

*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 24, 2006**

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**TODAY!**

**WELCOME HOME, ABCMC'S GHANA MISSION TEAM!!!**

*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

## **THIS WEEK!** *Revival*

The First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, will hold revival services May 24-26, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland, pastor of the Third Baptist Church of Chicago, will be the guest speaker. All are welcome!

## *Disciples' Dinner*

The first annual ABCMC Disciples' 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 Musician: Willie Pickens**

**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) **NEXT WEEK!**

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 evangelists 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 letter and flyer about the event, a registration form, a bulletin insert and a biographical sketch of our speaker for the evening. Also attached is a nomination form for awards to be given at the dinner. Please spread the word! Post flyers! Distribute bulletin inserts! Gather a group of friends to share a table at the dinner! Nominate deserving disciples for awards! For ease in downloading, all of these documents are in a single Word document that you can open, print, divide, copy and share.

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](mailto: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](mailto:arake37826@aol.com) or 847-566-0742 if you can help in any of these ways or recommend someone who can.

## **Ministers Council News**

*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.

### *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.

### *June 2-4 Chicagoland AWAB Gatherings*

**"Turning Brokeback Mountain into An Open Range."** will be the theme for a weekend of gatherings of welcoming Baptists in Chicago. A flyer is attached. You are welcome to print out and distribute this flyer. The schedule of events is listed below.

**June 2**, 6 to 7:30 p.m.: Strawberry Ice Cream Social (\$5 donation appreciated). Inspirational Music and Message with David Gregg preaching, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston. For more information, phone the church, 847-864-2181.

**June 3**, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Community Building Event Lake Street Church, 607; Lake Street, Evanston. In a relaxed informal setting, connect with others through story-telling, information-sharing and breaking-of-the-bread. Lunch: \$8. If child-care needed, contact Ann-Louise Haak by May 30 to make arrangements: [alhaak@lakestreet.org](mailto:alhaak@lakestreet.org) or 847-864-2181. For more information, phone at the church, 847-864-2181.

**June 4**, 11: 15 am: Adult Education - Speaker: Ken Pennings, at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. For more information, phone the church, 773-728-4200. 6 pm: Worship – Ken Pennings preaching at Grace Baptist Church; 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago. For more information, phone the church, (773) 334-9003.

For more information, contact Ken Pennings, (608) 255-2155 or [ken@wabaptists.org](mailto:ken@wabaptists.org).

### *Tapestry 2006: A National Gathering of Welcoming Church Programs*

**A Gathering of People from the Welcoming Church Movement of  
Baptists, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ  
Join in an Exciting Program of Speakers, Worship and Workshops**

**Registration is Only \$124 Through May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Tapestry 2006 is gathering at the University of Indianapolis June 26-29. It will bring together people from 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 between 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 is only \$124 before May 30th with late registration of \$150 after May 31. Youth registration of \$99 is also available for those 18 and under. Lodging starts at \$75 and meals plans for \$60. Single day registrations are also available.

#### **Keynoters, Preachers and Entertainers**

- **Rita Nakashima Brock**, from the Disciples tradition, will speak on Monday night. Dr Nakashima Brock is Visiting Scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.
- **Harry Knox**, formerly a United Methodist pastor, will keynote on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. He is currently Director of the Religion and Faith Program of the Human Rights Campaign.
- **Obadiah Ballinger**, from the UCC tradition, is a student at Yale Divinity School. He will preach on Tuesday night.
- **Susan Sparks**, preacher, lawyer, and comedian from the Baptist tradition, is scheduled to be Wednesday night's Preacher and Comedian.
- **Kenneth Samuel**, from the Baptist tradition, will speak on Thursday night. Dr Samuel is adjunct professor in the Religion and Philosophy Department at Clark Atlanta University
- **Susan Drake and Julie Jennings**, singer-songwriters and UCC ministers, will entertain on Tuesday night.
- **Andra Moran** will serve as musician, choir leader, and perform throughout the event.

