

Metro Chicago
eWind

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

A weekly electronic newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
A patchwork of varied news and announcements
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

October 4, 2006

"I will appoint Peace as your overseer and Righteousness as your taskmaster.
Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders;
You shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.
The sun shall no longer be your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;
but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory."
Isaiah 60:17b-19

In this Issue

Thinking Theologically

SCUPE Anniversary **FRIDAY!!**

Invitation to a Wedding **SATURDAY!!**

Decade of Ministry Together **SUNDAY!!**

School Funding Reform: The Candidates' Perspectives **MONDAY!!**

ABCUSA to Consider Sale of Property in Valley Forge, PA

Ministers Council Executive Committee Rapid Response Statement

Summary of GEC Meeting September 25-27, 2006

ABCMC Women

Celebration

Ministers Council News

Meeting of the ABCMC Ministers Council November 10

Together in Ministry

Practicing Our Faith Grant

Ministry in Such a Time as This

New Name for American Baptist Homes and Hospitals Reflects Broad Array of Ministries

National Ministries Award Nominations

Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary Celebration

Important Bulletin Inserts

Ministry in Times of Disaster

ABCMC Annual Meeting

Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner

Karen Walker Freeburg Named NBTS 'Alumna of the Year'

Feminine Divine

Central Sectional Black Church Education Conference

Prayer Requests

Calendar

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield pens a fortnightly column for the *Common Good Network*, the electronic newsletter of Protestants for the Common Good. His most recent column, "Little Ones/Ones with Little" is attached to this edition of *eWind*. This column will be of particular interest to American Baptists because it deals with our focus on children who are living in poverty.

FRIDAY!! *SCUPE Anniversary*

SCUPE (The Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education) celebrates 30 years of service to the city with an entertaining evening of spirited music for all to enjoy. Renowned jazz pianist Willie Pickens will be featured in the celebration concert, Friday, October 6th, 6:30 pm at St. James Cathedral, 65 East Huron Street in Chicago. Other talented performers include: Sue Conway, Robert Haigler, the Voices of Innocence Children's Choir from Chicago's Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, and Artiststrings. A special reception will follow the concert. Tickets are \$20.

To purchase tickets or obtain additional information, please contact the SCUPE office at (312) 726-1200 or email urbanmin@scupe.com.

SATURDAY!! *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

SUNDAY!! *Decade of Ministry Together*

October 1, 1996 was a day of joy at the Community Baptist Church in Warrenville. The Reverend Diane Merrill Pomeroy began her ministry as pastor on that day. The succeeding decade has continued to bring much joy and love for pastor and congregation. On Sunday, October 8, 2006, congregation and pastor will celebrate a decade of shared ministry. The worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. A pot luck dinner will follow the service.

MONDAY!! *School Funding Reform: The Candidates' Perspectives*

Illinois ranks 48th in the nation for state funding for public schools. This has a huge impact on the quality of education for Illinois children. Due to poor state funding, the burden falls on local communities to close the funding gap through property taxes. As a result, Illinois has the widest education funding gap between rich and poor communities in the nation. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, the top 10 percent of Illinois public school systems spend an average of \$12,705 on each student, while the bottom 10 percent spend \$5,746. About 45 percent of Illinois schools are operating with deficit budgets. Classrooms are overcrowded and class sizes are swelling, making the individualized attention that every child needs nearly impossible. All of this is a huge concern to American Baptists with our current focus on children living in poverty.

Protestants for the Common Good invites you to an important public forum on school funding in Illinois. Gubernatorial candidates have proposals to remedy this major funding problem. Hear representatives for both Blagojevich and Topinka share their proposals for funding public schools in Illinois. Come hear their proposals and make your voice heard as well.

The forum will be hosted by Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, on Monday, October 9. Refreshments will be served at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Discounted parking is available after 5 p.m. at 900 N. Michigan Avenue (access from Rush or Walton Street). Validation tickets must be picked up at the registration table for the event. For more information, please contact Vicki Reynolds at vreynolds@fourthchurch.org or 312.981.3384.

