

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

October 3, 2007

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NOTICE

The **Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago** will be held on **November 10, 2007** at the Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, IL, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m.

The morning session will be devoted to the theme **PREVIEW OF A COMING ATTRACTION: A FORETASTE OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY**, followed by lunch, with the afternoon devoted to the Region's official business.

Aid to Ghana

ABC has received word from Rev. Kojo Amo, General Secretary of the Ghana Baptist Convention, that help is needed in the aftermath of torrential rains and flooding in northern Ghana over a month ago. Rev. Amo reported that 15 people had been killed, nearly 13,000 homes were washed away, and more than 140,000 persons are now homeless. The crops in the area have been ruined, because most of the rice, corn, yam, tomato and millet plants are submerged..

Congregations in the Ghana Baptist Convention are reaching out to those affected by the flooding. Rev. Amo says they are "mobilizing financial and material assistance in the form of cash, blankets, mattresses, clothing, and food items from local Baptist Churches to assist the disaster victims."

Rev. Amo has requested that we in ABCMC help. The most efficient way for us to help is with monetary gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing at ABCUSA. These gifts should be clearly marked "Ghana Flood Relief."

ABCUSA has already provided \$3,000 in undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing funds to help with the flood relief in Ghana. Rev. Amo estimates that the costs of recovery will be \$120,000. Now is the time for us to dig into our pockets and help our sisters and brothers in Ghana.

ABCMC Music Festival

All ABCMC member churches are cordially invited to participate in ABCMC's First Annual Christmas/Advent Season Music Festival.

This event will take place on Saturday, December 8, 2007 at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. The purpose of this event is for the ABCMC family to joyfully welcome the Christmas/Advent Season through music and song.

Each participating church will have the opportunity to perform musically for approximately 10-12 minutes. Performances can include solo and/or group vocal and/or instrumental presentations, as well as praise dancing. Adult's and children's choirs are particularly encouraged to participate.

All performers and all members of the audience will begin the afternoon by singing together some of the Christmas season's well-known hymns and carols. Then the performances from individual ABCMC churches will take place. Following all churches' musical performances, the afternoon will conclude with a mass singing (involving the performers and the audience, of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

While no admission cost will be charged for the event, there will be a free will offering to benefit ABCMC.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for an ABCMC member church to reserve a place as a performing church in the December 8 Christmas/Advent season Music Festival is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007.

Any ABCMC member church interested in participating in this event is asked to immediately contact Lowell Yount, ABCMC Mission Support Associate, at 773-370-2003 or younglowell@aol.com.

Let's Go to Ghana!

As part of ABCMC's on-going commitment to our partnership with the Ghana Baptist Convention, we are organizing our annual Mission Partnership Trip to Ghana for *May 12-25, 2008.* The approximate cost is *\$2500*. We are encouraging participation from both first time travelers to Ghana and representatives from churches who have sister church relationships.

Our time of learning and serving with our Mission Partners will be structured in such a way that representatives of sister churches will have opportunity to spend time on site with their respective partners. This is an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the Ghana Baptist Convention and be renewed and challenged by the vibrancy and energy of God's people in Ghana.

If you are interested in traveling, please let contact the Reverend Joanne Lindstrom (773-538-4378 or kjoanne@ameritech.net) by October 20.

A deposit of \$200 is due by *November 1* payable to:

American Baptist Churches Metro Chicago
8765 W. Higgins Road
Suite 240
Chicago, IL 60631
(in the memo line: Ghana Trip 2008)

World Mission Offering

American Baptist congregations *usually* take the World Mission Offering, which supports our international ministries, in October. It's getting to be that time of year.

This year American Baptists in Metro Chicago can designate their World Mission Offering to the Baptist mission work in Ghana. It is a way of honoring our special partnership with the Ghana Baptist Convention, its churches, its schools and its ministries.

We can even choose one or more of three projects:

- 1) The **Frankadua Vocational Training Center**, which buys children--largely girls--out of slavery from tribal priests in rural areas, provides these kids training in a vocation (usually dressmaking, weaving, and carpentry), and upon graduation gives them the equipment (a sewing machine, a loom, a set of tools) and some up-front cash to get started in the vocation.
- 2) The **Rural Church Building Project**, which provides funds so that new churches can buy land and construct a building for their ministries. The total cost ranges between \$5,000 and \$7,000. With their own facilities, churches will not be under constant threats of harassment, escalating costs, and ejection they may experience when they rent from the government or private owners.