#### **A Partial List of Workshop Topics**

- Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation
- Befriending the Bible
- Christ Has No Hands But Our Hands
- Ethical Dating and Relationships
- Exploring our Deepest Desires: An exercise in Loving and Liking
- Making the Case for Same-Gender Marriage
- Mentoring Queer Youth
- Planned Giving

- Process of Coming Out: Implications for Ministry
- Sex-Sexuality-Spirituality
- Sexuality Education Advocacy Training
- Sodomy and Dirt Biblical Insights into Cultural Homophobia
- Transgender Transitions for the Individual, Church And Society
- Why the Welcoming Movement Needs Straight Allies
- Women's Health

### **Register Online or by Mail**

Online registration: <http://www.tapestry2006.org/onlinereg.asp>

PDF Form to print and mail: [http://www.tapestry2006.org/docs/Tapestry\\_2006\\_Reg\\_Form2.pdf](http://www.tapestry2006.org/docs/Tapestry_2006_Reg_Form2.pdf)

Tapestry website: <http://www.tapestry2006.org/>

### ***Northern Baptist Theological Seminary Commencement June 3***

On Saturday, June 3, students will be celebrating their graduation from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary at the seminary's 91st commencement ceremony. This year's speaker will be the Rev. Diana L. Swoope, an ordained minister with the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana. She has served on the staff of the Arlington Church of God in Akron, Ohio since 1981. Currently, she is the Administrative Pastor of that Church.

Commencement will take place at Hammerschmidt Chapel on the Elmhurst College campus at 10:00 a.m. A graduation luncheon will follow at Northern Seminary's Lindner Conference Center at 12:30 p.m. Cost for the luncheon is \$15 per adult and \$9 per child under 12 years of age. Contact Melissa in the Advancement Office at 630-705-8250 to make reservations.

### ***Avivamiento***

Todos están invitados al tercer culto de avivamiento de las iglesias bautistas hispanas de Chicago el sábado el 17 de junio, 2006, á 6 p.m. en lat Iglesia Bautista Lationamericana, 3756 S. Washtenaw, Chicago, 773-247-4448. Habrá refrigerios y algo más. Para más información, llame al Rev. Almonte, 773-784-2479.

### ***Memorial Service for Paul LaDue***

by John Dawson

The family of the late Paul LaDue, former President and CEO of American Baptist Assembly, Green Lake WI, thanks the host of Chicago Baptists for their prayers and notes of condolence upon Paul's recent passing. The family invites all interested Chicago Baptists to a memorial for Paul to be held in Green Lake's Vesper Circle on Sunday, July 2, 2006 at 2 pm. The service will be conducted by Rev. Ronald Newsom, retired Vice President of Development at the Assembly.

A reception will follow immediately following the service, in the new Kraft Centre, to which all of Paul's friends are cordially invited. Further information can be obtained by calling Green Lake at 1-800-558-8898. Lucille LaDue will be in residence at Green Lake most of the summer and welcomes visitors and old friends.

## *Gather -- Grow -- Get Up and Dance!*

by LeDayne McLeese Polaski

This summer (July 10-15, 2006), the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will host **Becoming the Beloved Community**. Hundreds of folks from all around North America will gather at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia for a week of networking and relationship-building -- retreat and renewal -- inspiration and challenge -- growth and learning -- recreation and fun. Why might you want to be one of them?

To worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church, a cornerstone of the Civil Rights Movement and a congregation that continues to live out the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. for rights, freedom, and dignity for ALL.

To allow your children to gather in a glad community in which they will be loved, have fun, and be shaped as peacemakers -- including real world knowledge such as how to peacefully and effectively confront bullies in their schools.

To hear the inspiring preaching of J. Alfred Smith, widely acknowledged as one of the finest preachers of the day.

