

# *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 15, 2007

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*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 for 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.

Please print out, post and share the attached flier.

### ***Family Council Meeting August 25***

The ABCMC Family Council will have its regular meeting on Saturday, **August 25, 2007** at the Community Church of Barrington. The church is at 407 S. Grove Avenue in Barrington. Directions to the church are included in the packet that has been mailed this week.

Registration will open at **8:30 a.m.** The meeting will begin at 9 a.m., and conclude with lunch at noon. There will be a small charge for lunch.

Please email or phone the ABCMC office, [office@abcmc.org](mailto:office@abcmc.org) or 773-695-9791, to let us know of your attendance plans. Please be sure to indicate whether you plan to stay for lunch. Letting us know in advance will be a tremendous help to those who are planning the meeting. Please let us know no later than **August 21**.

### ***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](mailto:kjoanne@ameritech.net).

### ***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 [revdli@att.net](mailto:revdli@att.net).

### ***From Larry Greenfield***

Attached to this issue of *eWind* is "Dressed for Action." This is the sermon that ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield preached this past Sunday at Morgan Park Baptist Church in Chicago.

# NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

## *Karen 101*

On Sunday, August 26, 11:30, North Shore Baptist Church welcomes former missionaries Bob and Pat Coats for an informal lunch and learning session titled: "Karen 101." With 30 years experience working with the Karen people of Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand, the Coats' are able to provide us with the many ways a congregation can help welcome the refugees arriving daily in Chicago. If you feel that you can benefit from this information, please contact Mae in the Church Office for a reservation at 773-728-4200 or [mthornburgh@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:mthornburgh@northshorebaptist.org) Free will offering will cover the lunch expense. The church is at 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, at the intersection of Lakewood and Berwyn.

## *Church Bus for Sale*

FOR SALE  
1994 Chevy Commercial Shuttle Bus  
Auto transmission, gas powered with 40 gal. tank.  
Capacity: 25, plus rear luggage area.  
Good running condition, 199,000 miles.  
Asking \$6,000 OBO  
Contact: Federated Church of Wauconda  
847-526-8471

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## **SATURDAY!** *On the War in Iraq*

FREE public film/discussion program  
*Albany Park, North Park, Mayfair Neighbors for Peace and Justice will be showing*  
"Buying the War" by Bill Moyers

Saturday, August 18th at 2 p.m. at the Albany Park Branch Library

The library is at 5150 N. Kimball, Foster and Kimball. (This is four blocks north of the last stop on the Brown Line.) The Kimball bus stops right across the street, as does the Foster bus.) It is wheel chair accessible. Bring a jacket, etc. in case the air conditioning is very cold. Questions? **Call 773.250.3335.**

For the discussion: Why did most U.S. media misrepresent the facts leading up to the war on Iraq? What lies are still being spread? What do you make of all this? What can we do now? ...All views are welcome.

A 5 minute Excerpt is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Kngf803dQ>

## *Suicide: They Die Too Young*

"Suicide: They Die Too Young" is a conference on youth and young adult suicide to be held at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago on September 7. Attendees will include church staff, school principals and personnel, counselors, campus ministers, survivors of a suicide death, and anyone with a passion or responsibility for awareness, prevention, and ministry after a suicide.

There are workshops on interfaith considerations, funeral rites for suicide victims, school curricula aimed at prevention, skills for ministering with those whose loved one died by suicide, and so much more. Twenty-four workshops and two keynote talks are available to participants.

Many churches now have some type of program or training to help protect our children from abuse; please help us also protect them from the growing tragedy of suicide. It would be a good idea to send at least one or two people from your church to this important conference. This conference will be especially helpful for teachers and youth leaders.

For more information, workshop descriptions and registrations for this conference, please visit [www.stauros.org](http://www.stauros.org).

The main sponsor of the conference is Stauros U.S.A., a non-profit organization founded by the Congregation of the Passion in 1973 to help find meaning, hope, and peace in the midst of suffering. Co-sponsors include Catholic Theological Union, Institute for Pastoral Studies at Loyola University, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, National Organization for People of Color Affected by Suicide, Suicide Awareness and Voices for Education and more.

## **ABCUSA NEWS**

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

### ***No Child Left Behind Article by National Ministries' Ramsey-Lucas***

#### ***Published on Faith-Based Web Sites***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/08/07)** -- An article expressing serious concerns about the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), co-authored by Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, National Ministries' coordinator of Public and Social Advocacy, has been published online by two national faith-in-action organizations.