ABCUSA to Consider Sale of Property in Valley Forge, PA

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 9/29/06)—The General Board Executive Committee (GBEC) unanimously voted at its September 9 meeting to recommend to the General Board that ABCUSA begin the process offering the Mission Center property for sale, acting upon the recommendation of the Building Management Council to sell the Mission Center property. This recommendation sets the stage for action by the General Board at its November meeting and accommodates any action that might require Board approval in the process. The General Executive Council which met from September 25 - 27 also endorsed the recommendation.

But the decision involves more than selling a building. The beautiful Mission Center in Valley Forge, PA, represents for many American Baptists an enduring symbol of God's work among the 1.5 million members. For many this building is iconic. The decision, therefore, was not entered into lightly. ABC enlisted the services of Cope Lindner Architects to perform a site development study and the GBEC thoroughly reviewed the use and development possibilities of the site. This internationally-recognized firm examined three options. Based upon analysis, however, of economic implications, timelines and needed expertise, among other things, the recommendation was not to pursue these.

The divestiture of this circular-shaped office building is responsible stewardship. "We believe that God is calling all denominations to a new direction," said General Secretary Roy Medley, "and we must remain open to what God is doing. We must also better position ourselves for ministry in the 21st century." In addition, the total office space occupied by ABC entities is less than 50 percent. The remainder is occupied by outside tenants and this fact exposes us to the risk of vacant space. "We want to be good stewards of our resources and to "right-size" to fit our current space requirements," Medley added. "We should not be in the real estate business. We need to remain focused on our primary work of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ as radical disciples." ABC's President Arlee Griffin, Jr. also expressed the thought that "in selling the building we are being responsible stewards and doing the right thing."

All buildings need extensive maintenance as they age, and this 42-year old Mission Center seems to have arrived at this point with its need for capital work, and costly maintenance is no exception. Over the years the Building Management Council and the Budget Review Committee of the General Board regularly reviewed the use of the building and has worked diligently to reconfigure the utilization of space for greater efficiency. "ABC needs to use its largest asset in a different way to enable its ministries," said Cheryl Wade, ABC's treasurer. "Just as the church is not a building," she continued, "so the Mission Center is not ABCUSA." The decision to sell the building at this time, therefore, is timely and this is a favorable real estate market. "It makes good business sense," said Lloyd Hamblin, ABC's Budget Review Officer.

The sale of the building will create an endowment fund for ABCUSA. Any negotiations will include an ABC option to stay in the building for a 3 -5 year period of time to determine where the core functions will be housed. It seems that ABCUSA has a very good opportunity to position itself for its mission and ministry well into the future, just as many other denominations are also reshaping themselves to be responsive to God's leading. ABCUSA is seeking to seize the moment to refocus on its true centers of mission, the local church.

Ministers Council Executive Committee Rapid Response Statement

At the November American Baptist Churches General Board meeting representatives will be asked to authorize the sale of the Mission Center. The proceeds will fund an endowment for underwriting the work of the Office of the General Secretary. While the sale of the building only half occupied by American Baptist Churches staff with the rest of the building rented to tenants is appropriate, we are concerned that some of the consequences may well be:

1. A sudden rent escalation for ABC partners that currently occupy the Mission Center as soon as it is sold in early 2007, especially since the buyer may well choose building demolition in order to develop this prime real estate quickly
2. High unfunded relocation costs for ABC partners housed in the Mission Center
3. Scattering of the current ABC Mission Center partners to different sites, with resultant loss of synergies and economies of scale that occur through purchase of shared services.

First, the moral and philosophical reflection on relocation issues:

The American Baptist commitment to radical discipleship means putting into practice those great aims of the Christian faith such as witness, worship, justice and spirituality. As American Baptist partners housed in the Mission Center face the possibilities of relocation, the current emphasis on "practicing congregations" (<http://www.practicingcongregations.org/>) might inform our considerations and even our priorities. The practicing congregations idea is meant to refresh and renew serious attempts at living Christ's teachings in our churches.

