

# *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  
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region.

**November 15, 2006**

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### *Buy a Turkey*

This link <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/wilmette/news/129030.wi-freeturkeys-110906-s1.article> is to a newspaper article about an annual ministry of the Community Church of Wilmette. Pastor Tripp Hudgins invites us all to join in and purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for needy families. For every \$12 received, a frozen turkey is delivered by the church's drive the weekend before Thanksgiving. Donations may be mailed to the church, 1020 Forest Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091.

### *Report from the ABCMC Annual Meeting*

Over 40 individuals attended the two-day annual meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago this past weekend, November 10-11. The theme was "Will We See Them?" and focused on Children in Poverty.

Following a delicious dinner at the First Baptist Church of Chicago on Friday evening, ABCMC heard from Jimmie Smith, Executive Director of Kids Hope United – Northern Region and another staff member as they shared the history and current ministries of Kids Hope United. ABCMC presented Jimmie Smith with a certificate of recognition for his leadership and innovation in care for children.

The speaker of the evening, Marilyn Turner of ABC National Ministries, reflected on the story of Rizpah in II Samuel 21. Rizpah demonstrated compassion for her own children and those of others. Rev. Turner urged American Baptists to demonstrate compassion for children as well.

The second day of the meeting was hosted graciously at the Bridgeport Child Development Center, a ministry of Kids Hope United. Douglas Sharp, Professor of Christian Theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, reflected from biblical and theological perspectives on children in poverty. Amy Rynell, Director of the Mid-America Institute on Poverty at the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, examined the realities of children in poverty in Illinois.

The business meeting included the adoption of a statement of ABCMC's identity and mission; recommendations by ABCMC's Children in Poverty Working Group; a proposed development plan for ABCMC; a 2007 program of ministries and budget; and the report of ABCMC's nominating committee. All of these documents are available at the ABCMC office.

ABCMC's officers in 2007 will be:

Jesse Brown, President  
Denise Janssen, Vice President  
Catherine Burris-Schnur, Secretary  
T. J. Litwiler, Treasurer

## *Songs of Faith, Hope and Love*

Jeffrey Taylor, bass-baritone, and music director at Irving Park Baptist Church, will present a recital, "Songs of Faith, Hope and Love," on Saturday evening, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago (on the southwest corner of Irving Park Road and Kostner Avenue). In collaboration with pianist Patrick Holland, Mr. Taylor will sing classical arias and songs (including Brahms' "Four Serious Songs," dramatized), as well as gospel and contemporary selections. Admission is free. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the future music ministry at Irving Park Baptist Church. For more information, please call the church at 773-286-6800. A flyer about the recital is attached to this issue of *eWind*. Please print and post it.

## *Ministers Council News*

### *Ministers Council Unveils New Ethics Resource*

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/09/06)—The Ministers Council presents a new resource for collegial discussion on the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders. The Learning Guide may be downloaded from <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/CodeofEthicsLearningGuide.aspx>.

The Ministers Council first developed the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders in 1937 and has revised it periodically to maintain a high standard for professional ministers. The new Learning Guide provides a way for those concerned with ministerial ethics to wrestle with the specific application of standards to real-life situations. The Learning Guide invites individuals, alone or with a group of pastoral colleagues or lay leaders, to study the Biblical foundation for each ethical statement and consider how he or she might apply the standard. The hope is that ministers using the Learning Guide will internalize the code and recognize areas in which they need to "raise the bar." Those hiring, firing, and evaluating ministers will benefit from the Learning Guide, as well, by having a clear understanding of expectations of ministers in areas such as self-care, counseling procedures, confidentiality, and transition behaviors.

Writers are members of the Professional Effectiveness Committee of the Ministers Council. Michael Harvey, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Conference Ministers, and Dee Dee

Turlington, Senior Minister of the First Baptist Church of Westfield, New Jersey, have served as editors.

Michael Harvey described the development of the resource by saying, "The structure of this Learning Piece is simple: A statement on each section of the Code of Ethics from one of the members of the Professional Effectiveness Committee is followed by questions to stimulate thinking together by colleagues. The statements are to give you some of the thinking of the people who have been deliberating about the Code of Ethics at the national Ministers Council Senate for several years. These writers are about as diverse as could be gathered in a committee of American Baptist pastors. Though they had disagreements, they were of the same mind in regard to the final revision of the Code of Ethics. You can see their differences in the statements."

