

Metro Chicago
Wind

*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

September 13, 2006

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.
(Luke 6:37-38)

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Invitation to a Wedding



*Two hearts, joined together in friendship and
united forever in love, by the grace of God.*

IT IS WITH JOY THAT

The Reverend Alice J. Burnette Davis

AND

The Reverend William Edward Greene

INVITE YOU TO SHARE

IN A CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND BLESSINGS

AS THEY ARE JOINED IN HOLY MATRIMONY

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2006

AT 2:00 P.M.

IRVING PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
4401 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE REVEREND DR. CYNTHIA BELT, OFFICIATING



JOIN US AS WE DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY IN CELEBRATION
8:00 P.M.

WYNDHAM O'HARE HOTEL
6810 NORTH MANNHEIM ROAD
ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS

Invitation to an Ordination Service **THIS SUNDAY!**

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8 - NIV)*

**THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
CELEBRATION IN WORSHIP AND PRAISE**

FOR THE

**THE ORDINATION OF
FRANCESCA HANSERD
AND
MARGUERITE JENKINS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2006
3:00P.M.**

**IN THE SANCTUARY
1551 WEST 95TH STREET
(THE CORNER OF 95TH STREET AND ASHLAND AVE.)
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60643**

*Guests are encouraged to park in the church parking lot
just south of the church on Ashland/Fowler Drive*

NOTE for Clergy: *You are invited to wear your pulpit robe and to process in with the Ordination Council and Ordinands. Gathering will be in the Prayer Room.*

REV. DR. ALAN V. RAGLAND, SR. PASTOR

Family Council Meeting

The ABCMC Family Council will meet on Saturday, September 23, 2006 at Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please phone Tony Rake at 773-695-9791 with your attendance and lunch plans no later than September 20. Please visit www.mapquest.com to obtain driving directions from your home to the church.

Stewardship Seminar

On Saturday, September 30 ABCMC will present a seminar for churches and lay and professional church leaders on seminar. Rev. Joseph Huse will be the seminar leader. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

Stewardship for Life—A Basic Seminar

The goal of the seminar is to help persons/churches

- Move from fund raising to funding ministry
- By developing a stewardship life style
- Through a year-around stewardship education program

During the seminar, participants will explore:

1. the basics of a Biblical rationale for stewardship
2. a budget development process
3. how to interpret ministry to the congregation
4. develop a plan to bring people to commitment of their (God's) resources for ministry

Underwritten by ABCMC; no charge to participants.

Rev. Denise Janssen Accepts Education Coordinator Post

With Christian Education regaining high priority for American Baptists in Metro Chicago, the Rev. Denise Janssen has accepted the position of Educational Coordinator for the region.

"I am thrilled my cherished colleague in ministry will be sharing her expertise and insights in religious education with congregations of our region," said Executive Minister Larry Greenfield. "Denise is a treasure who has a wealth of experience, talent, and creativity upon which to draw as we renew our commitment as a region to education and discipleship in the Christian faith."

In her new assignment, she will help congregations assess their needs in Christian Education, provide assistance in selecting curricula, lead teaching training workshops, and develop special educational resources for metropolitan ministries.

Commenting on her call to this post, Janssen said, "I have a passion for working with congregations as they seek to find new ways of preparing people of all ages to be faithful disciples of Jesus. And I believe the opportunities for growth and deepened commitment are wonderfully diverse in this Metro Chicago region."

Most recently Janssen served the Community Church of Wilmette in the areas of Christian Education, Youth Ministries, and Pastoral Care. Earlier she was the Staff Associate for youth in ABCMC and Minister of Children and Youth at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, where she was ordained in 1994.

Janssen is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree in Christian Education and Congregational Studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, while also serving as the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Franklin Park.

She continues to write curricula and articles for educational and camping ministries.

In addition to her background and expertise in Christian Education, the new Education Coordinator has a rich background in fundraising and development. She assumes her regional role in September.