To hear encouraging stories of what other peacemakers (folks just like you) are doing in their own lives, families, churches, schools, neighborhoods -- and in the world. To share your own stories of peacemaking -- your successes and your challenges.

To honor, hear, and encourage U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, the lone U.S. congressperson to stand against the call to use "all necessary and appropriate force" -- a resolution that led to the ongoing disaster in Iraq.

To connect to the force of Love that enables and sustains peacemaking -- through morning meditation, evening Compline, and workshops connecting spirituality and the work for justice.

To hear "**Martin and Me, Confessions of a Born Again Whiteboy**," a story series from George Williamson which moves from the Civil Rights Movement of the sixties -- to Iraq -- to the struggle for GLBT equality.

To allow the youth in your life to take part in a program of community-building using art, drama, history, action, and fun -- including specific information and support for being a Conscientious Objector to war.

To experience "**Play With Borders: Reflecting Israeli and Palestinian Voices**," "**Theater for Social Change: A Playful Experience**" and other dramatic pieces with Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb and Hector Aristizabal.

To take part in a round table discussion of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath -- including what happened and why -- what is happening now -- and how we as individuals and churches can respond effectively and faithfully.

To learn about "**King and the Theology of Nonviolence**" with Bob Hunter in the very places in which King's vision began.

To enjoy the great city of Atlanta -- from the Georgia Shakespeare Festival to the world's largest aquarium -- from the Carter Center to the King Center -- and everything in between.

To hear C.T. Vivian, close associate of Martin Luther King, Jr., deliver the key note address -- "**Becoming the Beloved Community: How Do We Live King's Vision NOW?**"

To experience music, Bible study, story-telling, drama, workshops, worship, and friendships that will inspire, change, and empower you for the work to which God has called YOU!

For more information or to register, visit [www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org).

## ***Baptist Children's Services Observes Celebration of Benevolence***

by Andrew C. Jayne

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)— For over 127 years, Baptist Children's Services (BCS) has been meeting the needs of at-risk area children who are either homeless or in danger of becoming so. With five group homes and 2 emergency shelters in southeastern Pennsylvania, BCS offers safe environments for youth to live and grow. More than just housing though, BCS instills responsibility, accountability, and morals in the youth they serve through guidance and love.

In May, BCS held its Celebration of Benevolence Breakfast where the organization recognized both student scholarship winners and the organizations that contribute financially to make services possible. Five residents were honored for graduating high school this year and moving on to independent living. For many children faced with homelessness, simply finishing school can be a daunting task. However, these young people, with the help of BCS, have shrugged off that potentially life-breaking obstacle and will soon be pursuing futures in information technology, the culinary arts, and pharmaceuticals. Rev. Dr. William E. Flood, BCS Executive Director, reminded those at the event, "Everything we do is about children!"

As keynote speaker at the event, Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, Executive Director of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), said, "We have a vested interest in the well being of every child" and that, as Christians, we have a responsibility to act on the notion that, "Every child, is my child."

Partnering with BCS is National Ministries' Children In Poverty program which grew out of the 2005 Biennial Declaration of Importance for American Baptists on the Issue of Children in Poverty. It states: "American Baptists believe that God has called us to minister in love to children. We have shown it in our mission through the decades. Today, if we still believe that, then we must also speak urgently in advocacy for children and their families."

BCS was founded in 1879 by the act of a single child who, upon hearing in her Sunday School class about the plight of orphans, gave all she had, ninety cents, to help them. Over one hundred years later, BCS is still helping children.

On June 1st, BCS will move its administrative offices to the ABC Mission Center in Valley Forge, PA.

## ***Layman Pierce Appointed***

### ***National Coordinator of ABBoys and YoungMen***

by Andrew C. Jayne

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)— ABMen USA is proud to announce that Layman Pierce has been appointed to the Position of National Coordinator of ABBoys and YoungMen, effective immediately.