The article, "Let's Be Careful about the Reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act," was written by Ramsey-Lucas and Jan Resseger, minister for Public Education and Witness, United Church of Christ. First published on August 2 by Common Dreams, a progressive citizens' organization, it appeared the next day on Faith in Public Life Daily News, which aims to strengthen faith movements that share a call to pursue justice and the common good.

Resseger, who chairs the National Council of Churches' Committee on Public Education and Literacy, and Ramsey-Lucas, a member of that committee, wrote the article in preparation for a series of visits on NCLB, currently up for reauthorization by Congress, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

The article asks legislators to reauthorize NCLB with care, taking time to discern its problems and implement much-needed structural reforms. It details concerns that include an over-emphasis on testing, funding inequities, and sanctions that are especially unfair to big-city school districts with enormous needs and responsibilities. "We are ... concerned that what was proposed as a civil rights law has, in reality, made it harder for these big-city districts to serve the mass of our nation's poorest children," the authors write.

Crediting church pastors with bringing problems in NCLB to their attention, Resseger and Ramsey-Lucas note clergy reports of growing despair among public school teachers in their

congregations. Among other concerns are NCLB's failure to honor children's growth and accomplishments by relying solely on annual standardized tests and on fixed Adequate Yearly Progress benchmarks. The authors further argue that NCLB is disproportionately punishing special-needs children and English-language learners, as well as driving racial segregation in metropolitan areas.

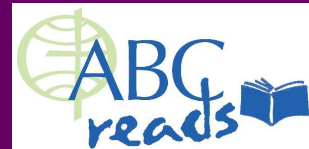
"As people of faith," they write, "we do not view our children as products to be tested and managed but instead as unique human beings, created in the image of God, to be nurtured and educated." In summary, they state: "As NCLB is reauthorized, we hope Congress will set ambitious and yet reachable goals; reduce reliance on standardized tests; end labeling of children, blaming of teachers and stigmas for schools; develop programs that support teachers and improve leadership in struggling schools; fully fund federal requirements; and use the power of the federal government to press the states themselves, whose funding systems provide the bulk of all school finance, to address school funding inequity."

A link to the complete article is found at [www.faithinpubliclife.org/news/index.html](http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/news/index.html). For resources designed to help persons share concerns on NCLB, visit [www.nationalministries.org/CIP/](http://www.nationalministries.org/CIP/) and see "Actions for the Months of August and September."

## ***ABC Reads***

# Did your church participate in ABC Reads?

If so, we would love to get your feedback!



2006-2007 was our first year for ABC Reads and we kicked it off with *Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith* by Everett C. Goodwin. As we begin our second year of the program with ***Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities***, we would appreciate your feedback.

- Did you read *Down by the Riverside* as a church family?
- Did you utilize the Study Guide?
- Did you have discussions around the book? In Sunday school classes, or other small group settings?
- Did you incorporate your reading in other ways?
- What was the general reaction of your congregation?
- Do you plan to participate this year with *Hope for Children in Poverty*? (Did you know there's a [free online study guide](#)?)
- Do you have any suggestions for us as we continue the ABC Reads program?

Send your thoughts in an email to Kim Shimer at [kim.shimer@abc-usa.org](mailto:kim.shimer@abc-usa.org). And thanks so much for your time.

**Kim Shimer**  
**Marketing Director**  
**Judson Press**

## MINISTERS COUNCIL

### *Ministers Council Meeting*

The Ministers Council of ABCMC will meet at North Shore Baptist Church on September 27 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Following lunch, the program will feature Dr. Douglas Sharp, professor of theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. The church is at 5244 N. Lakewood in Chicago. Please let Ministers Council president Doug Harris know of your attendance plans. His phone number is 773-728-4200. His email address is [dharris@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:dharris@northshorebaptist.org).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for Karen immigrants in our area, and those ministering with them.

Please pray about the upcoming Family Council meeting, and ask for God's presence and guidance at the meeting.

## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY!! August 18**--Free showing and discussion of Bill Moyers' "Selling the War," Albany Park Branch, Chicago Public Library, 5150 N. Kimball (Foster and Kimball), Chicago, 2 p.m.

**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](http://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](mailto:office@abcmc.org) or 773-695-9791.

**August 26**--"Karen 101," a learning opportunity at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, 11:30 a.m.

**September 7**--"Suicide: They Die Too Young" conference, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. For more information, workshop descriptions and registrations for this conference, please visit [www.stauros.org](http://www.stauros.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:lynne@abcmc.org).