

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 27, 2005

May we reach out with God's love to all people in need.

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Upcoming Events

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 30—Organ Recital, First Baptist Church of LaGrange, 21 N. Catherine, LaGrange, 7 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 5-December 3—"The Making of Peter Pope," Live Bait Theater, 3914 N. Clark Street, Chicago. 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays. \$15/ticket, 773-505-6766.

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 6-April 30—Selected Sundays, 1:30-3:30 p.m., "The Challenges of Parenting in the 21st Century: What Ever Happened to Freeze Tag?" Womencare Counseling Center, 1740 Ridge Avenue, Evanston. \$25 per session per family, up to 4 people (adults only) or \$125 for entire series.

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 16-20—Christian Community Development Association's 17th annual conference, Indianapolis. Visit www.cdda.org or phone 773-762-0994 for more information and registration.

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 6—Registration deadline for online class "Connecting Faith and Health in the Congregation" (February 6-May 19) from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201.

January 6—Registration deadline for online class "Experiences of the Body in Pastoral Ministry" (February 6-May 19) from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201.

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.

February 6-May 19—Online class "Connecting Faith and Health in the Congregation" from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201. Register by January 6.

February 6-May 19—Online class "Experiences of the Body in Pastoral Ministry" from North Park Theological Seminary. For information, phone 773-244-6201. Register by January 6.

March 21-24—SCUPE's biennial congress on urban ministry, Chicago. For more information and registration, visit www.scupe.com/Programs/Congress/cngrs_homepage.htm.

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

May 10-24—ABCMC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana

Parks Remembered by American Baptist Leaders as Catalyst for Social Justice

American Baptist News Service (Valley Forge, Pa. 10/26/05)--Rosa Parks, who steadfastly refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala., bus 50 years ago, is being remembered by American Baptist leaders as a catalyst for social justice.

Parks died Monday at her home in Detroit at the age of 92. Her act of defiance, through which she was jailed and fined, fueled the momentum of the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement and inspired Martin Luther King Jr. and others. Her arrest provoked King to organize a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system and subsequent nonviolent actions that ultimately led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Parks, who worked for more than 20 years on the staff of Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, had devoted much of time in retirement to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, which she had founded with her husband in Detroit.

She was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Medal of Honor and the NAACP Image Award, among other honors.

“The seemingly simple step of defiance that Rosa Parks took 50 years ago was, in fact, a profoundly courageous affirmation of inalienable justice,” said the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA. “I believe God used this good and principled woman to challenge the conscience of a nation and to usher in a new understanding of the preciousness of human relationships. We celebrate her life and spirit today as we mourn her passing. So much has changed for the better in this nation over the past half century--let’s remember with gratitude the vital role this strong sister in the Lord played in that journey.”

The Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, said, "The destiny of my life and that of an entire generation was profoundly and forever altered by the courage and commitment of Rosa Parks. She took a stand by taking a seat. It was my privilege to meet and work with her when I served the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She was a gentle giant who graced the stage of history for 92 years. May her role in transforming the soul of this nation never be forgotten."

The Rev. Dr. Albert Paul Brinson, retired American Baptist leader and a colleague of Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement, remembered Parks as “a true American who remained seated when many lesser persons would have stood as commanded. In remaining in her seat on that Montgomery, Alabama, bus she truly stood for the best in the American Dream. Her courage will live on long after her death. Thanks be to God for her unselfish act for us all.”

Read Some Good Preaching

Attached to this issue of *eWind* is “Nursing,” a sermon by ABCMC’s Interim Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield. Larry preached this sermon at Community Baptist Church in Warrenville on October 23.

Conference on Black and Womanist Theologies

Next week (October 31 - November 4) a groundbreaking conference will be held in Chicago. It will focus on the dialogue between Black and Womanist theologies. Presenters will include equal numbers of males and females; and pastors and academics. The conference will explore the implications of these important theological enterprises for both the academy and the churches. The first session each day starts at 2:00 p.m. and the second session at 6:30 on the Hyde Park campuses of the University of Chicago and Lutheran School of Theology. The conference will be funded by the [Louisville Institute](#) (a program of the [Lilly Endowment](#)), sponsored by the University of Chicago Divinity School and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and cosponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, the Office of Community and Government Affairs, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, and the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, all of the University of Chicago. For further information please call Susie McGee at 773-702-8238. For a conference schedule, go to the website of the University of Chicago Divinity School's Marty Center, <http://marty-center.uchicago.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.

