

Metro Chicago **eWind** **EXTRA EDITION**

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 9, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

ABCMC NEWS

Stewardship Seminar September 15
An Invitation from the Mission Partnership Committee

COMMUNITY NEWS

Health Care Justice

CALENDAR

ABCMC NEWS

Stewardship Seminar September 15

EXPANDED STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
MORE TOPICS!
MORE LEADERS!
MORE SITES!
MORE TIMES!

If your congregation can use biblically-wise and practically useful help in raising the financial resources for the church's budget for ministry, DON'T MISS THE ABCMC STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

And this year you can choose between two times and two sites:

Morning Seminar: 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Southern Site: EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
8301 S. Damen
Chicago

Afternoon Seminar: 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Northern Site: NORTH SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

5244 N. Lakewood
Chicago

THREE EXPERTS IN STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDRAISING will be leading both seminars:

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Huse
Minister of Mission Resource Development
American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis

Ms. Susan Hall
Western Representative
American Baptist Foundation
Phoenix, Arizona

The Rev. Dr. John Grisham
Associate Minister of Mission and Stewardship
American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

Biblical Foundations for Christian Stewardship

Preparing for and Implementing the Annual Stewardship Campaign in Congregations
Alternative Approaches to Congregational Annual Stewardship Campaigns
Building on Success from Year to Year

Planning for American Baptist Offerings
Making Effective Use of Promotional Material
Practical Guides to National and Regional Offerings

Planned Giving for Enduring Congregational Strength
Helping Congregational Members with Estate Planning
American Baptist Foundation or American Baptists

The free seminars are designed for clergy and lay leaders who want to increase a congregation's capacity for ministry and to help members fulfill their stewardship opportunities as followers of Christ. Please share this information with members of your congregation.

To reserve one or more spots at the seminars, call the ABCMC office, 773-695-9791.

An Invitation from the Mission Partnership Committee

It is our pleasure to work on your behalf with our brothers and sisters in the Ghana Baptist Convention. This partnership has enriched us both personally and as a region! Now is the time to consider joining in this great opportunity for mutual ministry with our partners in Ghana.

American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago will be organizing a Mission Trip May 12-25, 2008. We encourage you to prayerfully consider joining the ABCMC Mission Team. Cost including airfare, meals, housing and transportation are estimated between \$2500 and \$3000.

If you are interested in the possibility of joining this life-changing ministry, please contact Reverend Joanne Lindstrom, Chair, Mission Partnership Committee, at 773-538-4378 or kjoanne@ameritech.net.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Health Care Justice

This request is from the Illinois Campaign for Health Care Justice.

The Illinois General Assembly is about to act, and health care for the people of Illinois hangs in the balance.

Please stop what you are doing and take time right now to call your Illinois State Senator and Representative to ask them to support Senate Bill 5, the Illinois Covered health care plan for Illinois.

It is highly likely that Illinois Covered will be called for a vote in the Illinois Senate in the next day or two. **The IL Chamber of Commerce and other opponents of the plan are pulling out all the stops trying to kill this bill because they know there will be a vote this week.** Our Senators and Representatives need to hear from those of us who support Illinois Covered.

Please call your State Senator and Representative NOW at 1-888-801-4426 (toll free) - then have your friends and co-workers call. It is imperative that you make these calls, even if you have called recently.

The message is simple: **Vote YES on Illinois Covered and NO on Medicaid HMOs.***

As you know, Illinois Covered will make sure that affordable, comprehensive health coverage plans are available to small employers and self-employed individuals; expand public coverage for low-income people and families; provide a rebate on health insurance premiums for low- and middle-income people and families; and foster cost control and preventive health measures.

* Medicaid HMOs: The insurance industry sees the writing on the wall as support for Illinois Covered grows in both the Senate and the House, and they are trying to insert themselves into Illinois Covered by earmarking money for Medicaid HMOs. Many of you were part of our campaign from 1995-97 that exposed the atrocities that the Medicaid HMO industry waged against the people of Illinois while siphoning money from Illinois taxpayers. Make sure our elected officials understand that Medicaid HMOs are bad medicine for Illinois taxpayers and bad for Medicaid recipients.

Find your State Senator and Representative at:

<http://www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/AddressSearch.aspx>

The juggernaut seems to be opening up, and there is real movement toward a budget agreement. Now is the time that **our Senators and Representatives need to hear from us that they must support Illinois Covered (SB 5).**

We appreciate your tenacity and commitment and your patience with repeated action alerts and requests for phone calls; we ask that you call your Senator and Representative today even if you have called recently. Health care for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans is at stake!

CALENDAR

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, Community Church of Barrington, 407 Grove Avenue, Barrington. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Please pre-register with the ABCMC office, office@abcmc.org or 773-695-9791.

September 15--ABCMC Stewardship Seminar. Morning Seminar: Emmanuel Baptist Church, 8301 S. Damen, Chicago, 9 a.m.-noon; afternoon seminar: North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Please phone ABCMC office, 773-695-9791, to make reservations.

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, noon-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.