

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 25, 2006

In this Issue

Attention, ABCMC Committee Chairs!

World Mission Offering

SATURDAY! Good Company Coffee House

SATURDAY! Benefit Concert for Christian Peacemaker Teams

SUNDAY! Rally and Debate on Health Care

SUNDAY! 5th Sunday Unity Service

SUNDAY! Organ Recital

International Ministries Team to South India Includes Three from ABCMC

Message from a Mission Partner

Ministers Council News

Meeting of the ABCMC Ministers Council November 10, 3 p.m.

Ministry in Such a Time as This

ABCMC Annual Meeting

Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner

Conference at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary

Revival at Andover Newton Theological School

Prayer Requests

Calendar

Attention, ABCMC Committee Chairs!

Please send your 2006 reports to the ABCMC office as soon as possible. The deadline for reports to be included in the annual meeting booklet is November 3—and it's almost here!

Please email electronic copies of your report to abcmchi@aol.com. Please email hard copies to American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60631.

If you have any questions, please phone 773-695-9791, and ask for Tony Rake or Lynne Kelley.

World Mission Offering

Most American Baptist congregations collect the World Mission Offering in October. The theme for this year's offering is "Pray, Give, Be Amazed!"

With our prayers and gifts, God working through International Ministries does indeed do amazing things. Those things include leading individuals to new life in Christ; providing homes for children and others living with HIV/AIDS; helping with hospitals; helping to provide theological education; and fighting to overcome human trafficking around the world. Those are just a few of the things God does through International Ministries.

The World Mission Offering is the single largest source of financial support for the global outreach God accomplishes through International Ministries. Your gifts to the World Mission Offering make it possible for missionaries to serve in over thirty countries, and for staff to provide vital support to the mission outreach of local believers in even more places. What God is doing in our world today is truly amazing, and the World Mission Offering is a vitally important tool you can use to join God in that amazing work!

Let's all give generously to the 2006 World Mission Offering.

SATURDAY! *Good Company Coffee House*

Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, invites us all to their Good Company Coffee House on Saturday, October 28, at 7 p.m. at the church. The format will be open microphone (without the microphone—the room has great acoustics!). Please come, and bring your instrument, voice, poetry, and imagination to share. Perform. Listen to other performers. Enjoy delightful refreshments and delightful conversation. Don't miss it!

Grace Baptist Church is located in the building of Epworth United Methodist Church on the southeast corner of the intersection of Berwyn and Kenmore Avenues. Entrance to the coffee house will be on the Kenmore Avenue side of the building. Free parking is available in the lot ½ block north of the church. The lot is on the west side of Kenmore Avenue, and immediately north of the Christian Science Church.

If you have any questions, please phone Lynne Kelley at 847-909-8191 or Jacki Belile at 773-334-9003.

SATURDAY! *Benefit Concert for Christian Peacemaker Teams*

A benefit concert for Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) will take place Saturday, October 28 at 7 p.m. at Lombard Mennonite Church, 528 E. Madison Street, Lombard. It has been a challenging year financially for CPT with the four CPT hostages who were held in Iraq. CPT does very important work in Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Colombia, Arizona Borderlands (immigration), Kenora Ontario (native peoples) and more. It's going to be a wonderful concert. Any financial assistance you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Who: All supporters of peace
What: Benefit Concert for CPT
Where: Lombard Mennonite Church, 528 E. Madison Street, Lombard
More Info: 630-627-5310

The concert will feature:

- Chuck Nuefeld: folk singer, song writer, story teller, and pastor of Community Mennonite Church
- Karin Redekopp Edwards: phenomenal classical concert pianist, and professor of piano at Wheaton College
- Dave Martin: peace activist, director of the West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition, and performer of songs for peace and social change

- Ben Gac: baritone vocalist with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, and graduate of Wheaton Conservatory of Music

SUNDAY! *Rally and Debate on Health Care*

This invitation is from the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.

