

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

August 1, 2007

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Women in Ministry

A group of ABCMC's women in ministry met on July 26 at the home of Zina Jacque, pastor of the Community Church of Barrington. They had a great time together: a time of friendship, sharing and prayer.

The special guest for the event was Valentine Royal, director of American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM). Valentine gave each person in attendance a copy of the document "American Baptist Women in Ministry Regional/Area Clergy Colleague Groups" and also an information form for each woman in ministry to complete and return to her. ABCMC women in ministry who

missed the event may secure copies of these documents from Lynne Kelley at the ABCMC office. Contact Lynne at lynne@abcmc.org or by phone at 773-695-9791.

Valentine invites each woman in ministry to take a look at ABWIM's web site, www.abwim.org. The web site provides information about events and resources for women in ministry. Please send Valentine your suggestions for making it more user friendly. What would you add? How would you restructure it? All suggestions will be welcome. Valentine's email address is valentine.royal@abc-usa.org.

Christian Education for ABCMC in Autumn

Two Christian Education events are being scheduled for this fall in the region: one for pastors on Friday, November 9, and the second for Christian Education leaders (chairpersons and members of Christian Education committees, superintendents of Sunday Schools, and Christian Education teachers) in mid-October.

In order to address the real needs of participants in the October workshop for CE leaders, we will be sending out a questionnaire soon and requesting a quick response.

In the meantime, if any pastor or CE leader has a question or issue that needs to be addressed immediately, call the Rev. Denise Janssen at 708-955-8913 or e-mail her at revdlj@att.net.

Getting Circumcised

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield preached at Grace Baptist Church in Chicago this past Sunday, July 29. His sermon, "Getting Circumcised," is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

ABC/MC Program of Ministry (2008 Budget)

It is time to begin the process for developing a Program of Ministry for 2008 for ABC/MC. A Program of Ministry is, in a limited sense, the budget of ABC/MC, but in a broader sense it is the ministry that we provide the regional community. It is how we determine to allocate our resources to promote the Good News of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the American Baptist Churches in Metro Chicago.

Each Church and Every Individual is encouraged to submit proposals for the 2008 Program of Ministry. Each Church and Every Individual is also encouraged to submit proposals for increasing our resources so that we may promote the Good News of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the region more effectively. Each Church is also encouraged to seriously consider the amount of money that it will contribute to the Region through ABCUSA United Mission Basics and direct giving.

The Program of Ministry will be submitted to the Family Council at the annual meeting in November, but before then it must be developed by the Finance and Property Committee and presented to the Family Council. This process is beginning now, so get your thoughts and ideas to the Finance and Property Committee. Submit them to the ABC/MC office (office@abcmc.org) or to the chair William Wallin (Community Church of Wilmette) or any of the Committee members: Alice Greene (Irving Park Baptist), T.J. Litwiler (First Baptist of LaGrange), or John Dawson (North Shore Baptist).

A questionnaire is attached to help to get you thinking.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Guest Preacher at Community Church of Wilmette on August 5

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield will be the guest preacher at The Community

Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette this coming Sunday, August 5. His sermon, based on Luke 12:13-21 and Psalm 107:1-9, will be "Poverty and Wealth, Wealth and Poverty."

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

ABCUSA NEWS

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

Judson Press Introduces New ABC Reads Selection

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/01/07) -- At the recent American Baptist Churches USA Biennial, National Ministries' Judson Press introduced its new release, Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities, as the next ABC Reads selection.

Edited by Ron Sider and Heidi Unruh, Hope for Children in Poverty addresses the needs of the more than 13 million children who suffer hunger, homelessness and illiteracy in the richest nation on earth. The book also supports National Ministries' Children in Poverty initiative; ten percent of proceeds from sales of the book will go toward those efforts.

In this comprehensive reader, Sider and Unruh draw together the expertise of academics, activists, pastors and social service professionals to consider the lives and special concerns—educational, physical, sociological and political—of children living in poverty. But this important new resource offers more than analysis of the issues: It explores real solutions through public policy and faith-based organizations.

Publishers Weekly, in its review, praised the book as “...a concrete starting point for those in government, social services and churches looking for solutions to these desperate problems.” Introduced last year with *Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith*, ABC Reads is a denomination-wide emphasis designed to bring together American Baptists—literally and figuratively—through the power of a book. Judson Press has made a free study guide available online (www.judsonpress.com) to facilitate discussions around *Hope for Children in Poverty*. Additional resources can also be found on National Ministries’ Web site at www.nationalministries.org.

Hope for Children in Poverty (ISBN 978-0-8170-1505-3, \$16.00) is available from Judson Press, a publishing ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA. Founded in 1824, Judson publishes Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of persons, congregations, communities and cultures. For a complete catalog of Judson resources, call 800-458-3766 or visit www.judsonpress.com.

ABCOPAD Receives \$34,793.50 Grant to Promote Ministry to Children and Youth within their Congregations

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/31/07) -- The American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware has received a \$34,793.50 grant from the Henry Griffith and Anna Griffith Keasbey Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation to support its ministry to children and youth within the churches of the region. Announcement of the grant was made by R. Andrew Swinney, President of the Foundation, whose Board of Managers approved the grant on July 1, 2007.

Reverend Frank Frischkorn, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware, said that the funds would be used to help under gird the region’s efforts in youth and young adult ministry and other general program support. “The generous grant from The Philadelphia Foundation comes at a crucial time in our region’s ministry with children and youth, and we are anxious to see the fruit that will develop in the lives of young people through the ministry that this gift can help provide,” said Frischkorn.

The American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware traces its beginning to 1837, thus marking its 170th anniversary this year. Today the region is made up of 320 congregations throughout Pennsylvania and Delaware, serving the churches by providing a wide array of ministry resources to aide local congregations in fulfilling their call to be ‘salt and light’ in their local communities.

As Southeastern Pennsylvania’s primary provider of philanthropic services, The Philadelphia Foundation manages more than 700 charitable funds established by caring families who want to give something back to their community. Revenue generated from these funds provides grants and scholarships to over 1,000 cultural, educational and humanitarian programs, exactly as the donors intend.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for ABCMC congregations ministering together.

Please pray for interim pastors.

Please pray for ABC missionary Judy Sutterlin as she begins her duties teaching English at Jinling Union Theological Seminary in Nanjing, China.

CALENDAR

August 5--Larry Greenfield preaches at Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette.

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.