Pierce graduated from William Jewell College in May, 2005 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science and International Relations and will soon begin his graduate studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to pursue an MPA in Non-profit Administration. Currently working as a

youth pastor in the Kansas City area, Pierce has been involved with the AB Young Men and Boys Ministry for the last eight years and is excited to see where God may be taking the ministry next.

On Pierce's appointment, Frederick A. Robbins, Executive Director, ABMen/USA said, "We are encouraged by the wisdom of scripture: 'Bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he shall not depart from it.' Many who were introduced to our programs as youth have, in time, introduced their sons to the fellowship. The appointment of Layman Pierce to this position serves as our commitment to the continuation of support and confidence in his leadership."

## *Green Lake Conference Center Creates Site Development Master Plan*

by Andrew C. Jayne

GREEN LAKE, WI (ABNS)—The Board of Directors of the Green Lake Conference Center (GLCC), during their May, 2006 meeting, took historic steps toward insuring vital ministry into the next century.

Recognizing the Christian church in America is in the midst of significant transition, the Board of Directors approved a site development master plan that will generate funding for Project Kingdom21—Securing Ministry for the 21st Century. Kingdom21 will create funding to provide for GLCC's Center for Christian Leadership Development. This Center is committed to being on the cutting edge of emerging trends in pastoral and lay leadership training. GLCC is committed to partnering with congregations as they seek to be vital, vibrant, healthy missional churches engaging their communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ in the new millennium.

Project Kingdom21 includes funding for several new initiatives already identified such as programs to strengthen families as well as providing flexibility for funding God-inspired initiatives yet to be revealed. While it is difficult, if not impossible, to predict emerging trends over the next 25 years, the Board is committed to a plan providing the ability to be relevant in adjusting to emerging opportunities in pastoral and lay leadership development.

While GLCC has historic ties to the American Baptist Family, these initiatives will not only be directed to American Baptist churches but also to the wider Christian church regardless of denominational affiliation. GLCC Board Chair the Reverend Dr. Michael Williams, who also serves as the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan, states, "Our passion and purpose is to do our part in building the Kingdom of God. We want to do whatever it takes to partner with existing churches in order to help them maximize their God-inspired Kingdom potential. We also want to assist in assessing and equipping church planters for new church planting across the US."

The site development master plan, as currently envisioned, includes two possible single family unit communities to be developed on the GLCC grounds. Teska Associates of Evanston, Illinois, has worked closely with the Board of Directors in the development of the Master Plan. The Teska plan includes land that is not being utilized and is not a part of the core conference area. Next steps include inviting proposals from developers willing to comply with the conceptual plan and work with appropriate governmental units to protect the unique environment of GLCC. The selection of a developer could take place during the GLCC Board of Directors meeting scheduled in December.

"This is one of those historic moments that will be looked upon as a significant turning point in the future ministry opportunities of GLCC," states GLCC President Kenneth P. Giacoletto. He further states, "We look forward with great anticipation to what God will continue to reveal to us in the coming years. We want to be faithful to God's leading in this moment as well as in the days and years ahead."

## *Campus Ministers Association Hosts Annual Gathering in Green Lake*

by Andrew C. Jayne

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)— Emphasizing renewal, connection and mission enhancement, the Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Campus Ministers Association will take place at Green Lake Conference Center from Saturday, July 29, to Wednesday, August 2, 2006. Anyone registering before June 1 is eligible for a subsidy grant of \$150.

In addition to opportunities for exchange of ideas on campus ministry, participants are invited to join in selected events of the World Mission Conference of American Baptist Churches USA being held at the same time.

Download a registration form and event schedule at [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org). The conference fee of \$300 includes lodging, part-time registration for the World Mission Conference, most meals and association dues for 2007.

Learn whether you qualify for a continuing education grant by contacting Lynne Eckman, financial aid coordinator, National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, at 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2067, or [lynne.eckman@abc-usa.org](mailto:lynne.eckman@abc-usa.org).

For more information about the annual gathering, contact Rev. Jackie Saxon at [Jackie5262@aol.com](mailto:Jackie5262@aol.com) or call 512-478-8561.

