

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 29, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

ABCMC NEWS

Stewardship Seminar September 15
Hands-On Liberation

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Rev. Doug Harris Recovering from Surgery
Morgan Park 130th Anniversary
South Church 70th Anniversary
Montrose 90th Anniversary
Youth Minister Needed

COMMUNITY NEWS

CROP Walk

ABCUSA NEWS

Wright-Riggins Invites American Baptists to New Baptist Covenant Event in Atlanta
New Baptist Covenant
Pray for Peace on September 21;
Become Part of a Tremendous Force for Peace and Understanding
Two Years Later, National Ministries Still Stands with Katrina Survivors
Invitation from the General Secretary

MINISTERS COUNCIL

Ministers Council Meeting
Encouragement for Advent

PRAYER REQUESTS

CALENDAR

POSITION OPENING

Youth Minister

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 & 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.

Hands-On Liberation

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield preached at North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago this past Sunday. A large number of Karen refugees were in attendance at the service. Larry's sermon, "Hands-On Liberation," is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Rev. Doug Harris Recovering from Surgery

We are gratified to report that the Rev. Douglas Harris, pastor at North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago, has undergone successful prostate cancer surgery at Northwestern Hospital earlier this week.

Pastor Doug will be on medical leave from North Shore Baptist Church over the next four weeks.

Please keep Doug, his family, and the NSBC community in your prayers.

Morgan Park 130th 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 9.

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). The church is at 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago.

South Church 70th Anniversary

The South Church of Mount Prospect will celebrate its 70th anniversary on Sunday, September 9, 2007. Worship service at 10:30 a.m., with special music by the South Church Kid's Combo and their own Rick Grimes. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! The South Church is located at 501 S. Emerson Street in Mount Prospect. For information, please call the church office at (847) 253-0501.

Montrose 90th Anniversary

Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina Avenue, Chicago, will celebrate their 90th anniversary on Sunday morning, October 14. A Celebration Service will take place at 10:45 a.m. A Complementary Banquet will follow at noon.

Congratulations to the congregation on 90 years of ministry and outreach with the city's northwest communities.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CROP Walk

CROP Walk, an annual event to raise funds for the Church Rural Overseas Project, will be taking place in various locations across the Chicago area.

The Barrington Area CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 14. For more information, contact Mary E. Anderson, 126 Hidden Oaks Drive, Barrington, IL 60010, phone 847-381-9213, fax 847-381-9213, email rlameander@aol.com, or visit <http://barringtoncropwalk.freehostia.com/>.

The Chicago CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 21. For information call 1-

888-CWS-CROP (297-2767) or email CROP Regional Director Janet Young at jyoung@churchworldservice.org or visit <http://www.chicagocropwalk.org/>.

The Naperville CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, October 14. For more information contact: [Rev. Duane Mevis](mailto:Rev.Duane.Mevis) by email or at 630-428-3942, or [Phyllis Pepiot](mailto:Phyllis.Pepiot) by email or at 630-355-1748 x 222, or visit <http://www.napervillecropwalk.org/>

ABCUSA NEWS

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

Wright-Riggins Invites American Baptists to New Baptist Covenant Event in Atlanta

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/23/07) -- National Ministries' Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III is featured in a brief video inviting American Baptists to participate in the New Baptist Covenant Celebration, to be held in Atlanta, Ga., on January 30-February 1, 2008. The video appears on the Web site of the Baptist Center for Ethics as well as on National Ministries' site, www.nationalministries.org.

The New Baptist Covenant Celebration, convened by former President Jimmy Carter, is sponsored by several national and local partner organizations, including American Baptist Churches USA, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the North American Baptist Fellowship, and several state conventions and local churches. It seeks to unite Baptists from across the country as participants in "Jesus' moral agenda" as expressed in the gospel of Luke: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19, NRSV).

