

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

May 11, 2006

In this Issue

ABCMC Co-Sponsoring Save Darfur Rally on May 1

Ministers Council News

May Meeting

June Meeting

Ministers Council Dues

Revitalizing

North Shore Baptist Church Centennial Celebration Continues

American Baptist Personnel Services

Job Posting for Full-Time Church Office Administrator

Disciples' Dinner

Volunteer Needs

Voting Rights Act

Religious Liberty Council Luncheon

THIS FRIDAY! Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis

Only Two Weeks Left!

Tapestry 2006: A National Gathering of Welcoming Church Programs

Devotions

Prayer Requests

Calendar

Family Council

TO: ABCMC FAMILY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**FROM: Jesse M. Brown, President
Larry L. Greenfield, Executive Minister**

RE: RESCHEDULE FAMILY COUNCIL MEETING

We are rescheduling the next meeting of the ABCMC Family Council from May 13 to the **morning of June 3** (location to be announced).

This rescheduling will allow us to have a full and informed discussion of matters

Ministers Council News

May Meeting

Ministers Council members gathered at Irving Park Baptist Church on May 4. After a luncheon, President Doug Harris called the meeting to order. The main focus of the meeting was a presentation by Emma Justes about her new book, *How to Be a Listening Pastor*.

Before Emma's presentation, ABCMC made a presentation to her of an arrangement of fresh flowers as a token of our appreciation of her presence and ministry in the region, and her important influence in the ministries of pastors throughout ABCUSA.

Many of the ministers in attendance had studied with Emma at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. They found, along with the rest of the group, that there was still much to learn from this professor and her new book, which is published by Abingdon Press.

June Meeting

Thursday, June 15, noon to 2:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church 4100 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Francine Stark will discuss the summit meeting on the future of the ABC. RSVP to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

Ministers Council Dues

Ministers Council dues may be paid by sending a check to the treasurer, Rev. Dr. Sara Day, 3013 Wolf Road, #324, Westchester, IL 60154.

Dues are:

- \$45 for individuals
- \$60 for clergy couples
- \$22.50 for seminarians

Retired clergy membership is free for retirees who were dues-paying members of the Ministers Council for 3 out of the last 5 years prior to retirement.

Revitalizing

The Executive Committee of ABCMC's Ministers Council met on **Wednesday, May 10** with Kate Harvey, Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the ABCUSA. They discussed plans for revitalizing our regional Ministers Council, with support from the national organization. More information will be coming soon.

North Shore Baptist Church Centennial Celebration Continues

North Shore Baptist Church will host the renowned Christian piano artist Ken Medema "in concert" as the conclusion to our Centennial celebrations. The concert will take place at the church, 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago (off-street parking available) at 7 pm on Saturday, May 20, 2006. It will conclude at 9 pm in anticipation of a substantial number of young people present. We are promoting this as a FAMILY EVENT. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$5 children under 12. We are anticipating a huge crowd and request that if your church plans ten or more in attendance, you call in advance. More info at 773-728-4200 or mthornburgh@northshorebaptist.org. Credit cards welcomed.

On Sunday, May 21st, guest preacher to combined congregation worship at 10 am will be former Executive Minister of ABC/Puerto Rico Rev. Yamina Apolinaris. Following the service, the congregation will dedicate their new Centennial Garden, North Shore's Centennial "gift" to the Edgewater community.

Jack Skiles Moving to New Pastorate

The sad and wonderful news in our ABCMC family is that Rev. Jack Skiles, his wife Rev. Lynn James and their daughter Kali will soon be "back home again in Indiana." Jack has accepted the call to become pastor of the First United Church in Bloomington, Indiana. Holding membership in both the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ, this church is affiliated with the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester-Genesee Region. The move to Indiana will take the family closer to their extended family there.

Lynn is Jack's partner not only in life but in professional ministry. She is a pastoral counselor working at the church. She is also involved with the church's music ministry. Kali will be changing schools after completing the 9th grade at Prospect High School.

Jack has ministered for over a decade at The South Church in Mount Prospect. During that time, his has been a much-respected voice in our region. ABCMC colleagues and laity alike will miss him and his family. Jack's last Sunday at The South Church will be June 4.