With the possibilities in the months ahead, we urge the American Baptist Churches partners that have been housed in the Mission Center to do the work of practicing unity. The appearance and the substance that is delivered to the churches of the American Baptist Churches in the relocation decisions will either add to or subtract from the credibility of our commitment to the gospel messages about unity and community. If American Baptist Churches partners are unable to work together at home or among brothers and sisters, what voice will be left to call for ecumenical, racial, or moral unity and influence that our nation and the nations of the world so badly need?

Next, the proposed action:

Therefore, we suggest that General Board representatives consider the following contingencies to be appended to the motion to sell the Mission Center and establish an endowment for supplemental funding of the Office of the General Secretary:

1. Any rent increases greater than reasonable cost of living increases imposed by a new owner on ABC Mission Center partners shall be paid out of the proceeds of the sale for the period of up to five years dedicated to relocation.
2. Relocation costs of all current Mission Center partners that choose to relocate to a common site will be funded out of the proceeds of the sale.
3. Space will be located for all current Mission Center partners who choose to remain together at a future site.

Summary of GEC Meeting September 25-27, 2006

To: ABCMC Family

From: Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister

Below is a summary of the General Executive Council meeting that I attended last month. I will communicate more about this meeting in the future.

The General Executive Council (GEC) met September 25-27 as part of an ongoing process to promote adaptive change within the denomination. GEC members focused on three primary tasks during their meeting:

- The identification of criteria by which to formulate and judge a final proposal
- The recommendation of an interim funding plan for central office functions administered through the Office of the General Secretary
- Establishing a framework and parameters for the new structure

By consensus, the GEC members agreed upon the following proposal criteria:

1. Protect and secure the local church as the fundamental unit of mission by preserving historic Baptist freedoms and enacting a balance of autonomy and interdependence.
2. Demonstrate respect for ethnic/gender/cultural/theological/generational diversity and inclusiveness in all processes and purposes.
3. Increase the potential for fundraising through United Mission and other sources.
4. Implement substantial cost reductions for General Board operations.
5. Enable ABCUSA to establish, celebrate, implement and monitor outcomes of mission and ministry.
6. Resolve the division over homosexuality or at least move the denomination forward on this issue.
7. Provide for commitment to clear accountability, holding each other responsible for maintaining covenants.
8. Provide central office functions for the denomination.

By consensus, the GEC also made several recommendations to other entities within the denomination including the General Board, National Boards, and Regions regarding an interim funding plan for OGS central office functions, that included an endorsement of the General Board Executive Committee's recommendation to sell the current Mission Center Office property. In accordance with ABCUSA processes, the GEC has the power to make recommendations to other bodies within the denomination but does not have the power to implement changes requiring ABCUSA bylaw changes.

This meeting was part of an ongoing process of the GEC launched in November of 2005 to address several concerns and opportunities including a strong desire to advance the mission that God has given to American Baptists, to build upon the work of the "Seek It" vision, to respond to the needs of 21st century congregations, to attend to financial concerns, and to address current conflicts within the denomination. Previous meetings have included the identification of key areas of concentration, the review of survey responses from American Baptists, and the formation of proposals.

At their previous GEC meeting in June, several GEC members submitted proposals suggesting possible new structural changes. Over the summer, authors of the proposals revised them using feedback received at the June meeting. During the proposal review process at this September meeting, it was evident that every proposal submitted had significant merit and addressed at least a portion of the identified criteria. Two proposals were approved as foundational and were augmented with ideas from the other proposals. The ongoing refinement may include elements of many or all of the submitted proposals as well as further refinements in thinking.

The GEC named a transition writing team to continue to develop these elements, charging them with the following responsibilities:

1. Continue to refine and build upon the key elements that contained the greatest level of support.
2. Gather feedback on these elements from the General Board and others.
3. Cast an eye and ear toward prophetic voices that can help the denomination to adopt a structure more appropriate for the 21st century.
4. Shed unnecessary components in order to create the new future.