In the two-minute video, Wright-Riggins characterizes the event as "a great family reunion" and notes, "Just as Jesus said that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, we believe the Spirit of the Lord is upon us to do something brand new in a very powerful way." He said Baptists would come together "to say that what it means to be a Baptist is to be courageous, to be caring, to confront the issues of the day ... (and) to be compassionate with each other, just as Jesus did when He issued His great manifesto."

Wright-Riggins's Bible study, "God's Acceptable Economy," is Lesson 4 in "The Agenda, 8 Lessons from Luke 4," a series designed to help Baptists thoroughly engage this focal Bible chapter in preparation for the New Baptist Covenant Celebration. His lesson focuses on biblically-mandated economic justice, considering Jesus' recasting of the proclamation recorded in Isaiah 61—"the year of the Lord's favor"—as a call to embrace the prophetic concept of Jubilee and its foundation of economic justice and compassion.

Two other lessons written by American Baptists for the series include Lesson 2, "Community at the Core," by Dr. William Epps, senior pastor, Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Calif.; and Lesson 8, "Marching Forward Through Opposition," by the Rev. Dr. Heather Entekin, senior pastor, Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, Kan.

For more information about the New Baptist Covenant, to view the video or to download a sample lesson from the Bible study series, visit the Baptist Center for Ethics NBC curriculum page at www.ethicsdaily.com. The video may also be viewed at www.nationalministries.org.

New Baptist Covenant

Below is the text for the new Baptist covenant that is to be celebrated January 30-February 1, 2008 in Atlanta, Georgia:

The Covenant

We Baptists of North America covenant together to:

- Create an authentic and prophetic Baptist voice for these complex times,
- Emphasize traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality, and
- Promote peace with justice, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and marginalized, welcome the strangers among us, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity.

Please visit www.newbaptistcovenant.org for more information about the covenant and the celebration.

Pray for Peace on September 21; Become Part of a Tremendous Force for Peace and Understanding

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/24/07) -- Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, urges American Baptists to join millions of people worldwide in observing September 21 as the International Day of Prayer.

Conceived in 2004 by the World Council of Churches and the United Nations, the objective of the International Day of Prayer for Peace is to encourage worldwide, 24-hour spiritual observations for peace and nonviolence. This day offers church communities in all places an opportunity to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies.

"Prayer is powerful and can change seemingly hopeless situations," says Dr. Medley. "By praying together on September 21, we can become part of a tremendous force for peace and understanding. Jesus promised us that when we pray, he will be in our midst (Matthew 18:19). During these challenging times, there can be no better response than invite Jesus' to come into our presence as we implore God to help heal this troubled world."

ABCUSA's Valley Forge staff plans to recognize the September 21 event by gathering at noon around the peace pole in front of our denominational offices. This simple monument shares a message of hope: "May peace prevail on earth" in several languages and in Braille.

The World Council of Churches stands ready to help make this day of prayer a powerful event in churches and/or communities. Its website – www.overcomingviolence.org – offers materials prepared to help churches observe this important day. Some suggestions include:

- Asking other churches in the community to participate.
- Sponsoring a prayer breakfast.
- Meeting with a local official about the problems of violence and how the local church can get involved in solutions.

Two Years Later, National Ministries Still Stands with Katrina Survivors

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/29/07)—As our nation marks the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall on the Gulf Coast August 29, critical needs for rebuilding and renewal remain, even though the storm's fury has faded from today's news. Through its ecumenical partnership with the National Council of Churches USA (NCCC), National Ministries ABCUSA still stands with those on the Gulf Coast whose suffering continues in the wake of Katrina's destruction.

Dr. Laura Miraz, National Ministries' associate executive director for Board and Staff Services, and Victoria Goff, national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries, participated in an ecumenical workweek sponsored by the NCCC's Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast (www.ncccusa.org/justrebuilding/), August 19-25.

Founded immediately following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in September 2005, the Special Commission focuses on ensuring that justice and sustainability are incorporated into rebuilding efforts. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of National Ministries, represents American Baptist Churches USA as one of the 16 commissioners.

Goff says needs for assistance in the region will remain for years: "We need volunteers—individuals and groups, short term and long term, skilled and unskilled. We also need more designated giving to Katrina relief through One Great Hour of Sharing. And, of course, we need prayer. There's so much that still needs to be done."

