

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 22, 2007

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Alert!

Dear ABCMC Colleague,

If your congregation has all the financial resources it will ever need to carry out faithful ministry, read no further. But if your congregation needs to raise more funds to carry out its commission to spread and act the Good News of Jesus Christ, please look for the announcement about the stewardship seminar on September 15 in this edition of eWind.

In the Cause of the Evangel,
Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister

SATURDAY! *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 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.

Finance and Property Committee Meeting

ABCMC's Finance and Property Committee will meet at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28 at the ABCMC office. Committee members, please let Bill Wallin know of your attendance plans at swwallin@comcast.net.

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 & Implementing Annual Stewardship Campaigns in Congregations, Alternative Approaches to Congregational Annual Stewardship Campaigns, Building on Success from Year to Year, Planning for American Baptist Offerings, 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.

Road Trip!

Are you ready for a mission trip to help one of our ABC institutions? Is a group from your church prepared to make a trip, work hard, and serve the Evangel's cause?

Bacone College in Oklahoma needs volunteer assistance including landscaping, painting, carpentry, and masonry all across Bacone's historical campus. If you are interested, please contact Melissa Foutch at Bacone College. Her phone number is 918-781-7221. Her email address is foutchm@bacone.edu.

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 Free will offering will cover the lunch expense. The church is at 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, at the intersection of Lakewood and Berwyn.

How's Your Bottom Line?

Dear ABCMC Colleague,

Be assured this is not a version of the “prosperity gospel,” which I understand to be a perversion of the gospel. Most congregations I know could use more financial resources for their ministries. If that’s true for you, see the announcement for the stewardship seminar September 15.

In the Cause of the Evangel,
Larry Greenfield

Morgan Park Anniversary

Morgan Park Baptist Church was founded on September 28, 1877, with 46 people becoming the first members. The church will celebrate 130 years of ministry on Homecoming Sunday, September 8.

Sunday School for all ages will take place at 9:30 a.m. A worship service in the sanctuary will follow at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to a Homecoming Dinner and Celebration at 12:15 p.m. The dinner will be catered by Chuck's Southern Comforts Cafe with special MPBC add-ons. The cost of the meal will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for school-age children. Pre-schoolers' lunches will be free. Make reservations by calling the church office (773-445-9443).

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

Youth Minister Needed

IMMEDIATE OPENING! YOUTH MINISTER WANTED for modest sized church in north suburb of Chicago. We are the Community Church of Wilmette, and we are embarking on a new trail within our faith journey. We are looking for the right person to walk with us on this path and minister to our youth as we grow as a church family. The ideal candidate will bring a flexible attitude and a generous spirit for youth. Responsibilities include Sunday morning Bible study, Sunday evening activities and some travel (avg. 10hr/wk). This summer, for example, our group went to New Orleans to assist in rebuilding St. Bernard Parish. Please send resume and cover letter to Rev. Tripp Hudgins, c/o Community Church of Wilmette 1020 Forest Ave. Wilmette, IL 60091 phone.: 847-251-4370 e-mail: tripp@communitychurchofwilmette.org website: www.communitychurchofwilmette.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

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>.

Prominent American Baptist Joins Harvard Divinity School Faculty

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/22/07) -- Dr. Charles G. Adams, the American Baptist pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., has joined Harvard's Faculty of Divinity as the first William and Lucille Nickerson Professor of the Practice of Ethics and Ministry. His five-year term began in July.

The Nickerson professorship was created, in part, "with special attention to the economic policies and practices as they affect both the profession of the ministry and society as a whole." Adams is described by Dean William A. Graham as an apt choice because of his experience at Hartford Memorial, linking the church's mission to urban revitalization through economic, education and social initiatives. Under his leadership, this American Baptist-affiliated church of 10,000 members has established social, education and recreational programs that have helped to revitalize much of northwest Detroit.

Adams has long served among American Baptists. In addition to Hartford Memorial, he served at American Baptist-affiliated Concord Baptist Church in Boston, Mass., from 1962-1969. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of National Ministries, ABCUSA, wrote this congratulatory note: "We are extremely excited about the appointment of Dr. Charles Adams to

this distinguished position.

His gifts for pastoral and prophetic leadership are well known to American Baptists and Baptists throughout the world. We praise God for extending the power that comes from the pulpit at Hartford Memorial to this professorial post at Harvard. The church and society will be all the better for it.”

Adams has had much experience in seminary education, having taught at a number of seminaries including Harvard Divinity School and American Baptist affiliated-Andover Newton Theological School and Central Baptist Seminary. He currently teaches at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. Since 1998, he has served on the faculty of Harvard’s Summer Leadership Institute, an annual two-week program that trains pastors and lay leaders in community and economic development.

Adams’ involvement in the wider Baptist family includes serving as a member of the General Board and the Christian Ethics Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. He is also the past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. He is a member of the board of American Baptist-affiliated Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

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.

Please get the book and read it now. This is not something you want to put off until the last minute. This is not a book you can skim through the night before the meeting.

If you would like to purchase a copy of his book, it is available from www.amazon.com, BUT you can get it from Douglas Sharp for less. He has copies of the book that he sells for \$14 plus \$3.49 for shipping. His price is considerably less than what people pay on Amazon - \$23. Please contact Douglas at drs217@yahoo.com A discussion guide is available at www.nopartiality.net.

