

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 29, 2006

For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life (John 3:16).



This Sunday, December 3, is the first Sunday of Advent this year.

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Rev. Jacobo Tohme

This past Saturday, November 25, First Latin American Baptist Church hosted a service and dinner honoring their pastor, Jacobo Tohme. He has been pastor of: Iglesia Latinoamericana for the last 40 years. At this event, ABCMC's Hispanic churches recognized his 40 years as the pastor of the same church, as well as the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry. We are grateful for his years of faithful service.

Rev. Dr. Edgar T. Thornton

Dr. Edgar T. Thornton, Pastor Emeritus of Original Providence Baptist Church in Chicago, has died, as was shared in last week's *eWind*. Please use this link to visit his obituary in the *Chicago Tribune*: <http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?l=LS000020022290X>.

Matrix of God

ABCMC's Executive Minister often preaches at ABCMC churches, and is happy to do so. If you would like him to preach at your church some Sunday, just give him a call. This past Sunday, November 26, he preached at North Shore Baptist Church. His sermon, "Matrix of God," is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Illinois Health Connect

The State of Illinois is changing their Medicaid program to a new program called Illinois Health Connect. This change will become mandatory for Medicaid recipients beginning December 1, 2006 **TOMORROW!** Information is available at http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com/FAQ_Consumer.htm. Please share this information with your congregation. Most of our churches include members who are Medicaid recipients. Please help to make sure they know the information they need.

World AIDS Day 2006

World AIDS day is December 1. Church World Service encourages all Christians to join in an observance of the day. Information and resources are available at http://www.churchworldservice.org/Educ_Advo/hiv/AIDSday06.html.

Seasonal Concerts



SATURDAY! *Christmas at First Baptist*

In conjunction with the Village of La Grange's "Hometown Christmas Walk," the First Baptist Church, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange, will offer a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 2. The church will host an open house 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Identical concerts will be presented at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature the Chancel Handbell Choir, and The Quartet. Kevin Robbins, the church's Organist and Director of Music, will play the pipe organ.

There will be no charge for admission. All are welcome.

SUNDAY! *Christmas Concert in Edgewater*

On Sunday, December 3, the Christian Science church at 5308 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, will host a concert of seasonal music. Among those singing will be the Ensemble from Grace Baptist Church, with soloist Mark Parks, and the Inspiration children's choir directed by Beth Palmer. Free parking will be available in the lot just north of the church. For more information, please phone the church at (773) 561-2834.

SUNDAY! *New Hope Christmas Concert*

Get ready for the holidays with some great music! A concert will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 3 at New Hope United Methodist Church, 7115 W. Hood (corner of Hood and Nickerson). The concert will feature The New Hope Kids, Dave Rush and Jeff Hunter (on vibraphone and marimba), Symphonic Winds Hope Brass Band, Circle of Friends, and other performers. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. concert. For information or tickets, call 773-775-1215 or visit www.newhopechicago.org. Tickets will cost \$10/adult, or \$5/child 13-17 years old. Children 12 and under are free.

Berwyn Ecumenical Christmas Concert

Sandy Cervenka from First Baptist of Berwyn will be one of the soloists in the Third Annual Ecumenical Christmas Concert held on December 9 at 7 p.m. at Berwyn United Lutheran Church, 2400 S. Harvey in Berwyn. Admission is free, but you are encouraged to bring nonperishable items for the local food pantry. For more information, email scervenka@hotmail.com or pjspjs4113@sbcglobal.net.

First Baptist Church of Chicago

The First Baptist Church of Chicago's Annual Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 10th at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome. The church is at 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

North Shore Second Sunday Series

North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. Will offer a "Second Sunday Series" of free concerts in their sanctuary during each of the next several months. Each concert will be at 2 p.m. The Christmas concert will be on Sunday, December 10. The Chancel Choir will perform Saint Saëns' "Christmas Oratorio." The afternoon's program will include cookies, cocoa, and a carol sing, too!

Kids Hope United to Honor Jimmie Smith

This invitation is from Kids Hope United (formerly Central Baptist Children's Home and Family Services).

Join us for a celebration of Jimmie H. Smith, recognizing his 30 years of dedicated service to Kids Hope United. Jimmie is retiring from the Executive Director position—but the agency hopes to continue harnessing his expertise and energy for many years to come! Bring memories about Jimmie to share during an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship with friends. The celebration will take place Friday, December 8, 3-5 p.m. at Bridgeport Child Development Center, 3053 S. Normal Avenue, Chicago.

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 or 773-334-9003.

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."

2007 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Ecumenical Millennium Committee, of which ABCMC is a part, will sponsor their 7th Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service during the 2007 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will take place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 21 at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago. All are welcome.

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*.

Biennial 2007

ABCUSA's Biennial Meeting will be June 29-July 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C. This will be the centennial celebration of the founding of the denomination. Attached to this issue of *eWind* is a bulletin insert with details. Please print out and share it in your church's worship bulletin and posted on bulletin boards to encourage folks to attend. This will be a special time to celebrate our American Baptist history and heritage.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for Bob Webber and his family during his illness. Bob is currently in the hospital where he is recovering from emergency surgery on November 18.

Please hold in prayer children and families living in poverty.

Please lift up in prayers of thanksgiving and blessing Rev. Jacobo Tohme, celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry, and 40 years as pastor of First Latin American Baptist Church in Chicago.

Calendar

November 30—“Away with the Manger? Religion in the Public Square,” 6-7:30 p.m., McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum, 445 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

December 2—Christmas at First Baptist, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange. Open house, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Concerts 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

December 3—Christmas Music Concert, Christian Science Church, 5308 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 3 p.m.

December 3—New Hope Christmas Concert, Hope United Methodist Church, 7115 W. Hood (corner of Hood and Nickerson), 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.

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 or 773-334-9003.

December 9—Ecumenical Christmas Concert, 7 p.m., Berwyn United Lutheran Church, 2400 S. Harvey, Berwyn. Admission is free, but you are encouraged to bring nonperishable items for the local food pantry.

December 10—Christmas Cantata, First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago, 11 a.m.

December 10—Saint Saëns' "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!

January 21, 2007—7th Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 4 p.m., Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago.

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.

April 21—Second Annual ABCMC Disciples' Dinner.

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.

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

Position Openings

American Baptist Foundation Executive Vice President

The American Baptist Foundation has initiated a search to fill the position of Executive Vice President. They are currently seeking qualified candidates for this position. This is a full-time position located at the Mission Center in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. **Applications will be accepted by the Office of Human Resource Development until February 15, 2007.** Details are attached to this issue of *eWind*.

National Ministries Staff Writer

National Ministries is currently seeking a qualified candidate to serve as **Staff Writer**. This position is open immediately. Details are attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Area Minister

The ABC of the Central Region is now accepting nominations for an Area Minister to serve their Southeast Area. The search committee is praying for someone who can be a pastor to pastors, is adept at conflict transformation, is able to identify and equip strong leaders, and can walk on water. If you have suggestions or names of individuals whom God might be leading in this direction, please contact Steve Van Ostran, Associate Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches Central Region, 5833 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66614; telephone 785-272-7622.

Book Nook

Are you shopping for Christmas gifts? Books are a great choice. Judson Press is a terrific source. Judson is having a huge sale, with many titles discounted now. Visit www.judsonpress.com to see the selection.

For a limited time only, save 20% on your entire order, in addition to these already reduced prices! Enter code ES12 in the promo/discount box at checkout. Offer valid through December 20, 2006. Order must total \$10.00 before shipping and handling charges.

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.