Dee Dee Turlington added, "Simply editing this material was a learning experience for me. I realized there are situations where my simple 'one size fits all' understanding of an ethical principle didn't fit after all, as when rural folks offer products to their pastor because that's the only way they can say 'thank you.' And many of the pieces reminded me of things I know but ignore, like the importance of keeping Sabbath. I am glad this resource is available to me and my colleagues."

### *Thinking Theologically*

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield pens a fortnightly column for Protestants for the Common Good. See his latest column, "Off Message," at [http://www.thecommongood.org/showfile.asp?file=5\\_23/tt111006.html](http://www.thecommongood.org/showfile.asp?file=5_23/tt111006.html)

### *The Gift of You*

Everyone is invited to come on Saturday, December 9 to "The Gift of You," an advent mini retreat sponsored by Grace Baptist Church and hosted by Community Church of Wilmette, 9:30 am-4:00pm, at 1020 Forest Ave. in Wilmette. On this day supporting individual discernment, we'll explore personally the spiritual gifts of expressing, enabling, equipping, and encouraging. In what arena is God inviting you to celebrate and dedicate your call more fully for 2007? Suggested donation: \$12 (includes lunch and materials). Please register by December 6 to [pastor@gracebaptistchicago.com](mailto:pastor@gracebaptistchicago.com) or 773-334-9003.

### *Second Annual ABCMC Disciples' Dinner*

Save the date for the Second Annual ABCMC Disciples' Dinner on Saturday, April 21, 2007. Our late afternoon keynote speaker will be **Tony Campolo**, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern College. More information will appear in future editions of *eWind*.

### *Polly Shivers Walker, Former Missionary, Dies*

Polly Shivers Walker, formerly a missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, died Oct. 24, 2006 in Cartersville, Ga. She was 78 years old.

Mrs. Walker was born on Dec. 20, 1927 in Tupelo, Miss. She was adopted into the home of Rev. and Mrs. Shivers of Wesson, Miss. As a child, she attended a Girls' Camp where a former missionary to Africa sparked her interest in becoming a medical missionary. Mrs. Walker

completed nursing training at Baroness Erlanger Hospital School of Nursing in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Miss Shivers married Dr. John Walker on October 21, 1948. The Walkers were appointed as missionaries to what was then the Belgian Congo by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society on March 22, 1949. After a year of language study in Brussels, Belgium, the Walkers proceeded to the Congo. After being stationed at Sona Bata, they were appointed to move to Vanga in January 1952. There they were assigned to take over the medical work. After returning home in 1955, they raised their six children in Decatur, Ga.

In 1986, the Walkers became employed as special service workers of the Board of International Ministries for service back in Congo, then known as Zaire. They were to serve for two years but had to return to the US in January 1987 for medical care for Dr. Walker.

Mrs. Walker is survived by her husband, her children and their spouses, twenty grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006 at the Chapel of the Owen Funeral Home. Dr. Bob Balance and Rev. David Shivers officiated. Interment followed at the Tennessee-Georgia Memorial Park in Rossville, Ga.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Polly Walker Missionary Fund, c/o Heritage Baptist Church, 1071 Douthit Ferry Road, Cartersville, Ga. 30120.

### *Report from Dan Battry, Global Consultant for International Ministries*

Jesus prayed in John 17 that we might all be one, so surely church unity is God's will. Yet the history of the church and our own experiences with local congregations and denominations are full of the fracturing of that unity.

My wife Sharon joined me on a mission training trip to Ethiopia to deal with the topic of conflict transformation and church unity. This was the first formal mission project in a developing new partnership between International Ministries and the Ethiopian Addis Kidan (New Covenant) Baptist Church (AKBC). With 30 participants drawn from across Ethiopia, the vast majority coming from rural churches where the majority of Ethiopia's population is found, we explored the themes of finding win/win solutions, working with the challenges of difference and diversity, dealing with power imbalances, and what it takes to be reconciled to each other.

Besides the threats to our internal unity in the church we were keenly aware of the violence that simmers across Ethiopia. The previous week in the town of Jimma a clash between Muslims and Orthodox over a traditional Orthodox public ritual erupted into violence that spilled over into indiscriminate destruction of churches and mosques leaving 10 people dead. So we went back and forth in applying what we learned to the conflicts within and the conflicts without.