2007 Ministers Council Senate Works to Sustain and Improve Ministerial Leadership

The 2007 Ministers Council Senate met at the American Baptist Assembly in Green Lake, Wisconsin August 11-14 to continue their work of building up the church of Jesus Christ by sustaining and improving the ministerial leadership of the American Baptist Churches in the USA. Their strategy for this work includes encouraging monthly face-to-face collegial covenant groups as normative to faithful and effective ministry, empowering and resourcing strong constituent Councils with exciting programs, and establishing a pattern of national conferences for pastoral leaders.

Executive Director Kate Harvey announced that she would retire next fall after the 2008 Senate meeting. Senators approved a resolution giving the Executive Committee the authority to appoint an Acting Executive Director immediately following her retirement to provide a seamless transition. In her annual report she shared that the original 2003 Lilly Endowment Grant of

\$1,959,600 had been continued with an additional \$979,800 grant. This money will be used to fund the TIM (Together in Ministry) collegial groups designed to overcome pastors' sense of personal and professional isolation and to enrich them and their congregations.

The Latino/Latina Ministerial Association within the Ministers Council of the ABC of New Jersey applied for and received recognition as a separate constituent council.

Elected were Steve Bils, Associate Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, as Vice President of Communications and Forrest Cornelius, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Waterloo, Iowa, as Secretary/Treasurer. Their four-year terms run 2008-2011. The five Senate committees reported on their work:

- **The Professional Effectiveness Committee** is working on a series of articles describing several diverse models of congregational leadership (the elder model, the ordained diaconate model, and the intentional facilitated learning model.)
- **The Communications Committee** continues to work on the content and appearance of the Ministers Council web site. They also announced the creation of a monthly email update to ministerial leaders and the desire to provide web space and links to the individual constituent councils.
- **The Membership and Constituency Committee** planned work to welcome and sustain the new NJ Latino/a constituent council. They are also working on immigration issues for foreign pastors.
- **The Denominational Relationships Committee** is working on strengthening ties between constituent councils and the national Ministers Council as well as between the Ministers Council and the individual regions.
- **The Spiritual and Personal Wholeness Committee** is developing a directory of Spiritual Directors and Respite sites. They are also compiling articles and essays on spirituality of Baptist distinctives and on the spiritual disciplines.

The Reverend Karen Gyax-Rodriguez, Pastor of The Federated Church in Green Lake, Wisconsin since 1996, was the recipient of the President's Award, the Ralph Garfield Schell Prize. This award is presented to a person who exemplifies excellence in ministry and the purposes of the Ministers Council. She will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Judson Press, and her name will be added to the recipients plaque at the Ministers Council office that recognizes recipients since the inception of the award in 1996.

Kate Harvey Announces Retirement

Greenlake, WIS. -- Ministers Council Executive Director Rev. Dr. Kate Harvey, who has provided leadership for the only clergy advocacy group for American Baptist pastors for 14 years, announced her retirement effective August 2008.

In the interim, the executive committee will appoint an acting executive director who would begin duties immediately upon Harvey's retirement. This three-year position will be held by someone who knows Ministers Council structure and is seasoned and well known among ABC pastoral leaders. In the meantime, the executive committee will conduct a national search for a permanent executive director.

"It has been a journey of profound joy, most of the time. There have been a few Elijah moments. Now it is time to be thinking about looking forward," Harvey said.

Harvey leaves the council at a time when it is in “good financial standing, and not distracted by controversy that would move us away from our purpose,” according to Rev. Dr. Alice Greene, national president of the Ministers Council. “Kate’s imprint on this organization is powerful and positive and will be with us for a long, long time.”

Harvey has led the council through its growth and expansion of ministries which include collegial small groups, national conferences, and the building of stronger constituent councils. She was the architect of a national call for ABC pastors to hold local “Jerusalem Councils” for dialogue on the issue of biblical interpretation and homosexuality in the faith community.

“If anybody ever embodied grace under pressure it was Kate during the Jerusalem Council process,” said Dr. Joe Kutter, immediate past president of the Ministers Council.

Harvey is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, and has a D.Min. from Hartford Seminary. During a sabbatical, she received the Merrill Fellowship at Harvard Divinity School. Her studies there were the catalyst for the collegial groups, one the most successful programs of the Ministers Council.

“The capstone of an absolutely transforming ministry to the Ministers Council has been the TIM program,” Kutter said.

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.

Please pray for persons struggling with sometimes devastating effects from weather during this season.

Please pray for the vibrant teen ministry taking place at the First Baptist Church of Berwyn, and for all volunteers mentoring teens. Please hold in prayer the pastors at the church as well, Phil Yetter and Lara Freeburg.

Please support with prayer Ruth Mooney, ABC missionary in Costa Rica. She and a team of Salvadoran leaders are excited about the impact of Christian education materials they are producing for the region.

Please pray for ABC missionary Kit Ripley at the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The New Life Center works with tribal minority girls who have come out of exploitative labor situations or are at risk for becoming victims of labor exploitation. Kit helps the girls gain healing, education, and skills for their future.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Duane and Marcia Binkley. They have served over 15 years in Thailand. They have been reassigned by ABC's International Ministries as well as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to equip US congregations for ministry with the growing population of Karen refugees in this country.

Please support with prayer our efforts to be good stewards of what God has given us.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY! 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.

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

August 28--Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

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.

September 8--130th anniversary celebration, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., dinner and celebration at 12:15 p.m. Please phone 773-445-9443 for luncheon reservations.

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, 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 8--ABCMC Program of Christmas Music.

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.