## *ABCPSW Withdraws from American Baptist Churches USA*

by Andrew C. Jayne

On May 11, 2006, the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest voted to withdraw from the Covenant of Relationships of the American Baptist Churches USA effective November 1, 2006. The Board's vote was unanimous.

On April 29, 2006 delegates from the churches of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest voted on the recommendation of the Board of Directors to withdraw from the Covenant of Relationships and Agreements of the American Baptist Churches USA; voting Yes: 1,125 delegates, Voting No: 209 delegates. The Board of Directors called for this vote to provide the Board with guidance and input needed to make a responsible and informed decision on withdrawing from the Covenant of Relationships with the American Baptist Churches USA. In order to complete the necessary legal and governance actions required, November 1, 2006 will be the effective date of withdrawal.

### **ABCUSA PRESS RELEASE IN RESPONSE**

The Board of Directors of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest (ABCPSW) voted at a meeting on May 11 to withdraw from the Covenant of relationships and Agreements with the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). "PSW had been moving in this direction for some time over theological differences," said Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary of ABCUSA. "God's heart is broken when sisters and brothers in Christ divide over matters of scriptural interpretation. We pray God's blessing on PSW as they go their way from the ABC family." Medley added that "this parting of the ways will not diminish our passion, commitment and undaunted spirit to move forward in mission and ministry."

*Special Edition: ABCUSA News*  
*American Baptists Respond to the Recent PSW Vote*

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—On April 29th, 2006, delegates from the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest (ABCPSW) voted in a non-binding referendum to recommend that the PSW Region leave the Covenant of Relationships with ABCUSA. Here are some reflections on that vote:

I pray that the churches of the Pacific South West and others who are troubled by recent events will wait one year to allow mistakes to be corrected and this pending divorce to be reconciled for the sake of the children... I'm old and I'm weary of fighting. I don't want to lose my friends on the left coast. They are my family.

- Robert L. Harvey, Retired

I feel sad that our ABC family will lose the diversity represented by these churches and individuals. I also feel sad that there could be no mutual 'agreeing to disagree...' As a life-long American Baptist, I have always lived in the creative tension between soul freedom and scriptural authority - and I have loved sharing the creativity and tension with my faith family. I am sorry that we will lose so many people from this dynamic exploration of life and faith... Blessings to everyone who is working through these troubled times...

- Nancy Morrow, ABCCT Pastor

In Pennsylvania, I know of several churches who have voted out only to come back in. Though unlikely and seemingly improbable at present, I believe a Region can vote back in, too.

- Alan Berg, ABCOPAD Pastor

I grieve with the American Baptist women whose congregations will choose to leave ABCUSA. Many of these faithful women have treasured significant partnerships with American Baptist mission through their involvement in American Baptist Women's Ministries.

- Virginia Holmstrom, American Baptist Women's Ministries

As predominantly African-American Baptists, the pastor and people of this congregation voluntarily chose to be aligned with ABCUSA because of its history of prophetic and justice-advocating ministry which motivated ABCUSA to split from what became the Southern Baptist Convention over the issue of slavery. The ABCUSA statements on homosexuality are based on Scripture and I am in agreement with them. We will remain American Baptists.

- Warren Stewart, Sr., PSW Pastor

I am disappointed in the decision made by the majority of churches in the Pacific Southwest to sever relationships with ABCUSA. The decision hurts some of the finest missionary work in today's world. More important, it runs counter to the prayer of Christ that we might all be one people.

- Tony Campolo, Eastern University

Biblical authority and soul freedom have been Baptist distinctives since our beginnings in the early 1600's. Both of these commitments are important and are not opposed to each other. Working together, these two distinctives safeguard all that is precious to us - the clear and sole authority of Scripture in an environment in which ecclesiastical authorities do not dictate to us what the Scripture teaches.