American Baptist Personnel Services

Rick Harris of the American Baptist Personnel Services will be available to meet with ministers between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at the ABCMC office, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago. You may phone James Jackson at ABCMC, 773-695-9791 to confirm your plans to drop by during that time frame.

Job Posting for Full-Time Church Office Administrator

Active Community Church seeks an energetic, full-time Office Administrator. Responsibilities include data base management, reception, production of church publications, scheduling and coordination of events, website maintenance. Qualifications: friendly, self-directed person with good writing and organizational skills; excellent attention to detail; computer proficiency. Hours and salary negotiable; medical benefits. Fax or send resume to: Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. Fax: 773.324.3874.



Disciples Dinner

You've been reading about it here. You've saved the date. You know the theme will be "Radical Evangels: Claiming the Promise, Quickening the Pace. You know that Roy Medley, General Secretary of the ABCUSA will be our guest speaker. The planning committee has been hard at work. A letter is going out to all congregations, Family Council representatives and professional church leaders. And now here's more information.

The dinner will take place at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago. The schedule of events for the evening of June 10 is:

5:30 PM Reception followed by Awards Dinner

**Featured Speaker: A. Roy Medley
General Secretary America Baptist Churches USA**

Local Church Mission Awards

SILENT AUCTION

**\$20.00 Suggested Donation per Person
Limited Subsidized Reservations Available**

We'll lift up our churches' lay leaders by recognizing one from each church at the dinner. We'll celebrate innovative ministries flourishing in our region, and welcome those congregations who are newer members of our body.

Don't miss this opportunity to bless a new beginning here in Metro Chicago. Here's what you can do to make it a fruitful offering for the Gospel:

Register by June 1 to the ABC/MC Office (see attached form)

Bring as many guests as possible! Each church is asked to purchase a table for eight

Share these materials by email and other duplication

Name a faithful disciple in your church whose devotion is inspiring

Bring that person and his/her family to the event. Note: child care will be provided

Donate or help solicit donations for the silent auction

We're privileged to be called upon as evangels to live the Gospel in the wide diversity of our region. Join us to celebrate this calling, and the work of the disciples who embody it in our midst. We believe we will help each other to claim the promise and quicken the pace for the lives that Christ would have us live. We look forward to seeing you there!

Attached to this issue of *eWind* are a flyer about the event, a registration form, and a biographical sketch of our speaker for the evening. Also included is a map with directions to Hyde Park Union Church, as well as nearby parking. Please spread the word! And please join in the fun of planning and leading this special gathering of our ABCMC family. To offer your assistance, contact Tony Rake at arake37826@aol.com or 847-566-0742

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Let's work together to make the first annual Disciples' Dinner an effortless success. Here are some things we need additional help with:

Design and Duplication of Simple Program Booklet

Spanish Translation of Program Booklet

Afternoon Set-Up

Registration/Check-in

Food Preparation/Service

Videographer During Event (for DVD Production)

Resource Person/equipment
For DVD Duplication (on-site if possible)

Clean-up After Event

Contact Tony Rake at arake37826@aol.com or 847-566-0742 if you can help in any of these ways or recommend someone who can.

Update on Darfur

This article is from Church World Service, www.churchworldservice.org. Since ABCMC was a co-sponsor of the Darfur rally in Chicago on May 1, we want to make sure you know what is happening.

Sudan--The news from Darfur is hopeful regarding the signing of a peace deal between the government of Sudan and the largest of Darfur's three rebel groups. The deal calls for the disbanding of government-backed "janjaweed" militias, responsible for the atrocities that prompted the U.N. to term the crisis "genocide." Two smaller rebel groups have so far refused the terms of the accord.

On April 30, thousands of people gathered in Washington, San Francisco, and other cities across the U.S. to urge the Bush administration to do more to help bring about peace.

"Already hundreds of thousands have died. The time for political posturing has expired. The time for decisive action is now," CWS Executive Director Rev. John L. McCullough said at the Washington event.

The "Save Darfur" Washington and San Francisco rallies were supported by CWS and more than 150 other advocacy organizations, in concert with the national SaveDarfur.org and the Bay Area Darfur Coalition.