Transition writing team members are: Michael Birdsall, Sarah Hallstrand, Desmond Hoffmeister, James McJunkin, Jr., Roy Medley, Larry Swain, Reid Trulson, Aidsand Wright-Riggins III, and Jeff Woods. The projected timeline includes receiving feedback from the General Board in the November 2006 meeting, holding an extra meeting of the GEC early in 2007, and working toward the adoption of a new structure by the 2009 Biennial delegates.

The American Baptist General Executive Council is comprised of the Executive Ministers of the Regions; the Executive Directors and two Associate Executive Directors from each of the National Boards (Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, the Board of National Ministries, and the Board of International Ministries); the Executive Directors of the Ministers Council, American Baptist Women's Ministries, the American Baptist Historical Society, and the American Baptist Assembly; and the General Secretary and Staff of the Office of the General Secretary.

American Baptists Extend Sympathy to Amish Community

Valley Forge, PA (ABNS 10/4/06)—The American Baptist Churches USA extend their sincerest Christian sympathy to our Amish brothers and sisters in Lancaster County, PA, in their time of mourning and sorrow in the aftermath of the shootings at the one-room school house on October 2, 2006.

We ache that such senseless and terrible violence has been visited upon the most innocent and upon a Christian community that has foresworn violence as they follow Christ. May the Holy Spirit sustain and comfort them, the love of God strengthen them, and the presence of Christ give them grace greater than their grief and pain.

ABCMC Women

WOMEN OF ABCMC -- Please hold this date and time: Sunday, October 15, 2006 from 2:30-4:30p.m. Virginia Holmstrom and the American Baptist Women's Ministries' Leadership Team will be in Chicago and would like to have a gathering of as many women as possible at this time.

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.

Ministers Council News

Meeting of the ABCMC Ministers Council 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. **This means that applications must be submitted to ABCMC's Ministers Council President Doug Harris no later than October 20.** Doug's email address is dharris@northshorebaptist.org. 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.

New Name for American Baptist Homes and Hospitals Reflects Broad Array of Ministries

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/4/06)—American Baptist Homes and Hospitals Association (ABHHA) recently changed its name to American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries (ABHCM). Founded in 1930, the association promotes cooperation, communication, and a standard of excellence among organizations that provide care for children, seniors, or those with special needs due to physical, mental and emotional disabilities or illnesses.

ABHCM's membership now encompasses 74 retirement communities, 26 long-term care facilities, 20 children's homes and special service agencies and eight administrative facilities throughout the United States. With a new name, the mission remains the same: to develop and enhance ministries of its members; to promote standards of excellence in services to adults and children with special needs; and to communicate its program to all American Baptist churches.

In another action, the board of directors recently elected the Rev. William Painter to become president in January 2007. "Bill will bring new energy and creativity to the board," says Patricia A. Griffith, outgoing president. "Our membership strives to provide the best possible care to those who need us — that will always remain the same." Painter is chaplain at Judson Park, a retirement community in Des Moines, WA.

Membership in ABHCM reflects a great diversity of missions, many of which are community based. The new name was chosen to be reflective of this broad array of services under the umbrella of "caring ministries."

For more information, please call 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2430, or e-mail Aundreia Alexander, National Ministries' national coordinator of Community Ministries, at Aundreia.Alexander@abc-usa.org. A directory of facilities within ABHCM's membership is available online at www.nationalministries.org > Caring Ministries.

National Ministries Award Nominations

The Board of National Ministries is seeking nominations for nine national recognition awards to be presented at the 2007 Biennial Meeting in Washington, DC. The awards are intended to honor American Baptist individuals or congregations for exceptional faithfulness in ministry.