- David Scholer, Fuller Theological Seminary

I am profoundly saddened by the thought of PSW leaving the American Baptist Churches. I am still praying for a miracle that will keep us together. I am not convinced this has to happen. It doesn't make sense. I believe schism will leave everyone weaker and violate the wish of Christ for the church. However, if divide we must, let us do it in a way that will bring the least shame to the cause of Christ.

- Robert Roberts, Retired

In 1981, philosopher Isaiah Berlin wrote this regarding his life long opposition to intolerance: "Few things have done more harm than the belief on the part of individuals and groups... that he or she or they are in sole possession of the truth... It is a terrible and dangerous arrogance to believe that you alone are right." Jesus came so that "all may be one" (Jn 17:21). It is a sad day for the cause of Jesus Christ when one part of the body cannot tolerate being with the rest of the body.

- Judy Allbee, ABCCT Executive Minister

Note: The result of the referendum is very difficult to interpret. There is, however, a message here that must be discerned. Only 50% of the churches in ABCPSW voted in the recent referendum, and 15% of those said no. It is still unclear at the moment exactly how many churches will actually split from the denomination. PSW churches will decide for themselves which path they will take following the region's decision.

### *Lloyd Starrett, Longtime ABCUSA Parliamentarian, Dies*

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—Lloyd Starrett, Esq., a prominent American Baptist layman who served as parliamentarian for the General Board and at numerous Biennial Meetings, died of a massive heart attack May 4. He was 72.

Starrett, who practiced law in Rockport, Mass., provided invaluable procedural advice for the denomination's national gatherings over three decades. He also was actively involved in the American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) and in the Coalition for Baptist Principles.

Starrett served on the General Board from 1987 to 1999. He was an election district representative from 1987 to 1994 and began his work as the Board's parliamentarian in 1990. He also fulfilled that role for American Baptist Biennial Meetings—national gatherings of the denomination—beginning in 1991 and concluding in 2003.

"Lloyd Starrett's expertise in parliamentary procedure, his profound knowledge of his denomination's history and his deep commitment to its current vitality helped move American Baptists through many challenging processes and decisions," said American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary A. Roy Medley. "We were blessed over many decades to be able to draw upon the unique Christ-centered gifts of leadership Lloyd so freely offered."

As president of ABHS from 1994 to 2002, and previously as treasurer, Starrett provided a “generous contribution of time” through leadership, reports and legal advice, according to ABHS Executive Director Deborah Van Broekhoven.

“His sense of denominational history, structure and conflicts was nuanced and detailed—including an ability to recite from memory detailed provisions of SCOR and SCODS, the complicated documents that describe and define the structure of institutional and financial relationships within the denomination,” Van Broekhoven noted. “At Board and Executive Committee meetings Loyd was always informal in style, but never without a clear sense of direction and purpose. Dr. Everett Goodwin, who served on the board with him, noted that Loyd’s ‘wry humor was often just the right ingredient to break through moments of confusion or controversy.’...One of his greatest gifts to the Historical Society was the recruiting and training of new board members and officers.”

A memorial service for Loyd Starrett is scheduled for 2 p.m. June 17 at First Baptist Church, 221 Cabot St., Beverly, Mass. Condolences for the family may be sent to his wife, Elaine Starrett, at 23 Granite St., Rockport, MA 01966. Memorial contributions may be made to the following organizations: Center for Career Development and Ministry, 30 Milton St., Dedham, MA 02026 or the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104.

### *IM Mourns Death of Volunteer Missionary, Dr. James Fidler*

On Thursday, May 18, Dr. James Fidler was just a few days into his most recent trip to Northeast India as a volunteer missionary when, during an evening walk, he suffered a heart attack and died. The celebrated surgeon and University of Cincinnati professor was serving once again as a visiting surgeon at the Leishiphung Christian Hospital in Ukhrul, Manipur.

