

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.

July 11, 2007

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Attention ABCMC Churches

We hope you enjoy *eWind* as a source for news, information and prayer concerns from our churches, communities and congregations. Do you know folks in your congregation who would like to receive *eWind*? Please ask. Please send names and email addresses of individuals who would like to receive *eWind* to the editor at lynne@abcmc.org.

Finance and Property Committee Meeting

The Finance and Property Committee will meet at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17 at the ABCMC office. Please let us know of your attendance plans at office@abcmc.org.

Family Cabinet Meeting

The Family Cabinet will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 21 at the ABCMC office. A number of important items will be on the agenda. Please let us know of your attendance plans at office@abcmc.org.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Please Sponsor Jason Platt

This message came in an email from Jason Platt, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church in Chicago.

Dear Friends and Family,

This October I'll be participating in the 30th running of the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon. More importantly, I've joined Team World Vision Chicago to raise money for World Vision's important Community Development and Relief work in poverty stricken regions of Africa.

World Vision is a Christian Humanitarian Relief and Development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. As a part of Team World Vision, I am participating in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon to raise awareness of current needs in Africa while raising funds to assist World Vision in their efforts in the region.

The suffering is immense and the issues are complex, but I am confident that together we can make a meaningful difference!

You can join me by making a donation. Just click one of the links next to the picture on my page, a link to which is below:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/jasonplatt>

Both Team World Vision Chicago and I thank you in advance for any support you can give.

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested in supporting World Vision's work in Africa.

Richest Blessings,
Jason

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christianity Today Selects

Robert Webber's Divine Embrace as Top Book in Spirituality

This article is from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

LOMBARD, IL--This year **Christianity Today** editors and judges selected 22 books "that bring understanding to people, events, and ideas that shape evangelical life, thought, and mission."

Robert Webber's *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* was featured in the category of Spirituality.

The last of Dr. Webber's *Ancient Future* series, *The Divine Embrace* (Baker 2006) seeks to evaluate the current trends of seeking spirituality divorced from the story of God. The judges called it, "A brilliant and convincing exposition of the deficiencies of intellectualized, mysticized, and experientialized approaches to spirituality with a convincing, positive case for Christian spirituality as entering into the reality (divine embrace) of what Christ has accomplished for us on the Cross. The engagement with the rich history of spirituality, orthodox and otherwise, is outstanding."

In 2000, Robert Webber was appointed Myers Chair of Ministry at Northern Seminary. He continued in this position until his death in 2007. Dr. Webber's work and witness have impacted the evangelical world by bringing worship and ministry back to their historical Christian roots as established by the early church. His influence through the publication of significant works like the *Ancient-Future Series (The Divine Embrace, Ancient-Future Time, Ancient-Future Evangelism and Ancient-Future Faith)*, the "Chicago Call" in 1977 and more recently "The Call to an Ancient-Evangelical Future" in 2006, has impacted the church and a generation of pastors to challenge old assumptions about what constitutes an effective Christian witness in today's postmodern culture.

To see Christianity Today's full list of 2007 book awards, go to:
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/june/8.36.html>

Christian Community Theater Presents Grease

Christian Community Theater/Christian Youth Theater will present a "family friendly version" of the musical *Grease* at Cutting Hall, 150 E. Wood Street, Palatine. Performance dates and times will be:

Thursday, July 26, 7:30 p.m. (preview)
Friday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 28, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 29, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Friday, August 3, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 4, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 5, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Phone 847-516-2298 or visit www.cytchicago.org for tickets. The cost will be \$18 in advance or \$22 at the door. Child, senior, preview and group discounts are available.

Free parking will be available. The theater is located about a half mile from the Palatine Metra station. For directions, please visit www.palatineparkdistrict.com/chall.html.

ABCUSA NEWS

More ABCUSA news is available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/howeare/newsservice/newsservice.aspx>

Wrap-Up of American Baptist Biennial/Centennial

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/10/07) -- The 2007 Biennial gathering of American Baptist Churches USA opened with programs on children in poverty and on church renewal and ended with a missionary's vivid call for shining light into the world's darkest corners.

The gathering also featured events as diverse as a centennial birthday party, a performance of Handel's "Messiah," and a presentation honoring the denomination for its ministry to Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. The theme of the Biennial was "Arise and Shine!"

There was a first-ever event when a combined worship service was conducted by ABCUSA and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization that broke off from the Southern Baptist Convention in the early 1990s. The meetings of the two groups overlapped in Washington, and Lott Carey and the Progressive National Baptists were invited to participate. Its meeting in Washington overlapped that of American Baptists. There was also a combined press conference of all the groups and others under a banner, "A New Era of Baptist Cooperation."

Rallying the denomination for the future, General Secretary A. Roy Medley said, "It is morning in our midst, American Baptists. The dawning of our new century is bringing with it power and light."