Join the Campaign for Better Health Care at a rally and debate sponsored by United Power for Action & Justice on Sunday, October 29. Hear first-hand what the candidates have to say about health care issues. Show the candidates that Illinois voters are serious about achieving health care justice. The event will be at the United Power for Action & Justice Fall Action Assembly, and will take place at Trinity High School., 7574 W. Division Street, River Forest. Seating will begin at 3 p.m.

The following candidates have been invited:

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich—confirmed
Illinois Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka
Chicago Alderman Tod Stroger—confirmed
Cook County Commissioner Tony Peraica—confirmed

Key themes will be:

- Health: Sustaining our own victories and Illinois' leadership in expanding health coverage and moving forward toward universal health care in Illinois
- Housing: Demanding real action and resources from the state to address our many and varied housing problems—from no development to gentrification, and from teardown to too many foreclosures and homelessness
- Immigrants: Supporting ongoing programs helping immigrants to become citizens and voters

SUNDAY! *5th Sunday Unity Service*

Irving Park Baptist Church invites all Chicago area American Baptists to join them for their next 5th Sunday Unity Service on Sunday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. Every month with a fifth Sunday, Irving Park presents a special service showcasing the diversity of our church, our community and our metro area, with preaching, music and fellowship in a different style. This month's service will be a gathering of several multicultural churches, including participants from Irving Park Baptist Church, Mont Clare United Church of Christ, and Galewood Community Church. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Calvin Morris, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Community Renewal Society.

The church is located at 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Please phone the church office at 773-236-6800 for further information.

SUNDAY! *Organ Recital*

First Baptist Church, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange, will host an organ recital on Sunday, October 29 at 7 p.m. The church's organist, Kevin Robbins, will play the Berghaus Pipe organ in the sanctuary. The evening's concert will focus on the music of John Denver. There is no charge for admission, but a free-will offering will be accepted to fund the church's project of rebuilding the Berghaus organ.

International Ministries Team to South India

Includes Three from ABCMC

An IM team of five members will visit South India in November. Ben Chan will be the leader, and other team members are: Rev. Mary Hulst, Vice President of ABCUSA and former pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Denver; Rev. Mildred Myren, MPT member of missionaries Betsy and David Perkins, and retired Executive Minister of ABCMC; Rev. David Sagar, pastor of Antioch Telugu Baptist Church, Northlake, and Coordinator of the Central Region of the Asian American Baptist Caucus; and Dr. Jayachand Pallekonda, member of Antioch Telugu Baptist Church.

The team will visit the Kodaikanal International School, Andhra Christian Theological College, speak at the Pastors' Conference and Revival Meetings in Hyderabad (expecting 5,000 attendees), and conduct a mission consultation with leaders from the Telugu Baptist Fellowship, the Banjara Development Trust, the Convention of Banjar Baptist Churches and the Abundant Life Ministerial Associates (Yandi Mission).

Three other members from India, Dr. Imo Aier, former IM missionary and consultant of India mission; Mr. Ramesh Kumar Chandra, Principle of the Balasore Technical School; and Mr. P. Jayachandrarao, senior consultant on India property, will join the team in the first part of the visit to the Kodaikanal International School.

Message from a Mission Partner

This message is from IM's partner in Ministry, Pastor Hanna Massad in Gaza. He is pastor of the Gaza Baptist Church and director of Christian Mission to Gaza. Hanna's wife Suhad went to Jordan for the birth of their second child. Now the government of Israel is delaying giving permission for Suhad and the two little girls to re-enter Gaza to be reunited in their home with Hanna.

Hanna writes:

Many times people ask me this question, "Why do you stay in Gaza—it's such a dangerous place!!"

First, I stay because God called me to serve Him here. Second, because God sent me wonderful friends around the world, who really care about believers in Gaza, care about my family, and really care about God's work in this difficult place.

