

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 the region

July 25, 2007

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A Summer Gathering for Women in Ministry

Dear ABC/MC Women In Ministry:

It's been too long since we've gotten together. Pastor Zina Jacque, our newest installed pastor, has graciously offered her home, in Buffalo Grove, for a gathering this summer. Please mark your calendars for Thursday July 26 at 11 a.m. The address is 2711 Acacia Terrace, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089. The phone number is 847 883 8881. Her home is approximately four miles west of 294/94 on Half Day Road. Map Quest does well with directions here.

We would love to have your RSVP - but last minute appearances will be welcomed.

Rev. Carol Jamieson Brown, Pastor
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PARK FOREST
80 North Orchard - Park Forest, IL 60466
708-748-2566

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a column every other week for the newsletter of Protestants for the Common Good. We are delighted to share his latest column with you. "Token Gestures," addressing issues around minimum wage, is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Cooperating Church Annual Report -- Better Late Than Never!!

If your church has not completed the 2006 Cooperating Church Annual Report form and sent it on to Valley Forge, please do so as soon as possible. While the due date for the report was June 30th, they will continue to be accepted -- in this instance, "late" truly is better than "never." It is very important for a number of reasons that our region is well-represented in this annual survey of American Baptist churches.

Your church's completed report should be mailed or faxed to Valley Forge. The address and fax number are included on the form, as are directions for submitting the form on-line. Contact Lynne Kelley at the ABC-MC office, 773-695-9791, or T.J. Litwiler, ABC-MC Treasurer, at 312-252-1508 with any questions, or if your church did not receive the annual report form. Many thanks for your help on this important process.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Fifth Sunday Unity Service

Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, again invites the ABCMC family to join in a multicultural celebration on the 5th Sunday in July. We will be joined by the Rivers of Living Water Church, featuring Pastor Linda Requilez as our guest preacher. We'll celebrate in worship and then with a cultural celebration of food afterward. Join us at 6:30 p.m. on July 29 for this celebration of our beautiful diversity and our unity in Christ!

Peace and Joy,
Rev. Dr. Alice Davis, Pastor
Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60641
phone: 773-286-6800
fax: 773-286-3475

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday Best

-The Search for America's Next Great Gospel Star

Now for the first time ever, BET Networks is producing a new show that will search the country to find the best and most inspiring gospel singers for the launch of, "***Sunday Best: The Search for America's Next Great Gospel Star!***"

From Patti Labelle to Mariah Carey, stars began their careers singing gospel hymns in church. Across America this Sunday, wherever gospel is sung – future superstars are belting out the blessed word. **Sunday Best** aims to find them – and help them share their gift with the world.

Gospel music transcends all colors, backgrounds, socio-economic classes and musical styles. Its influences are present in Blues, Rock and Roll, Country, R & B, and many more genres. Some of the most successful artists today credit gospel music or singing in the church choir as being a huge inspiration in their lives and music careers.

Building off of **American Idol's** immense popularity **Sunday Best** will aim to reach the masses. We will not only showcase traditional gospel, but expand to include contemporary, Christian rock, Christian rap, and praise and worship music as well.

Sunday Best is scheduled to premiere on BET October 2007. BET will begin shooting the first week in August, with auditions in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Chicago.

Chicago Open Auditions:	Sat., August 18 th	Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
	Closed Call Backs-19 th	2233 S. Martin L. King Drive Chicago, IL 60616
Times:	9am – 5pm	
Hotline:	1-888-PSALM-95	Call for more info

Congregations to Show Film

*The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) is seeking congregations across the country to show the 80-minute film **Ghosts of Abu Ghraib**, directed by Rory Kennedy and previously shown on HBO, during the week of October 21-28. Here is their invitation to you.*

We ask that you encourage your congregation to participate in this exciting project. If your congregation is among the more than 200 already signed up, we hope you will reach out to other congregations in your community to broaden the local impact of this significant film. You can read below about what religious leaders are doing in New Haven, CT, to pursue a city-wide strategy.

Sign Up Now!

[Click here to sign up](#) your congregation to participate in the project. You can also visit the [project information page](#) for more project details, including information about the film (which is for mature audiences only), and to access the online sign-up form.

To each of the 1,000 congregations participating in the Spotlight on Torture project, NRCAT provides a free copy of the DVD, along with a packet of supporting materials, including a detailed Facilitator's Guide and handouts with background information and suggested action steps. Everyone viewing the film is invited to sign a petition endorsing NRCAT's Statement of Conscience "Torture is a Moral Issue," joining all of you in our ongoing advocacy efforts. (Individuals may endorse the statement online at www.tortureisamoralissue.org)

Our intent is to help communities of faith move beyond an emotional response to the film's intensity (emotions that may include not only grief and anger, but also a sense of helplessness) to a positive and constructive commitment to faithful action.

The online tools and the handouts provided great accompaniments to the film and discussion, and they provided people with direct actions that they could engage in. Overall, NRCAT was extremely helpful and instrumental in making this event a success. -- Bronx, NY

A Tool for Interfaith Organizing in your Community

NRCAT supporters in New Haven, CT are leveraging the Spotlight On Torture project of NRCAT as an opportunity for local organizing among congregations with the goal of recruiting several New Haven area

faith communities for the October showing of "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib." Their first step has been to invite a group of 15-20 religious leaders to a meeting at the end of July. The meeting will include a screening of "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" followed by discussion of (1) the film itself; (2) strategies for recruiting additional congregations to screen the film and other ways to create a "mini" Spotlight on Torture Campaign for New Haven in October; and (3) ideas for action and witness to follow the October event. Organizers hope and expect that this advanced planning will help to mobilize local faith communities to act collaboratively in a concerted and sustained witness against torture for the long haul.

We encourage you to consider approaching other congregations in your community about showing the film in October as a way to initiate collaborative efforts to raise awareness of and speak out against US-sponsored torture.

Sign Up Now!

[Click here](#) to learn more and to sign up your congregation to screen the film. If you have additional questions, please contact John Humphries, NRCAT's Director for Program Coordination and contact person for the Spotlight on Torture project, at spotlight@nrcat.org and 860-216-7972. Thank you for all you do to end U.S.-sponsored torture.

ABCUSA NEWS

For additional articles from the American Baptist News Service, please visit <http://www.abc-usa.org/whoweare/newsservice/newsservice.aspx>.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for the children in the residential facility House of Love in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and for ABC missionary Kim Brown and others who are ministering with them.

Please hold in prayer ABC missionary Walt White as he works on agricultural and economic development projects in Bangladesh.

CALENDAR

July 26--Gathering of ABCMC Women in Ministry at the home of Zina Jacque, 11 a.m.

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.

August 25--Family Council meeting. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

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.

September 27—ABCMC Ministers Council meeting, 2 p.m., North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago.

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 phone 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 email the newsletter each Wednesday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to lynne@abcmc.org. 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.