The Biennial began on Thursday, June 28, and ended Monday night, July 2. Saturday, June 30, was Centennial Day and featured a morning gathering led by four of the denomination's younger "emerging voices," followed by a centennial luncheon, a panoramic photo of the nearly 2,500 delegates and visitors, and three evening musical programs, including "The Messiah" by the senior choir at Shiloh Baptist Church. A 100th birthday party, sponsored in part by the Christian Community Credit Union, featured ice cream, cake, and music in a convention center lobby.

American Baptist Churches USA was founded May 16-17, 1907, as the Northern Baptist Convention, in Washington's Calvary Baptist Church where a pre-Biennial General Board meeting took place.

Thursday's events included a program at Howard University Divinity School on "Seeing the Children — Transforming the Church." Featured events on Friday included a program on "Ministry in Such a Time as This" (a call for church renewal led by Diana Butler Bass and Parush Parushev) and "120,000 Nikkei Voices of Gratitude," the Japanese-American presentation. Other events during the day focused on American Baptist women.

A highlight of Sunday's program was an impassioned sermon on radical discipleship by Elizabeth Condé-Frazier, associate professor of religious education at the Claremont School of Theology.

Delegates held two business sessions, on Sunday and Monday, but in contrast to the 2005 Biennial in Denver, when some controversial matters called for attention, this year's gatherings were low-key. Delegates adopted by-law changes specifying how Biennial representatives are chosen, and fixing the number of General Board members through 2009. A "statement of concern" urging more informed and diligent civic action by churches and members was also adopted, as were ones affirming "Baptist polity and identity" and urging more attention to "the image of Christ in an addictive society." Two other "signature" statements of concern — urging congressional representation for the District of Columbia and an end to the Iraq war — were submitted by petition and referred to the General Board.

A proposed by-law change giving General Board "voice and vote" to chaplains and pastoral counselors was referred back to the General Board.

Mary Armacost Hulst, ABCUSA vice president, was elected as president for 2008-2009, and Frank Christine was chosen as vice-president. Acting Budget Review Officer James Ratliff was named as review officer for a two-year term. Presiding over the sessions was Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., outgoing president of the denomination. The next ABCUSA Biennial will be in 2009 in Pasadena, California.

Several awards were made during the Biennial:

- The first American Baptist Religious Freedom Award went to the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, for its educational programs and advocacy of religious freedom.
- DeeDee Coleman received the Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award for her work as director of Wings of Faith, a Detroit agency that helps released prisoners return to society. (Dahlberg was president of the National Council of Churches in 1957-60.)
- Judge Albert C. Matthews, retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court, received the Cora and John Sparrowk President's Award for his long service to the denomination.
- William McCready, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pocatello, Idaho, accepted the New Life 2010 Award, for helping turn an aging, shrinking church into a dynamic, growing one.
- Several churches were also presented with certificates for outstanding contributions in 2006 to the United Mission, the core funding for the denomination's ministry and mission programs.

A wide variety of musical groups also added spirit to the sessions. The larger ones included the Haitian Alliance Choir, the District of Columbia Massed Choir, an Asian Choir of Burmese and Karen singers, the Berean Baptist Church Choir from Brooklyn, N.Y., and the "West Virginians," a singing group from Alderson-Broadus College.

ABCUSA General Secretary A. Roy Medley, Cooperative Baptist Coordinator Daniel Vestal, and National Baptist General Secretary Tyrone S. Pitts opened the first plenary session of the Biennial on Friday night by sharing keynote duties. Missionary Luran Bethell closed the sessions on Monday night by translating the Biennial theme of "Arise and Shine!" to "Wake Up and Show Up!" and by describing her mission work in one of the world's "darkest corners," the trafficking of women for prostitution.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for persons in India who have lost loved ones, homes and possessions in recent flooding that has inundated entire villages.

Please hold in prayer those who are struggling with floods and wildfires in various parts of the United States.

Calendar

July 15—Lynne Kelley preaches at Grace Baptist Church, 6 p.m.

July 17—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

July 21—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

July 21-28—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.

August 6-10—Mediation Skills Training Institute. For more information and registration, please visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

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

August 21-23—Here I Stand: Leading Change Through Self-Differentiation. For more information and registration, please visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

September 15—ABCMC Stewardship Seminar

September 18—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

September 21—International Day of Prayer for Peace

September 21-22—Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's *Healthy Congregations* Workshop, Christ Community Mennonite Church, Schaumburg. For more information and registration, please visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

September 22—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

October 16—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

October 19-21—Sojourners gathering, "Reviving our Souls, Restoring our Politics"; Cleveland, OH. For more information about the conference and housing, please visit www.cacradicalgrace.org/conferences/ros or call 1-800-714-7474.

October 20—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

November 10—ABCMC Annual Meeting

November 20—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

December 15—Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

December 17—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

January 30-February 1, 2008—New Baptist Covenant Celebration, Atlanta, Georgia. Please visit www.newbaptistcovenant.org for more information.

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

June 21, 2008—ABCMC's Third Annual Disciples' Dinner, Lindner Conference Center, Lombard. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Executive Director of ABCUSA's National Ministries, will be our keynote speaker.

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 lynne@abcmc.org. 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 lynne@abcmc.org.