Yesterday I came back to Gaza through the Elenby Bridge (because the Rafah border is closed). When I came to the Erez checkpoint I had to endure very painful and humiliating treatment (body search), to say the least, by the Israeli security.

The bad news is that I have to come back to Gaza alone, leaving behind my wife, Suhad, and my two beautiful daughters, Joyce (23 months) and Jolene (3 months old—whose birth I missed again because the border was closed).

- Please pray that we will be able to bring the family back soon to Gaza. Our lawyer in Jerusalem is trying to get the permission they need in order for them to join me.
- Please pray for our time of dedication for the six-floors building on Nov. 12.

Ministers Council News

Meeting of the ABCMC Ministers Council November 10, 3 p. m.

Ministers, remember to keep your Friday, November 10 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. available for our special Minister's Council meeting with Rev. Marilyn Turner, the guest speaker for our Annual Meeting of ABCMC. This will be a focus on the Children in Poverty Initiative of ABCUSA National Ministries. This meeting will take place at the First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

Ministry in Such a Time as This

The Ministers Council of the ABCUSA, the American Baptist Campus Ministers Association, and International Ministries 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 a.m. 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.

ABCMC Annual Meeting/Family Reunion

ABCMC's Annual Meeting and Family Reunion will take place November 10-11. Please print out, photocopy and distribute widely copies of the bulletin insert that is attached to this week's eWind.

Please phone the ABCMC office at 773-695-9791 or email us at abcmchi@aol.com **no later than November 6** to let us know of your attendance plans. The theme will be "Will We See Them?" The focus will be on children in poverty.

Driving directions from the internet: Links to mapquest.com maps of the meeting locations appear below. For driving directions from your home to the location, use this link. On the mapquest site, above and to the left of the map, and below the address, is a place to click for driving directions to the meeting place. Click there, type in your starting address, and click for driving directions. If you need assistance with this process, please phone Lynne Kelley at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791.

Friday, November 10

First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?searchtype=address&country=US&addtohistory=&searchtab=home&formtype=address&popflag=1&latlongtype=internal&latitude=8XhPegpNX1rkm1ejlxntgg%3D%3D&longitude=vApOOIGfLYL2dhDA69w%3D%3D&name=&phone=&level=ADDRESS&cat=&address=935+E+50th+St&city=Chicago&state=IL&zipcode=60615-2701>

Check-in will begin at **5:30 p.m.** Please register in advance with the ABCMC office no later than November 6.

Our gathering will begin with dinner at **6 p.m.** Our special guest speaker will be Marilyn Turner, Associate Executive Director, Program Ministries, on the staff of ABCUSA's National Ministries. She will, from a biblical perspective, address the ABC focus on children living in poverty.

Saturday, November 11

Bridgeport Child Development Center, 3053 S. Normal Avenue, Chicago

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&country=US&popflag=1&latlongtype=internal&latitude=TQwaN6%2BBKNSDmvJO3ValVQ%3D%3D&longitude=YuQ0GqzQbheRVVrml%2B9%2BOA%3D%3D&name=&phone=&level=ADDRESS&addtohistory=&cat=&address=3053+S+Normal+Ave&city=Chicago&state=IL&zipcode=60616-3125>

Our Saturday session will take place at one of the locations at which Kids Hope United (formerly Central Baptist Children and Family Services) ministers with children in an inner-city neighborhood.

Check-in will begin at **8:30 a.m.** Please register in advance with the ABCMC office no later than November 6.

Our Saturday morning session will begin at **9 a.m.** Our speakers will be Douglas Sharp, Professor of Christian Theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Amy Rynell, Director of the Mid-America Institute on Poverty of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights.

The business meeting will begin at **11:15 a.m.** Lunch will follow at **12:15 p.m.** A time of prayer, praise and commitment will conclude by 1:30 p.m.

