

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 10, 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 the Region's official business.

RSVP to the ABCMC office no later than Friday, November 2. The phone number is 773-695-9791. The fax number is 773-695-9793. The email address is office@abcmc.org

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a fortnightly column for Protestants for the Common Good. His latest column is attached to this issue of *eWind*. Alternatively, you may click on http://thecommongood.org/showfile.asp?file=6_20/tt.html to access Larry's column on the PCG web site.

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 Young, 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

Sale and Closing of the First Baptist Church of Maywood

The First Baptist Church of Maywood has sold their building to Holy Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church. The sale was finalized on October 1.

The congregation of First Baptist will continue to worship in the building through October 14 (this coming Sunday). The congregation will use the remainder of the month of October to tie up loose ends.

As the church concludes nearly 100 years of ministry in Maywood, a number of items will become available for sale to other churches. Among those items are 100 of the red "The Worshiping Church" hymnals published by Hope Publishing Company c. 1990. In addition, there are nearly 120 NIV pew bibles that were purchased around five years ago. The pew bibles have the

American Baptist Churches logo on the cover. There are also about 20 new bibles in the Contemporary English Version. If your church is interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Rev. Wanda Scoble, interim pastor, at 630-279-2268 or dscobes@aol.com.

Wanda says, "This is not an easy process to take a church through, but the new congregation is much more suitable for the community, and they are excited about beginning their ministry in Maywood." Wanda asks that we please keep the members of First Baptist in our prayers "as they find new places and ways to serve in the ministry of Christ." She adds, "Our bell choir will continue to practice and play in places where they are invited to perform. Betsy Diman is in charge of this."

Let's all support First Baptist with our prayers and communications, and welcome them into our congregations.

SUNDAY! 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.

SUNDAY! 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.

An Invitation from Third Baptist Church of Chicago

COME JOIN US! On Wednesdays, beginning October 10th, Third Baptist Church of Chicago will begin a new Bible series, using David Laubach's book, 12 Steps to Congregational Transformation: A Practical Guide for Leaders, for our mid-week Bible Study. The classes will be taught by Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, Sr. Pastor.

The Wednesday morning session begins at 10:30a.m. with Scripture, testimony, prayer and singing and **the class runs from 11:00a.m. to Noon**. The same program will run Wednesday evenings with devotions at 6:30p.m. **and the Bible study from 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.**

The morning and evening sessions will be held in the church's sanctuary, 1551 West 95th Street. Parking is south of the church in the 9500 block of Ashland Ave./Fowler Drive. DO NOT park in the parking lot across 95th Street.

All are invited to attend the morning and evening sessions.

If you would like to order the book, contact Judson Press at 1-800-458-3766, or fax in your order at 1-610-2107. You can also order the book online at www.judsonpress.com. At the end of each chapter, David provides wonderful reflection questions and action guides for church leaders to consider. The book is well written with many examples and good illustrations to emphasize points he makes in the narrative.

If you have any questions about the Bible Study, please contact Rev. Francine Stark: 773-779-1800 (office) or on her cell at 312-952-8998.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

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>

PEACE NEWS

Peace Vigil

Families for Peace will hold its silent vigil this Saturday, October 13, from 3 to 4 pm at the northeast corner of Northwest Highway and Arlington Heights Road at Dunton Park. Site is accessible and all are welcome. Signs are available or bring your own.

Families for Peace is a concerned group of citizens working to promote peace dialogue in the northwest suburbs. Co-sponsors are the Sisters of the Living Word, the Viatorian Community and the Women's Resource Center. Contact peacevigils@aol.com for more information.

Fall Out Against the War

This information is from web sites of several organizations involved in the nation-wide demonstration against war on October 27. These sites include United for Peace and Justice at

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/> and the web site for the event <http://www.oct27chicago.org/>, as well as Chicago will be one of the locations for this event. More than 100 organizations and elected officials have endorsed this event. A flier about the event is attached to this issue of **eWind**.

Momentum is building toward Saturday, October 27th -- from Orlando to Seattle, from New York to New Orleans. On that day, people from all walks of life will gather in 11 cities around the country, including Chicago, in a national expression of the breadth and depth of antiwar sentiment in this nation. For many people, it will be their first step in transforming their antiwar feelings into antiwar action. Regional actions will enable much larger numbers of people to participate.

People everywhere want the war to end, but Washington has failed to take decisive action. With each passing month, the Iraq disaster claims the lives of nearly 100 service people and countless Iraqis as it drains 12 billion of our tax-dollars. Our communities are neglected and suffer the consequences.

On October 27th, the people will speak: We want this war to end, and we want it to end now!