3) The Support for Women Seminarians Initiative, which provides scholarships for women, growing numbers of whom are accepting the call to ministry, but often don't get the kind of financial aid from their local congregations to complete their seminary training. (Approximately \$700 will cover the costs of a student for a year.)

With God's guidance, through the World Mission Offering this year, we American Baptists in the Chicago area can make a tremendous difference for persons in Ghana and elsewhere. Please give serious prayer and thought to your gift to the 2007 World Mission Offering.

Cook County Jail Ministry Dinner

ABCMC's Cook County Jail Ministry will host its fall dinner and fund-raising event on Saturday, November 3, 2007. The event will take place at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park.

There will be a time of fellowship from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner and a program will follow.

The cost will be \$15 per adult, and \$5 per child. A table will be \$100. All tickets will be purchased at the door.

Come and share this special evening, which will include testimonies and good Christian music. A free will offering for the Jail Ministry will be taken. Let's all support this important ministry.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Unity Service and Celebration

On the evening of Sunday, September 30, two ABCMC congregations Irving Park Baptist Church worshiped together, and celebrated unity in diversity. Antioch Telugu Baptist Church, which normally worships at 2:30 p.m. in Northlake, traveled to Irving Park Baptist Church in Chicago, where they held their worship service and had fellowship with Baptist brothers and sisters. A large portion of each of the two congregations attended, as well as guests from other congregations. David Sagar, pastor of Antioch Telugu Baptist Church, was the preacher in the worship service. The two congregations had a wonderful and memorable time together.

SATURDAY! Dinner and Bake Auction at the Federated Church of Wauconda

The Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, will host its Annual Fall Dinner and Bake Auction on Saturday, October 6 at 6 p.m. The event will take place in the church's fellowship hall. Proceeds will benefit the church's 2007-2008 PADS program.

This year's theme is an Italian Pasta Bar, complete with pasta, several different sauces, garlic bread, antipasto, and Caesar salad. Dessert will be a "Build your own Sundae" Bar. Don't Miss out on this fun and festive evening of exploring the tastes of Italy.

The cost for adults will be \$7. Children 12 and under will eat free. Everyone is welcome! And it's no secret that the folks at the Federated Church are great cooks!

SUNDAY! Hyde Park Union Church Concert

Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, invites you to attend a concert there on Saturday afternoon, October 7.

Bring the whole family! The program will be Celebrating Kids: a concert with children's musician Justin Roberts, 3 p.m., Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, \$10. Tickets available at www.hpuc.org or call 773.363.6063. Church groups welcome!

Montrose Baptist Church 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. Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister of ABCMC, will be the guest preacher for the service.

A Complementary Banquet will follow at noon.

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

First Baptist Church of Chicago 174th Anniversary

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be celebrating its 174th Church Anniversary at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 14th. The guest speaker for the 4:00 p.m. Service will be Rev. Dr. Ron Beauchamp, Pastor of Bethel Green Family Worship Center, Chicago, Illinois. Jesse Brown is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chicago. He is also president of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. Everyone is invited to join with First Baptist for this anniversary celebration.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

International Ministries Watches with Concern and Prays For the People of Myanmar

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/01/07) — As massive protests in the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar (also known as Burma) enter their tenth day, International Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA encourages Christians everywhere to continue to follow events closely and pray for a peaceful resolution.

"Our most immediate contribution is to express our concern to all those affected in Myanmar because of these events, and to pray unceasingly for a positive and peaceful outcome," said Dr. Reid Trulson, executive director of International Ministries. "The very existence of International Ministries and American Baptist Churches USA can be directly traced to mission work in what was known as Burma nearly 200 years ago," said Trulson. "We have deep respect for the people of Myanmar and we desire a just and peaceful resolution to the concerns these events have raised."

Baptists in the United States first came together to form what is today known as International Ministries, following the arrival of Baptist missionaries to Burma, Adoniram and Ann Judson in 1813. Baptist work in this Southeast Asian country grew, especially among ethnic minorities in Burma, who have been persecuted throughout the time Baptists have been in the country. A political change in the government, in the 1960s, forced missionaries to leave, including American Baptist missionaries. But International Ministries maintains strong ties with the Myanmar Baptist Convention, which is over 100 years old.

Presently, International Ministries shares over \$100,000 annually in resources directly in Myanmar for education, development, relief and outreach ministry. The mission also provides over \$100,000 annually in resources and direct services to refugees from Myanmar in Northern Thailand. More than 500,000 have fled Myanmar for the refugee camps due to years of persecution.