To volunteer, write to vgoff@abc-usa.org or call 1-800- ABC-3USA, ext. 2449.

Read the story about National Ministries' work on the Gulf Coast at www.nationalministries.org/.

Invitation from the General Secretary

My dear friends in Christ,

Grace, mercy and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a time of significant celebrations for us as American Baptists. At summer's beginning we celebrated our 100th anniversary as a denomination. At summer's end, we're celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Baptist Association (PBA). In 1707, five Baptist churches – two in Pennsylvania and three in New Jersey – joined to form our nation's first association of Baptist churches. Since then, the PBA has remained a vital force for Christ in Southeastern Pennsylvania and the United States.

That's an amazing accomplishment. Imagine, before George Washington or Thomas Jefferson, in the time of William Penn, Baptists came together, knowing they could better advance the cause of Christ in unity, than they could singly.

In the same spirit of unity, I ask you to lift up in prayer the Philadelphia Baptist Association and its 300th anniversary, especially during the weekend of Sept. 7-9, when hundreds will gather to officially celebrate God's faithfulness from generation to generation. Please accept this invitation, if you are able, to attend any or all of the scheduled gatherings.

This will prove to be a history-making event, packed with opportunities for learning, for fellowship, for prayer and for praise of God's enduring faithfulness and love.

The weekend kicks off with a Baptist History Symposium on Friday (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.),

including lunch in the famous Wanamaker building's Crystal Tea Room and historic tours. The day ends (at 7:00 p.m.) with jazz vespers as well as a special youth rally. On Saturday, Tony Campolo will speak at the Mission Outreach Banquet (11:00 a.m.). An organ recital will cap the day's events (7:00 p.m.). On Sunday, worship at various participating PBA churches. At 5:00 p.m., join me for the grand finale celebration and worship service in the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. You'll find more information about the events at www.philadelphiabaptist.org/Resources/Events/300Anniversary.cfm.

James McJunkin Jr., PBA executive minister, joins me in extending a warm invitation to celebrate this historic occasion: "We encourage you to come to Philadelphia to reflect on the past and on the future in this time of challenge for us and ABCUSA. We hope you'll decide to worship with our extended family and be part of our historic fellowship for one glorious weekend."

Yours in Christ,
A. Roy Medley
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

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.

Encouragement for Advent

Ministers, will you begin the new church year with a sense of personal spiritual renewal? This year the ABCMC Ministers Council offers an opportunity to begin Advent not as an overwhelmingly busy season, but as a time for refreshment, hope and revitalization.

Ross Peterson, Executive Director of the Midwest Ministry Development Service, will lead a workshop on the theme "Encouragement for Advent." It will take place on Friday, November 9 (the day before ABCMC's Annual Meeting) at the First Baptist Church of La Grange, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange. The gathering will begin with lunch at noon, and continue until 3 p.m. All ABCMC Professional Church Leaders are invited.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

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

season.

Please lift up in prayer ABCMC's upcoming Stewardship Seminar, as well as the stewardship efforts of our congregations.

Please pray for Doug Harris, pastor at North Shore Baptist Church, as he recovers from successful surgery for prostate cancer. Please also hold in prayer his family and the North Shore congregation.

CALENDAR

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 7-9--**300th Anniversary** Celebration for the Philadelphia Baptist Association.

September 9--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 9--70th anniversary celebration, The South Church of Mount Prospect, 501 S. Emerson, Mt. Prospect. Worship service, 10:30 a.m.: reception to follow. For information, please call the church office at (847) 253-0501.

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 14--Montrose Baptist Church 90th Anniversary Celebration. Service at 10:45 a.m. and banquet at noon.

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 9--Ministers Council program, "Encouragement for Advent," First Baptist Church, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange,

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.

POSITION OPENING

Youth Minister

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

Please send communications for and about *eWind* to the editor, Lynne Kelley, at lynne@abcmc.org.

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.