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.

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.

Camp Grow Director Helps Hurricane Relief

Would you like to assist Camp Grow's director Paul Ethington? He must miss our upcoming annual meeting because he is going with a group of 6 friends to help with hurricane relief/outreach efforts in Covington, Louisiana. He sends his greetings. He is also looking for transportation from Midway Airport back home to Wisconsin when they return November 12 or 13. Are you available and willing? If so, please call Paul at 920-398-2671.

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 Fidler 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.

Helping Earthquake Survivors



Pictured: CWS shelter kits (tents, ground cloths, and blankets) being loaded onto Pakistani helicopters for survivors in most remote areas.

Battagram Base, North West Frontier Province, Pakistan--October 17--The earthquake that hit northern Pakistan on Oct 8, 2005, has shattered millions of lives. The survivors are in desperate need of help. The government; Church World Service and other aid agencies; and the Pakistan Army are carrying out desperate relief efforts to reach those survivors

who are based in far-flung areas that are hardest to reach. Relief efforts are being hampered due to mudslides and heavy rain and hail storms. Snowfall has also started in some areas. The aftershocks continue to remind the survivors of the terrible disaster that changed their lives on October 8, 2005.

Amid these challenges, Church World Service has been able to mobilize and distribute shelter kits and food packages in North West Frontier Province. The Pakistan Army has been very cooperative in this regard, and has been airlifting Church World Service (CWS) relief good to areas of Allai-Battagram that are not reachable through roads.

Applauding CWS efforts, Col. Zakeer, at Battagram Base, North West Frontier Province, said that so far CWS has been the largest donor of shelter and food packages in this area. Talking to the CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan team, he stressed the importance of each tent that is being provided.

"With each tent provided, a family is being saved," said Col. Zakeer. Temperatures will further drop in the next fifteen days, which will make survival next to impossible for those people living out in the open, said Col. Zakeer, as he appealed for more tents.

Church World Service is helping to provide shelter kits (family-sized tent, ground sheet, plastic sheet, two iron poles, and four blankets), as well as family food packages, to 20,000 of the worst-affected families.

Each shelter kit is valued at \$172. Contributions to support these efforts may be sent to One Great Hour of Sharing through your church or through www.abc-usa.org.

Parenting in the 21st Century

Today, parents and caregivers often feel as if the innocent games remembered from their childhood are a thing of the past. We live in a fast-paced culture that supports our children growing up too fast. Well-intentioned parents often feel ill-equipped to deal with the ever-changing face of child and teen culture in America.

This six-part series is designed for parents and others interested in the healthy development of today's youth. Series topics will address key issues and concerns facing children and adolescents. Each session will take place 1:30-3:30 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon at Womencare Counseling Center in Evanston.

Session topics include:

- § Responding to Bullying and Peer Pressure – November 6, 2005
- § Helping Your Child Grieve – December 4, 2005
- § Understanding Self-Harming Behaviors – January 22, 2006
- § Let's Talk About Sex – February 19, 2006
- § Talking to Children About Divorce – March 5, 2006
- § Raising Resilient Kids – April 30, 2006

This series provides parents and caregivers the opportunity to come together and share experiences while gaining insight and building skills to successfully address these provocative and difficult subjects with children. Meetings will include an introduction to the topic followed by questions and answers and/or small group discussion.

Womencare Counseling Center is at 1740 Ridge Avenue in Evanston, between Church Street and Emerson Avenue, directly in front of the Green Bay Road/Ridge Avenue merge. There is only one way to gain access to the parking lot, and this from southbound Green Bay Road. As you travel south, the entrance to our parking lot is on the right just where Ridge and Green Bay Road merge. Please note that the entrance to the parking lot is before the building (just north of our

building). Free parking is available in the lot next to the building. For more detailed directions, a map and an aerial photo please visit <http://womencare-counseling.com/contact.html>. For registration or more information, phone 847-491-0530.

Thinking Theologically

Every two weeks, ABCMC's Interim Executive Minister, Larry Greenfield, writes a column for Protestants for the Common Good. His latest column is attached to this edition of *eWind*.

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 takeplace 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 Univesity, 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.

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).