John Billow Retires **THIS SUNDAY!**

On September 17 Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, will host a Homecoming Service. ABCMC's former Executive Minister Millie Myren, a member of the church, will preach. On the same day, the church will celebrate the ministry of John Billow, who is retiring after nearly a decade as pastor there. John and his wife Carol will continue to make their home in far west suburban Chicago. Carol Billow is Executive Assistant for the President of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. We pray God's blessing on them as they transition into this new phase of their lives and ministry.

Healthcare Sabbath **THIS SUNDAY!**

Exciting Healthcare Sabbath plans are taking shape in many congregations! Whether it's a litany, bulletin insert, healthcare forum or letters to legislators, the faith communities in Illinois are on top of it! Contact Jessica Palys at the Campaign for Better Health Care (CBCH) (jpals@cbhconline.org) to get involved.

Officially, September 17 is Healthcare Sabbath. Many congregations are planning for later in the year; some will even focus on Health Care Justice for month-long series of events this fall.

CBHC can coordinate with your congregation and help:

- Find someone in your area to share their health care testimony,
- Lead an educational forum
- Host a seminar on health care advocacy
- Provide information and materials for distribution

Please contact Jessica Palys (jpals@cbhconline.org) if CBHC can help your event be a success!

Tea and More at First Baptist Church of Chicago **THIS SUNDAY!**

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be having its Annual Church Tea on Sunday, September 17th. Our Special Guest will be Mr. Willie Pickens the jazz pianist. Mr. Pickens was featured in a recent Chicago Sun Times article and will be one of the performers at the Chicago Jazz Festival. He is also a member of the Hyde Park Union Church. This year's program will be a journey through the history Black Church Music. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12 years of age. A soul food meal will be served at 2:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 3:15 p.m.

Christian Community Development Association

The Christian Community Development Association will hold their 18th Annual National Conference September 27-October 1, 2006. Come join over 2,000 people from across the country and the world. They will gather in Philadelphia to be inspired, to learn, to network and to share in their efforts to build communities, individuals, and the kingdom of God through the CCDA

model developed over 40 years ago by Dr. John Perkins. The conference will take place at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market Street, Philadelphia.

CCDA membership is made up of churches, community development organizations, schools, colleges, seminaries, businesses and foundations working successfully in some of the poorest neighborhoods across the Nation and the around world. The mission of CCDA is to inspire and train Christians who seek to bear witness to the Kingdom of God by reclaiming and restoring under-resourced communities.

The purposes of the conference are

- To inspire both new and seasoned urban workers to celebrate their calls and accomplishments and to challenge them spiritually and professionally.
- To teach and learn best Christian community development practices, to collaborate and envision breakthrough initiatives and to study and dialogue about the deeper issues affecting communities.
- To network practitioners and national leaders for information exchange, for fellowship and for sharpening of skills to be effective advocates for wholistic ministry in under-resourced neighborhoods.

Workshops will include

- The Heart of a Servant-leader in the 21st Century
- Beyond the Used Car Seat: Reaching Out to Teen Moms
- Building a Strategy for Effective Community Ministry
- Understanding and Reaching the Hip Hop Culture
- God's View of the City and Your Call to Leadership
- "Welcome Home" - Building a Comprehensive Prison Aftercare Network
- Islam and the City
- No Superstars Needed- A network approach to Youth Development
- Protecting Youth from Porn and Other Internet Dangers
- What Is Multicultural Ministry: What Makes it Work, What Hinders It

For more info. regarding the history, mission, etc. of CCDA or to register, please visit www.cdda.org.

Rotation Model

Rev. Carol Jamieson Brown and Barbara Waller would like to hear from any congregation which is using a "rotation model" with children and/or youth for Sunday School or weekly Bible Study. If you are interested in sharing your story with them for possible consideration at the Black Church Conference in April, 2007, please contact them before October 1, 2006. Carol may be reached at the following phone numbers: 708-310-0067, cell, and 708-481-3367, home.

From Missionaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo

This message is from Jill and Mike Lowery, IM missionaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

An old African proverb simply says, "When elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers." In this case the "elephants" were soldiers of the two leading presidential candidates. The grass was the rest of the city's population.