Thousands of ethnic Karen and Chin refugees from Burma are now coming to the United States. Missionaries Duane and Marcia Binkley are working both in the U.S. and in the refugee camps of Northern Thailand to help these persons to escape repression and violence, and find freedom and a new life in America.

Just before the Myanmar government cracked down on communications, including Internet communications this week, Trulson sent an electronic letter to the general secretary of the Myanmar Baptist Convention.

Trulson told the general secretary, "I am writing to assure you that your American Baptist brothers and sisters are praying for you, for the members of the Myanmar Baptist Convention and for your entire nation."

The current activism was sparked on Aug. 19, when the government of Myanmar raised fuel prices by as much as 500 percent without warning, according to published reports. Protests were sporadic and small, led mostly by political dissidents until Buddhist Monks began to be involved by the thousands, on Sept. 18. Crowds of activists swelled to as many as 100,000 in the nation's capital of Yangon.

Despite the pressing needs, humanitarian organizations report that flows of aid into the country are much lower in comparison to other nation's in the region, such as Laos or Cambodia.

"We hope American Baptists will find new ways to increase resources available to our partners, who must minister to the front lines of this crisis," said Trulson, "and to help support the thousands of persons, often with Baptist roots, who are now finding their way to the United States, seeking refuge, opportunity and religious freedom." People can [give now](#) to the Myanmar Baptist Convention, other related partners in the region, and the work of Duane and Marcia Binkley, said Trulson.

Formed in 1814, International Ministries is the oldest Baptist mission agency in North America. The organization serves the more than 5,800 churches of the American Baptist Churches USA. Globally, International Ministries partners with more than 500 educational institutions and 125 hospitals and medical facilities. More than 2,200 volunteer, short-term and career missionaries work together with some 15,000 trained national workers, who serve about 22,000 congregations and nearly 3,000,000 baptized members.

American Baptists Open Doors to Flood of Burmese Refugees

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 09/28/07) — The current bloodshed occurring in Myanmar (formally known as Burma) is, sadly, only the latest story in a long history of repression and ethnic persecution. Currently, nine refugee camps housing over 150,000 Karen and Karenni stretch up and down Thailand near the border of Burma and 100,000 Chin refugees live in Malaysia and different parts of India. But, after decades of refugee life in camps with no apparent change coming to Burma, the U.S. State Department, in cooperation with the United Nations and the Thai government, have begun offering the option of resettlement to Karen and Chin refugees. As a result, Church World Service, along with other resettlement agencies, have begun taking the first of what will likely be tens of thousands of refugees and settling them in various cities around the U.S.

As a partner in Church World Service, and in response to refugee needs and local church requests, American Baptist Churches set up the Burmese Refugee Task Force in early Spring of 2007. The Task Force is a joint effort of the Office of the General Secretary, International Ministries and National Ministries. Church pastors and Mission Center staff from all branches of the denomination are teaming together to inform the larger ABC family, to seek funding for refugee work and to build support networks among congregations.

Adoniram and Ann Judson, the first American missionaries, landed as Baptists in the country of Burma nearly 200 years ago. Subsequent mission work over the decades brought many ethnic people such as the Karen, Chin, Kachin, Falam, Hakka and others to Christ along with the Burmese. Unfortunately, when the military took control of the government in the early 1960s, American Baptist missionaries were expelled and are no longer allowed into the country. Moreover, the military regime began exerting ever harsher control over many ethnic minorities resulting in hundreds of thousands of ethnic Karens, Chins, Kachins, Shan and other ethnic groups fleeing to the mountains or to neighboring countries in order to survive.

The Judson legacy and the mission footprints left upon the Burmese people cause many of the refugees to seek out a church home among American Baptists when they reach our shores. Their journey only ends when they can find a church home and it is not uncommon for an American Baptist church to have forty or more 'visitors' show up one Sunday. For many congregations, as the Karen, Chin and other groups enter the life of their church, the excitement of mission work becomes personal and alive again. A mission spirit pervades where once it may have lain dormant. Churches are becoming revitalized and strengthened thanks to the influx of these Burmese people groups.