Dr. Fidler was a member of the mission board of Montgomery Community Church in Cincinnati, OH, and had been directly involved in international mission work since the 1960s. After four years of missionary service in Liberia, Dr. Fidler returned to the U.S. in 1971, but continued to make frequent trips overseas to serve as a volunteer missionary.

A few years ago at International Ministries’ World Mission Conference at the Green Lake Conference Center, Dr. Fidler met Dr. Luithuk Zimik, of Crossroads Church near Denver, CO. He connected with Dr. Zimik’s passion for the development of Leishiphung Christian Hospital, and made several trips to Manipur with Dr. Zimik in recent years.

Rev. Benjamin Chan, the IM staff member for work in Northeast India, said of Dr. Fidler, “I was always encouraged by his enthusiasm and joyful spirit in mission,” adding that Dr. Fidler’s contribution to Northeast India—and many other places in God’s world—would long be remembered. Rev. Charles Jones, IM acting executive director, remembered Dr. Fidler fondly, saying, “International Ministries and our partners in mission were richly blessed, both by Dr. Fidler’s skills, and by his passion for Christ’s work in the world. We pray that God will bless his family in the midst of their loss, knowing that Dr. Fidler is now with the Lord whom he so marvelously served while among us.”

For additional details on Dr. Fidler’s remarkable life (and for memorial information), please see the excellent article by Jay Pope, staff writer for The Enquirer of Cincinnati: <http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006605220338>.

### *Call to Action*

The following communication comes from Protestants for the Common Good, and includes a request from People for the American Way.

## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

### Please Act Now!

Protestants for the Common Good was central two years ago to the passage of the amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act that includes gays and lesbians for protection from discrimination.

The political Christian right now wants to move in the direction of discrimination by calling for a constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality. Such an amendment does not belong in our constitution, and the issue should be left up to religious bodies.

We urge your support to block efforts on behalf of a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage. You can help to stop this action by volunteering for the project described below by People for the American Way.



### PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY May 17, 2006

"...an infection that is dangerous to the absolute institution of marriage ." That's how David E. Smith of the Illinois Family Institute referred to gay and lesbian families last week when his group submitted over 300,000 petition signatures to the Board of Elections to have a state constitutional amendment banning marriage equality placed on November's ballot.

**The forces of intolerance are pushing hard to write discrimination into Illinois' Constitution, but we are pushing back.**

If you live in Chicago, you may have received an e-mail from us last week telling you about Fair Illinois and our campaign to keep this mean-spirited amendment off the ballot. Now we are writing to the entire state to let you know that we are in this fight to WIN, but we need your help. The right-wing 'Family' Institute needs 283,111 of their signatures to be valid under Illinois law -- that's 83% of the total signatures they submitted and a very high number. We believe they do not have it, but the burden of proof is on us. That's why we are amassing the largest army of volunteers we can muster to check every single signature they submitted. The best way to keep discrimination OUT of the Illinois Constitution is to keep it OFF the ballot, and we only have a few short weeks to do it before the referendum qualifies.

We need volunteers day and night, week days and weekends to help verify the validity of these signatures, help with administrative needs and recruit other volunteers. Our operation is based in Chicago, so if you live in the city or can make it in during the week, please join us. If you have friends or family in the area, please ask them to volunteer. If you live downstate, plan a weekend trip up to Chicago to come help us out. It's that urgent. It's that important.

Sign up today by using our online volunteer form at [www.pfaw.org/go/FairILSignUp](http://www.pfaw.org/go/FairILSignUp) .

Volunteer locations will vary between the Cook County Clerk's office on W. Washington, the brand new Fair Illinois campaign headquarters on N. Halsted (opening this Saturday), and perhaps other locations. Tell us what times you can help and campaign staff will be in touch with you to get you on the schedule.

## *Southern Baptist Credit Union Merged with Christian Community Credit Union*

(Covina, CA. May 18, 2006) Southern Baptist Credit Union (SBCU) merged with [Christian Community Credit Union \(CCCU\)](#) on March 31, 2006. The merger gave SBCU members greater convenience and more access to financial products and services.