On August 20, the results for the primary elections for the first Presidential election in Congo in 45 years were announced. The



purpose of these elections was to reduce the Presidential candidates from 33 running to just 2 for the final elections. When the two leading candidates were announced fighting broke out between their two armies. (Where else in the world are presidential candidates allowed to have their own armies?) Reports vary concerning the deaths caused by the fighting. Some say it was in the hundreds. Not to mention the property damage.

The fear, of course, is that if this type of fighting breaks out now, what possibly could happen when one of these two candidates actually loses the final elections, which are to be held on October 29th of this year. Our children's school has already announced that it will close during this time as a safety precaution.

When I mentioned to my Congolese friend that I was thinking about taking my family out of the city and up country to Kikongo where we have our Pastor's Institute, he used another proverb similar to our "jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire." His feelings were that if things get real bad, then being up country could actually be worse for our family. It would be very difficult for us to get out if necessary.

For now the city is tense, but calm. So, as we look forward to the Presidential elections on October 29th, we are also praying about our response to the potential danger.

- Please pray with us about this decision? We really need God's wisdom and direction.
- As always, please pray for peace in the Congo.

ABC General Secretary Invites All to Join in International Day of Prayer for Peace

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 9/12/06)—The Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), today invited American Baptists to pray with others around the world on September 21st during the International Day of Prayer for Peace; a joint effort across denominations sponsored by the World Council of Churches (WCC) of which ABCUSA is a partner. "Please join with me to pray for peace in our world." said Medley.

ABC's Director of Cooperative Christianity and Ecumenical Formation, Rothang Chhangte, said "In the Gospel of John, the last words of Jesus to his disciples, before his death, were that of peace: 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you' (John 14:27). In a time of heightened anxiety and fear in our world, there is no greater message we can bring to the world than these words of peace from the gospel and, by our non-anxious presence, to be Christ's witnesses through our words and actions."

The day coincides with the United Nations' International Day of Peace and grew out of a 2004 conversation with WCC General Secretary, Dr. Samuel Kobia, and UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan.

Medley's invitation was, "...a call to pray for peace. For peace among the nations as war and violence continue to threaten the innocent. For peace in our country as issues such as immigration, national security, and a polarized political atmosphere continue to divide us. For peace in our denomination as we endeavor to move ahead with spreading God's redemptive love throughout the land. For peace in our churches when we see financial deficits but also hear God's call to renewed mission. And for peace in ourselves as we wrestle with God's desire for our lives and our own hardness of heart.

"September 21st is an opportunity for American Baptists to pray together, as a denomination, for the peace of God to descend on us, to bind us together as a Christian family, to enliven us, to enlighten us, and to make us whole. I invite you to join your brothers and sisters in prayer wherever you are and raise your voices to God for such peace."

More information on the International Day of Prayer for Peace can be found in the [Cooperative Christianity](#) section of the ABCUSA website. You can also find information on the World Council of Churches' [Decade to Overcome Violence](#) website.

Ministers Council News

Meetings of the ABCMC Ministers Council

September 21, Noon to 2 p.m., First Baptist Church of Maywood



Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 21 from noon to 2 p.m. at the First Baptist of Maywood, 401 S. Fifth Avenue, Maywood. We will be blessed to have Jim Wall with us to share his expertise on how to use films in our ministries. We will also discuss ways to have the arts be more a part of each of our ministries!

Jim Wall is Senior Contributing Editor of the *Christian Century*, where he was editor from 1972 to 1999, and continues to contribute articles on religion, culture and film. He is the author of *Church and Cinema* (Eerdmans, 1971), editor of *Three European Directors* (Eerdmans, 1972), and has lectured widely on film and theology at universities and film festivals. Wall has served as a representative of the National Council of Churches to the film industry and on the appeals board of the Ratings Board of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). He is president of North American Interfilm, an organization that conducts workshops and seminars for church groups, and assigns members to serve on ecumenical juries at secular film festivals in Berlin, Montreal and Cannes. Mr. Wall was named the 2001 "Alumnus of the Year" by the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Please call Rev. Kathy Taylor at 773-783-9774 or email her at Ferkat92@sbcglobal.net to let her know you are coming so she can plan for lunch by September 19. Lunch will cost \$5 each.