October 13, 2006 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the following:

- Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award to an individual or church for outstanding work for peace;
- Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award to a layperson for outstanding leadership in holistic evangelism;
- Rosa O. Hall Town and Country Award to a pastor for exceptional effectiveness in rural ministry;
- Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award to a pastor for exceptional effectiveness in urban ministry;
- New Life Award to an individual or church for ministry resulting in congregational transformation;
- Richard Hoiland Award to an individual for faithful, effective leadership in Christian Education
- Luther Wesley Smith Award to an individual for faithful, effective leadership in strengthening Christian Education at an American Baptist-Related Seminary;
- Kenneth L. Cober Award to an individual for faithful, effective leadership in discipleship education in an American Baptist region;
- Newton C. Fetter Award to an individual for significant innovation in campus ministry.

The Reverend Joel Hawthorne of Silver Spring, MD, who chairs the Board of National Ministries' Recognition and Awards Committee, said, "In presenting these awards, we recognize the invaluable contributions of American Baptists past and present who have modeled for us the way of Christ-like servanthood; who have inspired and encouraged us in our faith walk, as they have humbly shared their time, talents, and resources, all in the name of the One who came not to be served, but to serve."

The early deadline will allow the committee to consider nominations during the board meeting in November 2006. Final selection will be made in November 2006. Nominations submitted by mail

must be postmarked by October 13, 2006. Nominations submitted via e-mail or fax must be sent by October 13, 2006. For nomination form, instructions and criteria for each award, click on this link or copy and paste it into your browser: <http://www.nationalministries.org/biennial/index.cfm>. You may call 1-800-ABC-3USA/x2028 with questions.

Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary Celebration

Please join Protestants for the Common Good (PCG) for a rally in celebration of their 10th anniversary, "Reclaiming the Common Good: The Urgent Agenda." Representative John Lewis, U. S. Congressman from Georgia's 5th District and a civil rights activist, will be the keynote speaker. The North Lawndale Community Church Choir will provide music. PCG will present the 2006 William Sloane Coffin Award to Congressman Lewis.

The event will take place on Sunday, October 15, 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Chicago (Chicago Temple), 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago. This program will be free and open to the public. Since space is limited, tickets will be required. For group tickets, please phone 312-337-3632. Individual tickets may be obtained online at www.thecommongood.org/home.asp. Contact Protestants for the Common Good for more information at 312-223-9544.

That evening the Board of Directors and staff of PCG and Dr. Quentin Young, Honorary Co-Chair cordially invite you to their dinner to benefit the ongoing work of PCG, with distinguished guest Studs Terkel. Congressman John Lewis will read from his book *Walking with the Wind*. The evening program will take place at Hotel Allegro, 171 W. Randolph Street, Chicago. A wine reception will be at 6:15 p.m. Dinner and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$150 each. The favor of a reply is requested by **October 6**. To order benefit dinner tickets, please call 312-337-3630 or visit www.thecommongood.org/home.asp.

Important Bulletin Inserts

Attached to this issue of *eWind*, in both Word and PDF formats, is a bulletin insert to encourage American Baptists to exercise their freedom to vote. ABHS interim librarian Betsy Dunbar was the editor & designer of this piece.

Betsy has also prepared a similarly formatted piece "from the archives" that reflects our history of ministry to children in poverty--should you also like to request that piece directly from Betsy or from our office manager, Charles Primavera.

Ministry in Times of Disaster

A number of our church leaders have expressed interest in learning about ministry in times of disaster. A continuing education event offering just such information will take place on October 30, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, 450 W. Highway 22, Barrington. A flyer with information and registration is attached to this issue of *eWind*. The seminar, including materials and meals, is offered free of charge; however, registration is required by October 23.

ABCMC Annual Meeting

Watch this space for more information about the ABCMC Annual Meeting November 10-11. Our special guest speaker will be Marilyn Turner,

What better way is there to end our annual meeting than by going to the Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner? See the article below.

Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner

The Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner and fall 2006 Fund Raiser will take place at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, on November 11. Sponsored by Chaplain Marjean Gonzalez, the Cook County Jail Ministry Board, and the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, the event will begin with fellowship at 6 p.m. and dinner and program at 6:30 p.m. All dinner tickets are purchased at the door. The cost is \$15/adult, \$5/child, and \$100/table. If you have questions, please phone Paul Sengpiehl, 708-383-8859.