"We wanted to serve the financial needs of Southern Baptist churches and their members, but were not large enough. We needed to join forces with a larger credit union," said Stan Wahl, President of SBCU, a \$9 million credit union with 1,336 members. CCCU has generously allowed us to join with them in this effort. Now our members will have access to CCCU's comprehensive loan and savings programs. We're excited to be part of the CCCU family." Since 1960, SBCU served Southern Baptist churches and their members.

CCCU has retained SBCU's branch in Brea, CA. The new CCCU Brea branch opened for business on April 3, 2006 and is part of the CU Service Centers® shared branch network. With assets of \$433 million, Christian Community Credit Union is a full-service, member-owned financial cooperative with more than 28,000 members worldwide. CCCU serves the financial needs of Christian churches, ministries, affiliate organizations and their members. For more information, call 800.347.CCCU or visit [www.myCCCU.com](http://www.myCCCU.com).

### *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 (I Thessalonians 5:15-18, NRSV).***

Let's join in a prayer of thanksgiving for the safe return of our travelers from Ghana.

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 pray for the safety and security of people living near Mount Merapi in central Java, Indonesia. More than 5,000 people have been evacuated from that area due to the eminent risk of volcanic eruptions.

Please hold the ABCUSA in prayer.

Please pray for IM missionaries Debbie and John Coats, and their ministry to defeat tuberculosis in Cambodia.

Please hold in prayer the country of Nepal, and the Christians there, including IM missionaries Carole and Bucky Sydnor.

### *Calendar*

**TODAY! May 24**—ABCMC's Ghana Mission Team returns home.

**May 24-26**—Revival, First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, May 24-26, 7 p.m. Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland, pastor of the Third Baptist Church of Chicago, will be the guest speaker. All are welcome!

**May 25**—Ghana Partnership Task Force meeting, 11 a.m., St. John Church – Baptist, 4821-35 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

**May 29**—Peace vigil, intersection of Duane and Main Streets, Glen Ellyn, 7 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. 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago.

**June 2-4**—**Chicagoland AWAB Gatherings—*"Turning Brokeback Mountain Into An Open Range."*** Contact Ken Pennings, (608) 255-2155, [ken@wabaptists.org](mailto:ken@wabaptists.org).

**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](mailto:alhaak@lakestreet.org) for child care.

**June 3**—Northern Baptist Theological Seminary commencement, 10 a.m., Hammerschmidt Chapel on the Elmhurst College campus. Graduation luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Lindner Conference Center, NBTS, Lombard. Cost for the luncheon is \$15 per adult and \$9 per child under 12 years of age. Contact Melissa in the Advancement Office, 630-705-8250, to make reservations.

**June 4**—Ken Pennings, Executive Director of AWAB, speaks at Adult Education, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago 11:15 a.m.. For more information, phone the church, 773-728-4200.

**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](mailto:arake37826@aol.com) or 847-566-0742.

**June 12-13**—Pilgrimage to Taizé, France. Please contact Brad Berglund at [info@illuminatedjourneys.com](mailto: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 17**—Tercer culto de avivamiento de las iglesias bautistas hispanas de Chicago, 6 p.m., Iglesia Bautista Latinoamericana, 3756 S. Washtenaw, Chicago, 773-247-4448. Para más información, llame al Rev. Almonte, 773-784-2479.

**June 20**—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](mailto:bjc@BJCOnline.org).

**June 26-29**—Tapestry: A Gathering of Welcoming Church Programs, Indianapolis. For information and registration, go to <http://www.tapestry2006.org>.

**July 2**—Memorial service for Paul LaDue, Green Lake Conference Center, Vesper Circle, 2 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.

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

**July 29-August 2**—American Baptist Campus Ministers Association gathering at Green Lake Conference Center. For more information, visit [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org).

**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.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:abcmchi@aol.com).