November 10, 3 p.m.

Remember to keep your Friday, November the 10 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. available for our special Minister's Council meeting with the guest speaker for our Annual Meeting of ABCMC. This will be a focus on the Children In Poverty Initiative of National Ministries of ABC/USA.

Together in Ministry

Applications for Together in Ministry 2007 funding for collegial covenant groups are due in the Ministers Council office by October 31. They are to be sent first to the constituent Ministers Council officers for review and forwarding to the national office. Forms and essential instructions are available at www.ministerscouncil.com under the Together in Ministry link. If you have any questions please contact Kate Harvey at Kate.Harvey@abc-usa.org.

Practicing Our Faith Grant

For the second time, the Ministers Council of Valley Forge has been awarded a \$10,000 Valparaiso Project Practicing Our Faith grant. The grant will fund a year-long program for national

leaders on the faith practice of testimony. The series will be shaped around monthly luncheons for prayer, reading and conversation about experiences of God in daily life and how God strengthens for mission.

The Valley Forge Ministers Council convenes pastoral leaders called to positions of national denominational leadership and based in the Mission Center. The previous Valparaiso Project grant in the 2002 and 2003 program year funded monthly luncheon gatherings for leaders who manage numerous responsibilities and heavy travel schedules, on the faith practice of honoring the body.

The philosophy of practices opens the possibility of new ways of being through communal conversation and sharing of stories and struggles, alongside the wisdom of our faith. Further information is available at <http://www.practicingourfaith.org/>.

Ministry in Such a Time as This

The Ministers Council, the Campus Ministers Association and International Ministries of American Baptist Churches invite you to MINISTRY IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS, a Pre-Biennial event for pastoral leaders in the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, on Friday, June 29, 2007, from 9 am until noon. The event is designed to invite pastoral leaders into reflection on what it takes to be faithful and effective Church leaders in such a time as this.

For more information and speakers, check www.ministerscouncil.com.

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.

Twentieth Anniversary Celebration

Hyde Park Union Church, 5700 S. Woodlawn Avenue. Chicago, will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Susan B. W. Johnson as their pastor on Friday, September 29. Susan has been devoted to the shape of the church's identity and mission, and to the greater good of its neighborhood and city. Her leadership has been a balance of spiritual direction and community building, attention to children, compassion for the poor and vulnerable, institutional stewardship and development, and partnership with the wider community.

The congregation will celebrate with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and a dinner at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the church at 773-363-6063.

Celebration

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Larry Greenfield's ordination on Sunday, October 15 as part of its 173rd Anniversary. Dr. Greenfield will be preaching at the 11:00 a.m. worship. Rev. Taurus Scurlock will be preaching at the 4:00 p.m. service and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Choir will be singing.

Central Sectional Black Church Education Conference

Ten ABC regions agreed, in conjunction with ABC National Ministries, to jointly sponsor this event to be held at Midwest Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, OH, April 19-21, 2007. Registration begins at 3:00 PM on Thursday, April 19, and the conference adjourns at 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 21. ABC of Ohio is the host region and New Salem Missionary Baptist is the host church.

The theme chosen for this event is "MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS." There will be two major worship experiences, two luncheon plenaries, Bible study and praise and worship each morning, and three opportunities to participate in various seminar and workshop options. The registration fee for the conference is \$99, plus \$30 to cover the cost of the two luncheons. Rooms at the conference hotel will be available at a cost of \$79 per night which includes a complimentary buffet breakfast. We are in the process of securing leadership, but we can confirm that the Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church Cleveland, will lead the Bible studies and that the Rev. Dr. Edward Wheeler, President of Christian Theological Seminary, will give the closing address.

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 pray for world peace.

Please join the ABCMC staff in prayers of thanksgiving that Douglas Galbraith, our bookkeeper, has chosen to remain with us through April of 2007.

Please pray for the people of Democratic Republic of Congo, and for IM missionaries Jill and Mike Lowery and their family.

Please pray God's blessing on the ministers being ordained this coming Sunday at the Third Baptist Church of Chicago.