For more information about the Burmese refugees, please contact:

- Rev. Stan Murray, International Ministries, Area Director for Southeast Asia & Japan. Email address: Stan.Murray@abc-usa.org. Phone number: 800-222-3872 Ext. 2298
- Duane & Marcia Binkley, International Ministries, Missionaries to Thailand/U.S. Email Address: dmbink@pobox.com. Phone number 330-699-4174
- Rev. Florence Li, National Coordinator for Intercultural Ministries, Asian Churches Strategist. Email address: Florence.Li@abc-usa.org. Phone number: 800-222-3872 Ext. 2468

For information about sponsorship for refugee families, please contact:

- Mr. Ken George, National Coordinator for Direct Human Services. Email address: Ken.George@abc-usa.org. Phone number: 800-222-3872 Ext. 2034
- Ms. Diane Giova, Direct Human Services Associate. Email address: Diane.Giova@abc-usa.org Phone number: 800-222-3872 Ext. 2450

Stewardship Sunday

This message is from ABCUSA General Secretary Roy Medley.

Greetings!

November 11, 2007 is designated as Stewardship Sunday, and we are pleased to offer a NEW stewardship program to help you recognize this day. "I Have Called You Friends" (John 15:15) is a series of four worship services, including sermon ideas and songs, that teach the beauty of the offering and invite people to consider their giving for the next year. Please see the attached bulletin insert for details and feel free to pass it on to your church's stewardship committee.

We hope that you will find this program useful!

<http://www.abc-usa.org/documents/CalledYouFriendsBul.pdf>

ABEC Announces New Rates and Products

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/02/07) — The American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC) announces the release of new rates and products. The new fixed term notes have increased rates as well as greater flexibility and there are tiers within each term that will give investors more opportunity to find an investment that meets their needs.

In addition to the new fixed term rates, ABEC is now offering variable rate notes for the first time in almost a decade. The rates on these notes will change monthly and also offer tiers within each term. ABEC anticipates that these new rates and products will give their investors greater options as they conduct financial planning. It will also give them the opportunity to be engaged in good stewardship, help to support the mission of church extension and make ministry dreams a reality for churches across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

The American Baptist Extension Corporation has been helping churches to build, expand and purchase property since 1959. "Our mission is not simply the building," said Valoria L. Cheek, president and chief executive officer of ABEC. "It is assisting churches in enhancing their ministries for the spreading of the gospel and impacting communities for Christ. The need is still great. Existing churches still need funds for their building or renovation projects. New Life 2010 churches will need a place to call home." Each investment supports ABEC's efforts to promote church extension.

The new rate information has been posted on the ABEC web site and can be visited at www.myabec.org or by calling 800-222-3872 Ext. 2232 or 610-768-2232.

This is not an offer to sell securities nor a solicitation to buy securities. ABEC will offer and sell securities only in states where authorized. The offering is made solely by their Offering Circular. ABEC securities are not insured by the FDIC or any other state or federally regulated institution. Rates may change without notice.

PEACE NEWS

Baptist Peace Fellowship's 2008 Peace Camp

This article is from the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

BAPTIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP OF NORTH AMERICA
SUMMER CONFERENCE 2008
JULY 14-19, 2008
JOHN ABBOTT COLLEGE, STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE, QUEBEC, CANADA

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a week which will enhance your life, your faith, and your own personal work for peace rooted in justice.

With Glen Stassen and other leaders, we will explore the things that make for peace. You are sure to come away with new skills, new information, new friends, and renewed enthusiasm to seek peace and pursue it.

Situated on the most western tip of the island of Montreal, in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, John Abbott

College enjoys a rural setting just a half hour drive from downtown Montreal. The college offers great facilities and services in a lovely setting. The location boasts a wide variety of recreational possibilities before, during, and after conference.

This conference will refresh, sustain, challenge, delight, inspire, and equip you!

Plan to join us in Quebec this summer -- July 14-19, 2008!

MINISTERS COUNCIL

Douglas Sharp at Ministers Council Meeting

Dr. Douglas Sharp, professor of systematic theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the guest speaker at the September 27 meeting of the Ministers Council of ABCMC at North Shore Baptist Church. Douglas made an excellent presentation and led an interesting discussion related to his book *No Partiality: The Idolatry of Race and the New Humanity*. He spoke about the development of racism in the United States, how it has become part of "the way things are," and the challenge of eliminating racism. Drawing on scripture, he said that overcoming racism will require faith in God, love of others, and hope for the future. It will require persons in power in racist systems to repent--whether forgiven or not--and to challenge the systems and relinquish part of their power.

If you would like to purchase a copy of Douglas Sharp's outstanding 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.

BOOK NOOK

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

This article is from Judson Press. These books are available from www.judsonpress.com.

As a church leader, you are likely to find yourself in a position to deal with the issues surrounding abuse. Unfortunately, most pastors are ill-equipped to deal with the crisis. The challenge for every pastor and counselor is to go beyond a casual awareness of the problem to the harsh reality of this epidemic, to move past apathy to conviction, and to turn empathy into compelling action.