Sharon and I witnessed the wonderful mission work of the local Addis Kidan Baptist Churches, work in care of children, ministering to people with HIV/AIDS, job training and small-business development. These young Baptist churches are not daunted by the severe problems around them but are filled with the passion of Jesus Christ to make a difference in their communities. We came to share our gifts with our sisters and brothers, but we were challenged by their full-hearted commitment to serve the Lord. We are excited about the new partnership growing between IM and AKBC. I don't think this will be the last time we hear about what God is doing in Ethiopia!

- Pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who are serving the Lord in the midst of great challenges.
- Pray for Dan as he ministers, seeking to transform conflict to bring unity to Christians and all people in many places.

## *American Baptist Women's Ministries/AB Girls Announces the 2007 National Gathering for Girls, "God's Limited Edition"*

Valley Forge, Pa (ABNS 11/09/06)—The national leadership team of AB GIRLS announces its theme chosen for the 2007 National Gathering for Girls: "God's Limited Edition." Based on Psalm 139, the conference will help participants realize that God has created in each of us a matchless, exclusive edition of God's image. Through worship, small groups, Bible study, workshops, and ministry tracks, participants will explore just what it means to be "fearfully and wonderfully made."

A past president of the American Baptist Churches USA and special guest at the gathering, the Rev. Dr. Trinetta McCray's current ministry is serving as the executive director of the Office of Vocation Development and adjunct faculty member in Religious Studies teaching Urban Ministry at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. McCray, with a heart for ministry with girls, will be an inspirational leader as she helps girls understand their true value in God's eyes. "I'm extremely excited that Rev. Dr. Trinetta McCray will be with us! She is a remarkable woman who will have a powerful message to share with the girls," said Dawn Doerr, national coordinator of AB GIRLS.

The National Gathering for Girls will be held July 21-28, 2007, at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. It is for girls who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and adult advisors.

"Attending Gathering changed my life," says Rebecca Whitaker, national convener of AB GIRLS and a high school senior from Hillsboro, Iowa. "It helped me become more mature over the years and it, and the people there, helped me become a lot more outgoing." Virginia Holmstrom, executive director of AB Women's Ministries adds, "These young people come from diverse places and experiences to spend a week together building solid relationships with God and one another. This event changes lives."

The National Gathering for Girls includes a day of mission spent at the Milwaukee Christian Center. In the past, participants have worked with children in a day care program and with Hmong elders in a lunchtime program, cleaned kitchens and vans, weeded neighborhood gardens, sorted White Cross supplies, and a variety of other things. Participants will also have many opportunities to join with the participants of the National Women's Conference (sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries) for worship, workshops, and fun!

The conference fee is \$485 per person which includes conference registration fee, housing, and meals; scholarships are available. Further information may be found on the American Baptist Women's Ministries' website at [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org). Registration information will be available early in 2007; contact the national office of American Baptist Women's Ministries at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2288, or email [info@abwministries.org](mailto:info@abwministries.org) to request further information.

## *National Ministries Names Treasurer*

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/13/06)—Michaele D. Birdsall, CPA has been named to be nominated treasurer and chief financial officer of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, when Dr. Margaret A. Cowden retires June 30, 2007. Michaele begins transitional roles and responsibilities with the home mission agency beginning January 1.

Michaele comes to National Ministries with great depth of denominational financial experience, having served both International Ministries and the Office of the General Secretary.

Since March 2004, the Sicklerville, N.J., resident has served as International Ministries' treasurer, where she has held a wide range of fiduciary responsibilities, ranging from budget planning and forecasting to managing financial and administrative functions.

Michaele's service in the Office of the General Secretary as assistant treasurer—from 1998 to 2004—included overseeing denominational mission receipts totaling \$42 million and providing senior level analysis and consultation to denominational leaders.

"Michaele Birdsall brings a wealth of skills and ABC experience to the National Ministries leadership table," says Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III. "As a current member of the General Executive Council, Treasurer's Council and Building Management Council, in combination with her ministries in the Office of the General Secretary and International Ministries, she will serve as an excellent bridge between these missional entities as we go forward seeking to fulfill God's future for this family of faith."

"We celebrate Michaele and applaud the excellent work that she has done in International Ministries (IM)," says the Rev. Charles Jones, acting executive director. "Her departure from IM is made a little more bearable in her transitioning to National Ministries. We pray that God will continue to use Michaele's personhood and gifts to inspire our entire ABC unity and excellence in servant leadership."