Church World Service joins with people of conscience the world over in praying for a conclusion to this vicious conflict and for a just peace in Darfur. To help support the urgent humanitarian needs in Darfur, please visit www.churchworldservice.org.

Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act was enacted in 1965 to prohibit blatant schemes to undermine the voting rights of minorities. These schemes included the poll tax and literacy tests. While these practices have been ended, new schemes have arisen to suppress the vote in minority communities. We still need the Voting Rights Act. It needs to be renewed.

On Tuesday, May 4, a bipartisan press conference was held in Washington, D.C. The event was to announce the introduction of legislation to renew and restore the Voting Rights Act. The Act is widely regarded as the most effective and important civil rights law ever enacted.

Please contact your congressional representative's office, and urge him or her to co-sponsor and support H.R. 9, The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

Religious Liberty Council Luncheon

The following invitation is from the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty.

We hope you will be able to join us for the Religious Liberty Council luncheon to be held in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's General Assembly in Atlanta, Ga. The luncheon is the annual meeting of the RLC, the individual membership organization of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. The event is scheduled for noon-1:45 p.m., Friday, June 23, in Grand Ballroom E (North Tower) of the Omni Hotel at CNN Center.

Dr. Walter B. Shurden will be the featured speaker. A nationally noted church historian, Dr. Shurden is the executive director of The Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer University. He is the author or editor of 15 books.

Tickets are \$25. To register, contact the BJC at (202) 544-4226 or bjc@BJCOnline.org.

Thinking Theologically

Executive Minister Larry Greenfield wrote the attached column, "Becoming Perfectly Fruity," for Protestants for the Common Good's biweekly electronic newsletter. Please take a few moments to read it.

THIS FRIDAY!! *Mothers in Prison. Children in Crisis*

A rally will take place on May 12 at noon at the Thompson Center at Randolph and Clark in Chicago's Loop. The rally will take place to promote community-based sentencing alternatives for women and children, and break the cycle of crisis for children whose mothers are imprisoned. Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), Women of Power Alumni Association (DWJS), and Visible Voices are organizing this event.

Speakers at the rally will include women who are former prisoners; children of incarcerated mothers; service providers; advocates; and children's caregivers. For more information call

Joanne Archibald at CLAIM, 312-675-0911 or claimchicago@aol.com. A flyer is attached to this issue of eWind.

ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT!

This invitation is from Provision Theater.

We want to invite you to attend a remaining performance of "The Spitfire Grill". This Jeff Recommended show is a Chicago Tribune Critics Choice. Come join Percy and the town of Gilead and discover the "colors of paradise" in this folk filled, uplifting musical that demonstrates the power of a second chance.

Playing at Theatre Building Chicago
1225 W Belmont, Chicago, IL
Thur, Fri, Sat 7:30, Sun 2:00
TICKETS: 773-327-5252 -or- Ticketmaster

Thurs, Fri, Sat @ 7:30, Sun @ 2:00

Children and Malnutrition

ABCMC's focus this year is on children living in poverty. Lack of proper nutrition is a deadly reality for many poor children. According to the United Nations, malnutrition kills 10 children every minute. More than a quarter of children in developing countries are underweight and suffer disease because of their poor diet, and in some areas almost half of all under-fives are malnourished, a new United Nations report says. You may learn more about this grave concern by visiting http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/050306HA.shtml.

Tapestry 2006: A National Gathering of Welcoming Church Programs

Indianapolis - Tapestry 2006, gathering at the University of Indianapolis June 26-29, will bring together the welcoming church programs of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciple Alliance of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church Coalition for LGBT Concerns. Welcoming Church Programs exist in many denominations to work for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in the church and society. This gathering builds upon the historic ties among Baptist Churches, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ.

Each day of the gathering will focus on a word from the event theme "Live, Love, Laugh and Lead" to lift up the empowering aspects of what it is to be a person of faith in an LGBT-affirming Christian community. Keynote speakers and preachers from the three gathering traditions and others will speak. The schedule includes worship and preaching, workshops, opportunities for small group discussion, and denominational gatherings.

Registration for Tapestry is available <http://www.tapestry2006.org/>.

Registration starts at \$124, \$99 before May 15. Youth registration is also available for those 18 and under. Lodging starts at \$75 and meals plans for \$60. Single day registrations are also available.

