

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

November 2, 2005

God blesses us with imagination.
God brings us inspiration.
God guides us in using both to do good.

In this Issue

Upcoming Events

Invitation to the Annual Meeting

ABCMC Mass Choir

Ministers Council Breakfast Meeting

Leo Thorne Called as Associate General Secretary

Jail Ministry Dinner

APCN Breakfast

Women in Ministry: Self Care

Peace and Education Project

Youth Encounter

Clergy Spiritual Growth

Befriending the Bible

Prayer Requests

Upcoming Events

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

Invitation to the ABCMC Annual Meeting

The American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

Present

Of...For...By

Starring

You

Your Church

Your Ministries

Special Guests

a participatory 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).

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.

National Call-In Week to Save Vital Services

Protestants for the Common Good has provided the following information and request:

Starting Monday, November 7, call your U.S. Representative toll-free: 800-426-8073

The week of November 7, the House of Representatives is expected to vote on a reconciliation bill that would cut \$50 billion in important services such as Medicaid, Medicare and Food Stamps. These programs are essential; if they are cut, it would be detrimental to those who need these important services.

As people of faith, we are called to speak out against this and demand that economic justice be accomplished not only for the sake of the disenfranchised, but for the common good of this nation!

...your calls can make the difference, and we need to keep the pressure on! Your representatives need to hear from people of faith who oppose this bill.

Starting Monday, November 7, call **800-426-8073** to be connected toll-free to the capital switchboard. Ask to speak to your representative (If you don't know who your Representative is, the people at the switchboard can tell you or you can visit www.congress.org and enter your home address to identify your member of the House.)

When you are connected to the Representative's office, say:

"My name is _____ and I live in (your town/city). I would like Representative (name) to vote NO on the reconciliation bill to cut \$50 billion in vital services to vulnerable people, including Medicaid, SSI, foster care, Food Stamps and child support. These cuts are the wrong priorities.

"The right priorities are protecting people from sickness and hardship, investing in housing, jobs, and other services that families need -- not billions on tax cuts for those who can afford to pay their fair share."

Use the toll-free number above again to call one or more of three key Illinois representatives: **Representative Biggert, Representative Johnson or Representative Kirk**. If the lines are busy, please be patient and try again.

To find the name and phone number for your US Representative, you may also visit www.vote-smart.org, and either type in your zip+four, or use the link to look it up on the USPS website.

Leo Thorne Called as Associate General Secretary

Rev. Dr. Leo Thorne, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, has been called to serve as the Associate General Secretary for Mission Resource Development of the American Baptist Churches/USA.

In this position, Dr. Thorne will oversee the efforts for communicating the overall vision and mission story of American Baptist Churches, developing stewardship and tithing resources for local congregations, and assisting the denomination's program boards and regions in raising mission support. In his role, he will provide training and support for the regional network of ministers of mission support in stewardship development and fundraising.

Dr. Thorne brings to his position the wealth of pastoral experience in one of the denomination's strongest mission giving congregations. "One of the qualities we were looking for in this call," stated Roy Medley, general secretary of American Baptist Churches/USA, "was someone who was effective at the congregational level in mission support. Dr. Thorne brings with him the perspective of a pastor who has seen both the strengths and weaknesses of our approaches and materials and has a keen interest in sharpening our efforts in communication and fundraising so that they are congregationally-friendly and effective."

"I am energized and hopeful by the new day I see dawning at ABC-USA," was Thorne's response to the call. "I look forward to being part of a wonderful history and future of a Christ-centered denomination that is having a meaningful, Spirit-driven impact on our world. It will be my delight to join a terrific team of gifted persons working with a dedicated servant-leader, General Secretary Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley. I embrace fully the enormous potential embedded in combining communications and stewardship in this new position. It feels good and spiritually refreshing to be exactly here in my life and ministry at the moment."

Prior to his service at First Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO, Thorne served the Ramapo Valley Baptist Church in Oakland, NJ. This multi-cultural congregation grew substantially under his leadership and soon after his coming as pastor helped initiate the first Martin Luther King Day celebration in the township. In addition, while pastoring the congregation, he continued to serve as an administrator and professor at Farleigh-Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ where he completed more than 30 years of service. In these and other settings, Dr. Thorne honed his skills in working with people from a wide variety of backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities .

His experience and interests are wide-ranging, including serving for more than a decade as the radio host of a poetry broadcast, "The Poet's Corner," and participation on the editorial board of the Faith and Values section of a leading New Jersey newspaper. In addition, Thorne has been active in regional and national life in the ABC, as well as participating in the Baptist World Alliance.

A native of the Caribbean, and a pastor's son, Dr. Thorne is married to Yvonne Martinez Thorne, a counseling psychologist.

"I am so delighted in Leo's call," stated Rev. Medley. "I have had the pleasure of working with him and Yvonne for many years. They are wonderful, loving followers of Christ. I know Leo to be an excellent communicator and effective administrator. I look forward to serving with him."

Dr. Thorne will begin his new position in January, 2006.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Clergy Spiritual Growth

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.

Prayer Requests

Please hold in prayer earthquake survivors in Pakistan, and all who are working to help them.

Please pray for our governmental leaders, that they will make wise and just decisions.

Mike and Becky Mann, ABCUSA missionaries in Thailand, request that we pray for them and their family in their search for a California home in which to live while they are on furlough.

Please pray for the faculty of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and their ministry to prepare future pastors.

Please pray for those who are applying their time, imaginations, and hard work to make the upcoming ABCMC annual meeting a special and memorable event.

Please remember in prayer the Cook County Jail Ministry, and the faithfulness of Rev. Marjean Gonzalez and many volunteers who help sustain this outreach to inmates.

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.