Karen Walker Freeburg Named NBTS 'Alumna of the Year'

At the Founders Day Dinner, September 21, Rev. Dr. Karen Walker Freeburg was honored as Northern Baptist Theological Seminary's 2006 Alumna of the Year. Karen serves as Assistant Professor of Ministry & Christian Spirituality and as Director of Supervised Ministry at the seminary. She is a 1995 M.Div. graduate who received her D.Min. in 2002.

Karen is well-loved and respected by students and colleagues alike. Upon her graduation from Northern in 1995, she accepted a position to serve as Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. Under her leadership, the seminary developed a streamlined marketing program and the Presidential Scholar program, which helped increase the number of recent college graduates attending the Seminary. The success of the Presidential Scholar program was so evident that Northern Baptist Theological Seminary received a Lilly grant for \$1.5 million to support the initiative. Later, Karen decided to pursue post-graduate studies and serve God through the development of a spiritual formation model that would lead to greater professional and spiritual growth among seminary students. Her spiritual formation work has received national attention and has become an example for other educational institutions.

Feminine Divine

A Conference on "The Feminine Divine in Cross-Cultural Perspective" will take place at Northwestern University on November 26-28. Sponsors include Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, N.U. Alumnae, Gladys Kriebel Delmas Fund, Harris Lecture Fund, Kaplan Center for the Humanities, Edmund Perry Lectureship, Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies, and Department of African American Studies. For registration form and complete details (times, places), please go to: www.religion.northwestern.edu/news/conference.html.

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

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for God's comfort to those who lost family, loved ones and neighbors in recent school shootings.

Please pray for those who are suffering from humanitarian tragedies around the world.

Please hold in prayer those who are engaged in sorting out plans for the future of ABCUSA.

Calendar

FRIDAY!! October 6—ABCMC Children in Poverty Task Force meeting, Saint John Church-Baptist, 4821-35 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FRIDAY!! October 6—Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE) celebrates 30 years of service to the city, 6:30 p.m., St. James Cathedral, 65 East Huron Street, Chicago. To purchase tickets or obtain additional information, please contact the SCUPE office at (312) 726-1200 or email urbanmin@scupe.com.

SATURDAY!! 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.

SUNDAY!! October 8—Celebration of a decade of ministry with Rev. Diane Merrill Pomeroy, Community Baptist Church, 28 W 144 Main Street (Main Street and Warren Avenue), Warrenville, 10:30 a.m., with potluck dinner after the morning service.

MONDAY!! October 9—Public Forum on School Funding Reform, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 121 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago. Refreshments at 6 p.m.; program at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Vicki Reynolds at vreynolds@fourthchurch.org or 312.981.3384.

October 13—Deadline for Biennial Award nominations. Please see 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 15—Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary Celebration Rally, First United Methodist Church, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago, 4:30-6 p.m. This program will be free and open to the public. Since space is limited, tickets will be required. For group tickets, please phone 312-337-3632. Individual tickets may be obtained online at www.thecommongood.org/home.asp. Contact Protestants for the Common Good for more information at 312-223-9544.

October 15—Protestants for the Common Good 10th Anniversary Benefit Dinner, Hotel Allegro, 1717 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, 6:30 p.m. wine reception; 7 p.m. dinner and program. Tickets are \$150 each. The favor of a reply is requested by **October 6**. To order benefit dinner tickets, please call 312-337-3630 or visit www.thecommongood.org/home.asp.

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.

October 30—“Prepare to Care: Ministry in Times of Disaster,” 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, 450 W. Highway 22, Barrington. For more information, please email rozann.shackleton@advocatehealth.com, or phone 847-381-0123, Ext. 26-5062. This seminar, including materials and meals, is offered free of charge; however, **registration is required by October 23**.

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

November 10-11—ABCMC Annual Meeting.

November 11—Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner, 6 p.m., First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. All tickets are purchased at the door. \$15/adult; \$100/table; \$5/child.

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.