CCDA Convention

Indianapolis will be the host city to the Christian Community Development Association's 17th Annual Conference: "Taking It Back -- Radical Redemption of Our Communities." Join more than 1,000 Christian Community Developers in this annual grass-roots event featuring plenary speakers: Jim Wallis, Mary Nelson, Richard Townsell, Ray Bakke, Juan Hernandez, Carl Ellis and Sharon Underwood. For more information and online registration, go to <http://www.cdda.org/>, or call (773) 762-0994.

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.

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.

An Evening at the Theater

Theater Entropy presents *The Making of Peter Pope*, a play by Edmund De Santis. Performances will be at Live Bait Theater, 3914 N. Clark Street, Chicago. The play will run November 5-December 3. Tuesday-Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m. Sunday evening performances will be at 7 p.m. Note: the play includes adult material. Tickets will be \$15, or \$12 for students and seniors. For reservations call 773-505-6766.

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 fbcpreacher@earthlink.net.

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>

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.

Online Theological Education

North Park Theological Seminary will offer an online class, "Connecting Faith and Health in the Congregation." This course will explore faith based health education as a venue for connecting faith and health in the church. The dynamics of providing health education in the church will be considered, resources critiqued, and practical application made. The instructor for this 1-credit class will be Dr. Mary Chase-Ziolek, Director of the Center for Faith and Health, and Associate Professor of Health Ministries.

During the same time period, the seminary will also offer a 3-credit online class, "Experiences of the Body in Pastoral Ministry." This course will focus on the complex issues that arise when we are called to respond to the individual's and the community's experience of "embodiment." The resources available in personal narratives, scripture, Christian tradition, social and human sciences will be utilized to explore the dynamics of interpersonal relationships as experienced in the practice of ministry. Issues addressed will include body-shame, guilt, gender, ministry and gender, illness, pregnancy, birth, abortion, intimacy, love, sex, death, race, sexuality, relationality, spiritual practices and images of God. Phillis Sheppard will be the instructor.

The registration deadline for either course is January 6. For information, phone 773-244-6201.

Congress on Urban Ministry

Another in SCUPE's biennial Congresses on Urban Ministry is scheduled for March 21-24, 2006

in Chicago. This edition's theme will be "The Beloved Community Breaking Through in the City." Join hundreds of other urban ministers and students of urban ministry in lively workshops and helpful networking opportunities. Plenary speakers will include: Gary Gunderson, Yvonne Delk, Jim Wallis, Sen. Barack Obama (invited) Bishop Philip R. Cousin, and Fred Smith. Visit http://www.scupe.com/Programs/Congress/cngrs_homepage.htm For more information and online registration.

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.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the Church World Service (CWS) staff in Pakistan. The staff has worked tirelessly to bring relief to survivors of the recent earthquake. We have just learned that 10 of the CWS staff members lost a total of 58 family members, have 28 family members who were injured and in one case have 3 family members still missing. In the midst of their own personal sorrow, they continue to move on bringing provisions, comfort and relief to the hundreds of thousands of survivors of this devastating earthquake.

Please lift up in prayer Rev. Richard A. Huber, associate executive director and corporate secretary of The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board during his coming time of transition. He has announced he will retire on June 1, 2006.

Please pray for those recovering from the effects of Hurricane Wilma in Florida and Latin America, and those who are working to help them.

Please pray for the congregation of the Unity of the Keys in Key West, Florida. Their church building was flattened, possibly by a small tornado, as Hurricane Wilma hit the island.

Book Nook

Urban Ministry in a New Millennium
David Claerbaut
(Authentic Media/World Vision Resources, 2005)
Available at Amazon.com for \$14.99, or less

This book has been around before, but it's better than ever. Dr. David Claerbaut's original title, "Urban Ministry," offered by Zondervan in 1983, was one of the first good city mission books available in many years for practical ministry. With this updated edition, Claerbaut retains much in the way of original urban ministry scholarship that he and the late Dr. Bill Leslie (pastor, Chicago's LaSalle Street Church) hammered out in the 1970s. But he brings his work up-to-

speed with a 21st century focus on topics such as global cities, institutionalized poverty and new directions for urban ministry.

Though an inter-disciplinary writer, Dr. Claerbaut makes no attempt to hide his original calling as a sociologist - and that's one of the book's most refreshing points. Details, people groups, and urban trends are all meticulously traced out. The author's fast-paced style lends interest, authenticity and a scientific type of accuracy to his work. You'll enjoy this book on many levels!

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.