Judson Press has published Violence among Us: Ministry to Families in Crisis. Counselors Brenda Branson and Paula Silva offer readers:

- Practical help in identifying abusive situations
- Strategic counseling tips
- Case studies and models of effective ministry to both the victim and the perpetrator
- Resource lists which include domestic violence hotlines and shelters, faith-based organizations, abuser treatment programs, and information on legal and safety issues

Tim Clinton, president of the American Association of Christian Counselors, has called Violence among Us "the best work to date available."

Violence among Us is available online for only \$11.20.

Save even more when you also order a copy of Battered But Not Broken: Help for Abused Wives and Their Church Families by Patricia Riddle Gaddis. Get both books for only \$15.00, a savings of \$4.20. Just enter code ES10 in the discount/promo box at checkout.

"The church has many callings. This is one that is too often neglected. Read this book, VIOLENCE AMONG US: MINISTRY to FAMILIES in CRISIS, and let it stir you to action." -Rachel Crabb and Dr. Larry Crabb, author and Spiritual Director for AACC

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please lift up in prayer the extended family of Nailah Franklin, who was missing. Nailah's lifeless body was found in the past week. We trust that she is at peace in the heavenly household of God. Let's continue to support her family as they celebrate Nailah's life and grieve her passing.

Please keep in prayer the people of Burma/Myanmar during this particularly dangerous and uncertain time in their country. Please pray also for all refugees seeking a new home elsewhere.

Please pray for the search committees of churches in the process of a pastoral transition.

Please hold in prayer Rev. Diane Pomeroy and her husband, Rev. George Pomeroy as they begin a transition back to their native New England. Diane, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Warneville, has been called to be pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Her last Sunday at Community Baptist will be October 28. Her first Sunday at First Baptist will be December 2. We thank God for Diane's eleven years of ministry in ABCMC.

Please pray for Gordon and Leann Hwang, ABC missionaries in Japan.

Please pray for ABC missionaries in Haiti, Kihomi and Mabudiga Nzunga. In a place where people have no good drinking water, no health care facilities, a very poor school that teaches only up to second grade, they are working ecumenically to promote good health practices.

Please pray also for ABC missionaries Nancy and Steve James, working in medical clinics in Haiti under the sponsorship of the Haitian Baptist Convention.

Please pray for U.S. Army Lieutenant Ehren Watada, the highest ranking officer who has publicly refused to go to Iraq. Ehren would not go because he is convinced that the war is morally and legally wrong. He faces court martial on October 9.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY! October 5--West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition Peace Talk and Potluck, Union Church of Hinsdale (UCC), Upper Floor Kitchen Classroom, 137 Garfield, Hinsdale. Potluck at 6:30 p.m.; program and conversation at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please email wsfpc@comcast.net or call 630-768-9305.

SATURDAY! October 6--Italian Dinner and Bake Auction, Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, 6 p.m.

SUNDAY! October 7--Celebrating Kids: a concert with children's musician Justin Roberts, 3 p.m., Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, \$10. Tickets available at www.hpuc.org or call 773.363.6063. Church groups welcome!

October 8--Fast for Peace, from sunrise to sunset. Please see the National Council of Churches article at <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/IFRsep07newsletter.pdf>

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

October 14--Larry Greenfield preaches at Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago.

October 14--First Baptist Church of Chicago 174th Anniversary, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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.

October 21--Children's Sabbath.

November 2--West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition Peace Talk and Potluck, Union Church of Hinsdale (UCC), Upper Floor Kitchen Classroom, 137 Garfield, Hinsdale. Potluck at 6:30 p.m.; program and conversation at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please email wsfpc@comcast.net or call 630-768-9305.

November 2-4--Healthcare Sabbath

November 3--Cook County Jail Ministry fall dinner and fund raiser, First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario, Oak Park, 6 p.m.

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

November 9--Deadline for churches to register to perform at ABCMC's Christmas/Advent Season Music Festival on December 8.

November 10--ABCMC Annual Meeting at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

November 18--Larry Greenfield preaches at First Baptist Church, 21 N. Catherine, La Grange,

observing ABCMC Sunday.

November 20--Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

December 8--ABCMC's First Annual Christmas/Advent Season Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 2 p.m.

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.

July 14-19, 2008--Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America's Peace Camp. Please visit www.bpfna.org for more information.

Please do not respond to this email.

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. The office of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago is at 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60631.