After the ABCMC family reunion, what better way is there to end the day 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, 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., with dinner and program to follow at 6:30 p.m. All tickets are to be purchased at the door. Tickets will cost \$15/adult, \$5/child, and \$100/table. If you have questions, please phone board member Paul Sengpiehl at 708-383-8859.

Conference at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary

This invitation is from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. "The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future" conference will take place December 7-9.

If you are concerned about:

... a gospel reduced to propositions,
... rampant individualism in the church,
... an evangelicalism needing new directions,
... the Church's counter-cultural mission to the world,
... theological reflection estranged from our common roots,
... worship that is centered in what man does not who God is,
... spiritual formation that has jettisoned the Trinity and scripture,
then this conference is for you!

Speakers and Topics

- Brian McLaren – The Call and the Witnessing Mission of the Emerging Church: Does the Emergent Church have an Ancient Evangelical Future?
- Frederica Mathews-Green – The Call and Christian Spiritual Formation
- Aaron Flores – The Call and the Multi-Cultural Ministry
- Martin Marty – The Call and the Future of Evnagelicalism
- Lauren Winner – The Call and Recovering our Hebrew Roots

For more information, to read *The Call*, or to register, go to www.growcenter.org.

Revival at Andover Newton Theological School

The spring gathering, "Revive Us Again! Revival of the Spirit, Revival of our Baptist Principles," on the campus of Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, MA, is in the process of being rescheduled. The dates currently under consideration are February 16-17, 2007. Further news will appear in upcoming issues of *eWind*.

Prayer Requests

Please pray continually for world peace.

Please hold in prayer the people of the Darfur region of violence-torn Sudan.

Please pray for persons engaged in the process of ordination in ABCMC.

Please pray for Hanna and Suhad Massad, and their daughters, and for all persons living in these uncertain and dangerous times in Gaza.

Please pray for your *eWind* editor as she searches for a solution to the problem that many of our *eWind* recipients (including the editor) are receiving strangely horizontal versions of *eWind*.

Calendar

SATURDAY! October 28—"Inquest Iraq: Accountability and the War," public hearing, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago.

SATURDAY! October 28—George Winston benefit concert for the homeless, 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 1313 N. Mill Street, Naperville. (Free parking, handicapped accessible.) Reservations may be made at 630-225-5012, or by email at info@hearus.us.

SATURDAY! October 28—Good Company Coffee House, Grace Baptist Church, 5253 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m. Open microphone. Come to perform. Come to watch and listen. For more information, please phone the church, 773-334-9003 or Lynne Kelley, 847-909-8191.

SATURDAY! October 28—Benefit concert for Christian Peacemaker Teams, 7 p.m., Lombard Mennonite Church, 528 E. Madison Street, Lombard.

SUNDAY! October 29—Rally and Debate on Health Care, Trinity High School, 7574 W. Division Street, River Forest, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY! October 29—5th Sunday Unity Service, 6:30 p.m., Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Please phone the church office, 773-286-6800, for further information.

SUNDAY! October 29—Organ Recital, First Baptist Church, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange, 7 p.m. Music of John Denver, performed by church organist Kevin Robbins.

MONDAY! 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., First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

November 10-11—ABCMC Annual Meeting/Family Reunion. **Please register by November 6.**
Fri., Nov., 10, 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.
Sat., Nov. 11, 9 a.m., Bridgeport Child Development Center, 3053 S. Normal Avenue, Chicago.

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

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, please visit www.growcenter.org.

February 16-17, 2007—"Revive Us Again! Revival of our Spirit, Revival of our Baptist Principles," Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA. This will be a gathering of progressive Baptists from around the country.

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

June 29, 2007—"Ministry in Such a Time as This" pre-Biennial event, 9 a.m.-noon, Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC.

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

February 21-23, 2008—Gathering of Baptist Bodies from across the U.S. for a celebration of a new Baptist covenant, Dallas, TX.

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 or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791 or abcmchi@aol.com.