In addition, Michaele has held fiscal management positions at Arthur Andersen, LLP in Philadelphia, Pa., and Tabernacle of Faith Church in Camden, N.J. A certified public accountant, Michaele is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the National Association of Black Accountants. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Rutgers University, where she graduated with honors. She is a member of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

*Lloyd Hamblin to Become Acting Treasurer/Associate General Secretary  
for Finance for American Baptist Churches USA*

*Wendy Rothenberger to Assume New Role as Director of Operations  
and Human Resource Development*

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/15/06)—The Rev. Dr. Lloyd D. Hamblin, budget review officer for American Baptist Churches USA, has been named to serve as acting ABCUSA treasurer and associate general secretary for finance. Hamblin's selection was announced today by General Secretary the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley following affirmation by the ABCUSA General Board Executive Committee at its meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Lloyd, who will begin in his new responsibilities Jan. 1, 2007, will relinquish his position as budget review officer. He will assume the financial leadership responsibilities currently held by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl H. Wade, who will be resigning Dec. 31 as treasurer and associate general secretary to become director of philanthropy for the Kendal Corporation.

Wendy Rothenberger, director of Human Resource Development, will become director of Operations and Human Resource Development as she assumes other responsibilities held by Cheryl Wade related to the General Board and General Board Executive Committee and administration of the Office of the General Secretary.

Lloyd was elected budget review officer for the denomination at the Biennial Meeting of American Baptist Churches USA in July 2005, and began in that role Jan. 1, 2006. He will continue to serve part-time at South Parkersburg Baptist Church, West Virginia, where he has been

executive pastor since April 2004. Previously he had held pastorates in West Virginia at Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Huntington and Bethel Baptist Church in Parkersburg. He was executive minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention from 1993 to 2004. In that role, he held numerous responsibilities on the regional and national levels of American Baptist Churches USA, including membership in the General Board Executive Committee, General Executive Council and Regional Executive Ministers Council, where he also served as president. Prior to his appointment as executive minister, he held responsibilities in that region as minister of business and finance and associate executive minister.

"I am delighted that Lloyd Hamblin has consented to share his gifts in fiscal and administrative planning and stewardship at this important time of transition," said Roy Medley. "As a colleague in regional and national ministry, I have long admired Lloyd's integrity, wisdom and pastoral compassion, and know that he brings to each ministry a deep commitment to Christ and to the health of American Baptist Churches USA.

"I look forward to the opportunities for ministry that lie ahead, confident that in their new roles Lloyd Hamblin and Wendy Rothenberger will help provide the leadership needed to effectively undertake mission in Christ's name."

Replacing Lloyd as the budget review officer will be Dr. James Ratliff, effective Jan. 1, 2007. Ratliff has just completed six years of service on the General Board while also serving on the International Ministries' Board as convener of the mission finance support group.

### *Prayer Requests*

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for Bob Webber and his family during his illness.

Please pray for Margaret Cowden as she moves toward retirement.

Please pray for Cheryl Wade as she leaves her ministry at the ABCUSA Mission Center to begin a new job.

### *Calendar*

**November 15**--"The Search for Truth and Justice in the Middle East," 7:30 p.m., North Park University, Hamming Hall, Foster and Kedzie Avenues.

**November 18**--"Voices of the Palestinian Struggle: Using Creative Nonviolence to Resist Occupation," 2:30 p.m., Maze Branch Library, 845 S. Gunderson, Oak Park.

**November 18**--"Songs of Faith, Hope and Love" recital by Jeffrey Taylor, bass-baritone, and music director at Irving Park Baptist Church. Recital will be at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

**November 19**--El-Funoun performance, 7 p.m., the Center for Performing Arts, Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park.

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

**December 7-9**--"The Call to an Ancient Evangelical Future" conference, Lindner Conference Center, NBTS, Lombard. For information and registration, visit [www.growcenter.org](http://www.growcenter.org).

**December 9**—"The Gift of You," Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Mini retreat by Grace Baptist Church. Suggested donation: \$12 (includes lunch and materials). Please register by December 6 to [pastor@gracebaptistchicago.com](mailto:pastor@gracebaptistchicago.com) or 773-334-9003.

**December 10**--Saint Saens' "Christmas Oratorio" by North Shore Baptist Church Chancel Choir, 2 p.m., North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. Cookies, cocoa, and a carol sing, too!

**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."

**July 21-28, 2007**—National Gathering for Girls, Green Lake Conference Center. The conference fee is \$485 per person, and includes conference registration fee, housing, and meals; scholarships are available. Further information may be found on the American Baptist Women's Ministries' website at [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org).

**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

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