Devotions

Are you looking for a devotional book for the coming months? You might want to visit http://www.lulu.com/browse/book_view.php?fCID=292150. Here you can read about—and even purchase—*Ordinary Time: Year B Devotions for June to November*. The book contains writings by a number of different authors, with various denominational backgrounds. Tripp Hudgins informed us, “A couple of the devotions written for the book are mine. Who knew? I'm published.” Congratulations to Tripp. Let's all take a look.

Prayer Requests

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:15-18, NRSV).

Please hold in prayer our brothers and sisters in the Ghana Baptist Convention. Please pray for our ABCMC sisters and brothers visiting Ghana for the next two weeks, that they may be both blessed and a blessing in their journey.

Please pray for everyone who is working to make our Disciples' Dinner on June 10 a success. Please be open to joining their efforts. This will be a source of joy!

Please remember in prayer congregations who are involved in interim processes, and congregations in search of new pastoral leaders.

Please pray for Jack Skiles, Lynn James and Kali Skiles as they make their transition next month to their new ministries and studies in Indiana.

Calendar

May 10-24—ABCMC Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana.

May 11-14—“Doing Our Own Work: A Seminar for Anti-Racist White People,” April 6-9 and May 11-14, 2006 at The Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan. You may register online with a credit card or download a registration form at The Leaven Center web site: www.leaven.org. For more information about The Leaven Center or to inquire about scholarships, call 989-855-2606 or email leavencenter@leaven.org.

May 15—Deadline for submitting a proposal for a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal grant.

May 17-20—Conference on Spiritual Activism, Washington, DC. For more information go to www.spiritualprogressives.org or phone 510-644-1200.

May 20—Concert by Ken Medema, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m. Phone the church for more information, 773-728-4200.

May 21—North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, welcomes Yamina Apolinaris, former Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico, as guest preacher. Following the worship service, the church will dedicate the new Centennial Garden, North Shore's Centennial gift to the Edgewater Community.

May 23—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

June 1—Deadline for entries in the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty's essay contest.

June 2—Children in Poverty Initiative meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Third Baptist Church, 1551 W. 95th Street, Chicago.

June 2—AWAB Wine and Cheese Reception, 6 p.m., and worship time, 7:30 p.m., Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston.

June 3—Family Council Meeting

June 3—AWAB Community Building Event, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston. Contact Ann-Louise Haak, 847-864- 2181 or alhaak@lakestreet.org for child care.

June 4—AWAB Executive Director Ken Pennings preaches at The South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mt. Prospect, 10:30 a.m.

June 4—AWAB Executive Director Ken Pennings preaches at Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 6 p.m.

June 7—Ecumenical Millennium Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m., Archdiocese of Chicago Pastoral Center, 155 E. Superior Street, Chicago.

June 10—ABC MC Disciples Dinner, Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago. Reception will be at 5:30 p.m. Dinner and program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be **Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley**, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches in the USA. Make reservations with the attached form, or phone ABCMC at 773-695-9791. To volunteer to help, please contact Tony Rake arake37826@aol.com or 847-566-0742.

June 12-13—Pilgrimage to Taizé, France. Please contact Brad Berglund at info@illuminatedjourneys.com for more information. Deadline for application is March 1.

June 15—Ministers Council meeting, noon to 2:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church 4100 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Francine Stark will discuss the summit meeting on the future of the ABC. RSVP to Alice Davis, 773-286-6800.

June 20—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

July 7—Children in Poverty Initiative meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago.

July 14-16—ABMen National Conference, Parchment Valley, WV.

July 18—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

June 23—Council on Religious Liberty luncheon, noon-1:45 p.m., in Grand Ballroom E (North Tower) of the Omni Hotel at CNN Center, Atlanta, GA.. Tickets are \$25. To register, contact the BJC at (202) 544-4226 or bjc@BJCOnline.org.

July 27-29—The Center for Parish Development's Missional Church Conference, at the Cenacle in Chicago. Visit www.missionalchurch.org/pages/seminars for more information and registration.

August 22—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

August 26—Family Council meeting, 9 a.m.

November 10-11—Annual Meeting.

November 21—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

December 19—Finance and Property Committee meeting, ABCMC office, 3 p.m.

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.