Please pray for John and Carol Billow as John retires from the pastorate of Morgan Park Baptist Church.

Please hold in prayer Morgan Park Baptist Church as they embark on their period of ministry between pastors.

Calendar

September 17—Healthcare Sabbath

September 17—Homecoming and Billow Farewell Sunday, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago. Worship Service at 11 a.m.

September 17—FBC of Chicago's Annual Church Tea. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12 years of age. A soul food meal will be served at 2:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 3:15 p.m.

September 18—"Beyond the First Visit," Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Lindner Conference Center. Register online at www.GrowCenter.org, where there is also information about group rates, or also call the Grow Center at 630-620-2197 and request a brochure.

September 21—International Day of Prayer for Peace. See www.abc-usa.org for more information.

September 21—ABCMC Ministers Council meeting, FBC of Maywood, 401 S. Fifth Avenue, Maywood, noon to 2 p.m. Jim Wall will be the guest speaker. Please call Rev. Kathy Taylor at 773-783-9774 or email her at Ferkat92@sbcglobal.net to let her know you are coming so she can plan for lunch by September 19. Lunch will cost \$5 each.

September 22-23—"Healthy Congregations" workshop, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC), Glen Ellyn. Register by September 8.

September 23—ABCMC Family Council Meeting, Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago. Registration 8:30 a.m. Please phone Tony at 773-695-9791 with your attendance and lunch plans no later than September 20.

September 28—Mission Partnership Committee meeting, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., McCormick Theological Seminary.

September 28—Eighth annual Christian Century dinner and lecture by Bishop William Willimon, 6 p.m., The University Club, 76 E. Monroe Street, Chicago. Email event@christiancentury.org or call 312-263-7510, extension 229.

September 29—Preaching workshop, "A Talkative God," by William Willimon, 9 a.m. to noon, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago. Email event@christiancentury.org or call 312-263-7510, extension 229.

September 29—20th Anniversary Celebration for pastor Susan B. W. Johnson at Hyde Park Union Church, 5700 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7:30 p.m.

September 30—ABCMC stewardship seminar, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. Please register by phoning the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791.

October 7—Wedding of Alice Davis and William Greene, 2 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Dancing at 8 p.m., Wyndham O'Hare Hotel, 6810 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont.

October 13—Deadline for Biennial Award nominations. Please see the above article or www.abc-usa.org for specifics.

October 15—11 a.m. worship service celebrating the 173rd anniversary of the founding of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, and the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Larry Greenfield by that congregation. Larry will preach at the morning service. At the 4 p.m. worship service Rev.

Taurus Scurlock, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Evanston, will preach, and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church choir will sing.

October 15—ABCMC women meet with Virginia Holmstrom and the American Baptist Women's Ministries' Leadership Team from 2:30-4:30p.m. See next week's *eWind* for details.

October 17-19—Conference on "Women in Religion in the 21st Century," Interchurch Center, New York, NY. The conference begins at 10 a.m. on Oct. 17, and concludes at 3 p.m. on Oct. 19. Full conference registration is \$300, before Sept. 10. One-day registration is \$140. To register online or for more information, visit www.womeninreligion2006.org.

November 10—ABCMC Ministers Council Meeting, 3 p.m.

November 10-11—ABCMC Annual Meeting.

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

December 7-9—"The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future" conference, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, at the Lindner Conference Center. For cost and registration information go to www.growcenter.org.

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

April 19-21, 2007—ABC Central Sectional Black Church Education Conference, Midwest Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio.

April 27-28, 2007—Revive Us Again! Revival of our Spirit, Revival of our Baptist Principles, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, Massachusetts. This will be a gathering of progressive Baptists from around the country.

June 29-July 2, 2007—ABCUSA Biennial Meeting and Centennial Celebration in Washington, D.C. The biennial's theme will be "Arise and Shine."

Feb 21-23, 2008—Gathering of Baptist Bodies from across the US for a Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, Dallas, Texas.

April 14-17, 2008—National Workshop on Christian Unity.

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 necessarily 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 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.