The event in Chicago will be region-wide, with participants coming from across the United States. It will take place on Saturday, October 27 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The schedule for the Chicago event appears below:

RALLY AND MARCH TIMES:

11am-1pm: Local feeder marches
1:30 p.m.: The first rally begins in Union Park (Ashland & Lake)
3:00 p.m.: March toward the Loop
4:00 p.m.: Second rally begins in Federal Plaza (Adams & Dearborn)
6:00 p.m.: Rally ends

The rallies will involve speakers and music. This will be an important opportunity for folks from our area and beyond to express their opposition to continuing the war in Iraq. It will also afford participants an opportunity to meet and be in fellowship with others of like mind.

Get On the Bus for Peace - October 27th:

This invitation is from the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition.

Dear Peace and Justice Supporters,

On Oct. 27th there'll be a *huge* regional Peace Rally & March against the War in Iraq - in Chicago. See Attached Flyer for Bus details

People from eight midwestern states are organizing bus caravans and peace trains to Chicago for this event. Chicago will be one of eleven regional mobilizations nationally - seeking to mobilize 2 million people on that single day - calling for the end of the War in Iraq. The Chicago area organizing committee represents the broadest coalition in the peace movement since the Vietnam War -- with 120 groups and growing daily.

West suburban churches and peace & justice groups are organizing buses from key suburban sites - to help mobilize as many people as possible for this historic Peace Rally & March. *See Attached Flyer for Bus Details*****

We have buses lined up at the following sites:

**-LOMBARD: \$7, Lombard Mennonite Church,
contact Dave at davemartin777@comcast.net or 630-768-9305**
-WHEATON: \$5, Gary United Methodist Church,

- contact Tony at tonyasta@ameritech.net or 708-705-8669
- ELGIN: \$7, Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren,
contact Bettina at bettinaperillo@yahoo.com or 847-695-0455
- LAGRANGE: \$5, First Congregational Church of LaGrange
contact Marlene at mschemmel@csjoseph.org or 708-482-5088
- MAYWOOD: \$5, St. Eulalia Catholic Church,
contact Pat at paKeenan0731@yahoo.com or 630-620-7969
- DEKALB: \$10, Unitarian Universalist Church in DeKalb
contact Dan at dkenney53@hotmail.com or 815-793-0950

BUSES WILL FILL QUICKLY. CALL ASAP TO BE ASSURED A SEAT.

The Bus Plan:

Buses will pick people up at west suburban sites (above) and drop riders off at Union Park (Ashland & Lake St. in Chicago). There's a 1:30 Rally at Union Park, followed by a 3:00 March to Federal Plaza in the loop, ending with a 4-6 pm Rally at Federal Plaza. Following the Federal Plaza Rally, riders will re-board buses near the Federal Plaza Rally, returning to their original sites. Note: After the 1:30 Union Park Rally, those not able to walk to Federal Plaza - can ride their bus to the Federal Plaza downtown.

We encourage everyone to get on the bus - especially those who've never attended a public peace rally before. Recruit your friends, neighbors and family members to come along. Let's make this the largest national peace mobilization in our nation's history. We need to make it unquestionably clear - that the people of the U.S. want the Iraq War ended now!

Another email with full bus details will be sent out in the next couple days. Please Watch for more details. For more information on the October 27 Demonstration, check out the Chicago Mobilization website oct27chicago.org For more detailed West Suburban Bus Info, see www.faithpeace.org

Donations Welcome:

If you cannot attend, but can offer financial support - please mail a check payable to WSFPC to: WSFPC, 115 E. Memorial Rd, Bensenville, IL 60106. Please write 'Oct.27 Bus' in the memo line.

Let's turn out in huge numbers. It will take all of us TOGETHER to stop this war.

In Peace,

-Dave Martin, Coordinator

West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition (see co-sponsors below)

The Oct.27 west suburban bus initiative is co-sponsored by:

West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition, DuPage Peace Thru Justice Coalition, DuPage Against War Now, Pax Christi DuPage, Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice, DeKalb Interfaith Network for Peace, Lombard Mennonite Church Peace Committee, Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, and others. (list in formation)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Religion and Secular Space

On Monday, October 15, 2007 from 7 to 9 p.m. there will be in Chicago a program of interest to many of us. Titled "Myth of Separation: Politics, Religion and Secular Space," the program will be a panel discussion. It will take place at

the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, Chicago. Panelists will include Barbara Ransby of UIC; Rev. Dr. Robert V Thompson, pastor of Lake Street Church, Evanston; Cassie Meyer of Interfaith Youth Core; Adam Walker of Center for Inquiry, Chicago. The program will be sponsored by The Public Square

MINISTERS COUNCIL

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please keep in prayer the people of Burma/Myanmar during this particularly dangerous and uncertain time in their country.

Please pray for all refugees seeking a new home away from their native countries.

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 keep in prayer the members and friends of the First Baptist Church of Maywood in this time of congregational transition.

Please join Christians in Burma as they pray for peace and the release of detainees.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY! October 14--Larry Greenfield preaches at Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N.

Melvina, Chicago.

SUNDAY! 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. Aids and 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.