMC women in ministry are cordially invited to meet at the home of Connie Stone, 656 Lakewood Farms Drive, Bolingbrook, on Friday, November 18. Anytime between 3 p.m. and 6:30 will be fine. Connie will have a couple of different soups and salads. Those who wish to bring something are welcome to bring a dessert. RSVP to constance.stone@worldnet.at.net.

"For the Peace of the World"

National Council of Churches USA-- New York, September 26, 2005 -- No one disputes that the most powerful nation on earth is the United States of America. But does the USA use its awesome power to pursue peace, justice, food, shelter and safety for all? And if not, what is role of U.S. Christians in bringing moral clarity to U.S. interactions with its global neighbors? These and other urgent questions are the focus of "For the Peace of the World: A Christian Curriculum on International Relations" released today September 26) by the National Council of Churches USA. The curriculum will be officially launched during the meeting of the NCC's Governing Board in New York.

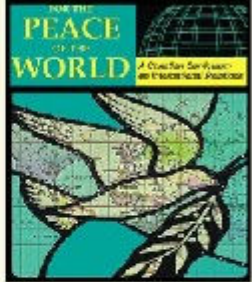
The National Council of Churches USA presents a new study guide on foreign policy from a Christian perspective



For the Peace of the World

A Christian Curriculum on International Relations

- Discussion groups
- Religious education classes
- Book groups



Includes resource readings, Bible study, and ideas for bringing about social change in an easy-to-use six-session format.

Topics include: Poverty in a rich world. What does our faith teach us about our actions in the world? Is fear driving us?

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Order from:
Friendship Press, 7820 Reading Rd.,
Cincinnati, OH 45237
800-889-5733

The 87-page book, edited by Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos, Associate General Secretary of the NCC for International Affairs, examines the issue with in-depth essays and Bible studies, and includes prayers, litanies and other worship resources for use in congregational settings. The curriculum challenges Christians from all traditions to do what writer Dr. Peggy L. Shriver calls "soul-sized thinking about world affairs."

The NCC's Friendship Press, Cincinnati, Ohio, distributes the curriculum, crafted for religious education classes, discussion groups, book groups and individuals. It can be ordered by calling 800-889-5733.

The curriculum offers six study sessions on the following topics: Is America Number One?; Fear, Security and Love; Is America God's

Favorite Nation?; Poverty in a Rich World; Self-Interest and World Citizenship; and Preventing War With Peace.

The National Council of Churches is composed of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, historic African American and peace communions representing 45 million Christians in 100,000 local congregations in the United States.

Congregations: Agents of Healing

Recent studies are documenting the power of the faith community as an agent of healing in people's lives. People who attend church regularly live longer, have fewer hospitalizations and recover more quickly from illness or injury. How can congregations take their role more seriously in this important part of people's lives?

Advocate Congregational Health Partnerships offers *Agents of Healing* training as a place for congregations to explore how they can reclaim healing as a vital part of congregational life. The training is 12 hours, including a three hour follow-up session. All sessions will be held at Advocate Bethany Hospital, 3435 W. Van Buren Avenue, Chicago. Training will take place on Friday, November 4, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.-4p.m.

Advocate recommends that each congregation send a team of 3 to 6 people to the training, but individuals are welcome to attend as well. To register, please contact Denise Dowling at 847-384-3744 or denise.dowling@advocatehealth.com. Cost for the training is \$20 per person, payable at the first session.

Peace and Education Project

Saturday, November 12, at 7 p.m., the Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will host an Armistice Day peace event. It will take place at Countryside Unitarian Church, 1025

North Smith Road, Palatine. The evening will include a showing of the film *Ground Truth*. Speakers will include family members of military personnel, and a Gold Star father whose son died in Iraq. In discussing the ongoing wars, this will be a time to honor those who have died and to re-commit ourselves to peace and peacemaking. Everyone is invited to attend. The event is free and open to the public. A free will donation will be requested at the door.

Love for the Poor

National Council of Churches of Christ--Washington, D.C., September 19 -- Hurricane Katrina will perhaps forever be remembered for having shined an unflattering spotlight on racial and class disparities in the United States. In an effort to help the nation move forward, the National Council of Churches USA is releasing, "Love for the Poor: God's Love for the Poor and the Church's Witness to It," a 40-page booklet that seeks to help churches engage more fully in prayer, reflection and shared action on behalf of the poor.

Download the booklet [here](#).

Copies of "Love for the Poor" can be downloaded free of charge here, or by contacting Friendship Press, 7820 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237, 1-800-889-5733 or via email at Rbray@gbgm-umc.org. The booklet will be expanded and printed in book form next year by Paulist Press.

Youth Encounter

The First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, will have a Youth Encounter for high school age youth on December 29 from noon to 5 p.m. and 30 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The event will include youth-oriented workshops, Praise Dance Teams dancing, food and fun.

Registration forms will be available next week. The cost will be \$6.00 per young person. For more information, please contact Rev. Jesse M. Brown at 773-536-3430/3431 or fbcpredacher@earthlink.net.

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. Sannuk 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.

Ministers Council

Check out the Ministers Council web site, and learn about the upcoming "Wait on the Lord" event, to take place in April 2006 in Orlando, Florida. For information, go to

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WaitontheLordInformation.aspx>. For registration, see <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Wait%20on%20the%20Lord/WOTLRegistrationInfo.aspx>

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.

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.

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

Missionary Kim Brown arrived safely in Ohio, to be with her family as they grieve the passing of her father. Please hold Kim and her family in prayer. Cards of condolences can be sent to Kim at the following address: Kim Brown, % Susan Peer, 1229 Three Forks Dr S., Westerville OH 43081.

Please lift up in prayer our American Baptist family in these days of discussing the future. May God give us strength and courage to follow the leading of the Lord Jesus.

Please hold in prayer a number of past leaders of our denomination who are facing final illness. May they and their families know God's peace and abiding presence.

Please pray for those who are seeking new leadership for their congregations and institutions, and ministers who are seeking God's will regarding their places of service.

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.