

Please send comments, information and questions for or about *eWind* to the editor, Lynne Kelley,
at lynne@abcmc.org.

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

November 7, 2007

Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.
God's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

God has shown strength with God's arm;

God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy,
according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

Luke 1:46-55

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ABCMC NEWS

A Foretaste of the Beloved Community

"Preview of a Coming Attraction: A Foretaste of the Beloved Community" was the theme for the 172nd annual meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago on November 10. In the morning session, Larry Greenfield spoke at length about various perspectives on what constitutes church, and what actions are central in the life of a church. Joining together at the table is a key part of Baptist church life. This applies to sharing communion at the Lord's table. It also applies to sharing church pot luck dinners. At a pot luck meal, everybody brings something to share, and everybody has access to what others bring to the table, and everybody helps serve. We hope that our generous sharing of meals together will be reflected in our generous sharing of ministries and lives together.

Larry spoke with passion about church as a proleptic community, a foretaste of the beloved community. This is the community to be brought in with the reign of the Christ. It is a community of equality. It is a community that works together--not a community of individuals going off with their own interests. It is the community that is both here and not yet here in the lives that Christians share. It is the kind of community that Luke's gospel presents as God's creation in Mary's song the Magnificat. It is a community in which God's mercy is a central experience, wealth is redistributed, and all are equal. All participated by both receiving and serving.

Saturday's gathering of Chicago area Baptists began and ended with the celebration of communion, which those in attendance served to one other each time. Everyone gathered around tables, rather than rows of chairs. Around the tables we shared communion, a nourishing lunch served by Lake Street Church, and conversation. It was a foretaste of the great banquet in the beloved community.

Also reflecting the beloved community was ABCMC's joyful welcoming into membership of Iglesia Jesus es el Camino. The pastor and members of the congregation expressed great happiness at becoming a part of the ABCMC family.

Some issues that came up in the meeting, however, showed some "not yet here" aspects of the beloved community, however close some glimpses of it may be. The ABCMC family's responses to these issues showed a sincere desire to move towards being the beloved community.

When the Nominating Committee's slate was presented, once again none of the nominated candidates were from Hispanic congregations. Shakespeare Osorio, pastor of Central Spanish Baptist Church, expressed disappointment that ABCMC was not welcoming Hispanic congregations to the table of leadership, and was not opening up to gifts from the Hispanic Baptist community. He encouraged ABCMC to come to the table of Hispanic congregations, and taste of what these churches brought to the ABCMC family's pot luck.

The Family Council agreed that the whole nominating process needed to be reviewed, and the Family Cabinet would follow up with a committee to do that job. Next year's Nominating

Committee will be held accountable for being more inclusive. The Nominating Committee was in agreement with the desire of the Family Cabinet, and will work with language congregations and their pastors to bring more diversity to future slates.

Aware that a number of persons present at the meeting spoke primarily Spanish, and were not at all fluent in reading or speaking English, Andy Everman of Woodside Church led ABCMC in making a specific commitment to inclusivity. In the future, all annual reports will be presented in the report booklet in both English and Spanish.

The Family Council also responded to another expressed need within the family. Paul Ethington, director of Camp Grow, had sent Larry a letter in which Paul described dire financial conditions at Camp Grow. This situation was in part a result of having to make major expenditures to bring some facilities at the camp up to code. Paul asked for help from ABCMC. Members of the Camp Grow Ministries board were present at the meeting. Out of appreciation for what Camp Grow Ministries brings to our family pot luck, the Family Council approved the offer of a loan of \$20,000 to Camp Grow Ministries.

In a variety of ways, the ABCMC family at the annual meeting expressed a hope for greater involvement of a wider involvement of our membership. We want everyone to bring their contributions to our the pot luck dinner, and we want everyone to have a chance to serve.

The spirit of the meeting clearly signaled a desire to grow closer to being God's beloved community.

ABCMC Festival of Music

Please make plans to attend ABCMC's Festival of Christmas/Advent Season Music on Saturday, December 8 at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Whether or not folks from your church will be performing in the program, please come and enjoy this celebration of God in the beauty of music.

The program will engage everyone in singing and listening to seasonal music--beloved old favorites, as well as some future favorites. We'll hear church choirs and other groups and individuals, as well as joining in some music-making ourselves.

A free-will offering will be taken, but the concert will be FREE. Don't miss this fun and meaningful celebration of the season.

For more information, please contact Lowell Young, ABCMC Mission Support Associate, at 773-370-2003 or younglowell@aol.com.

Ghana

Since 2003, ABCMC has had a covenant of mutual ministry with the Ghana Baptist Convention. You and your church may become involved in this ministry in a number of ways.

One need that Ghana Baptists have is for books for their university. Attached to this issue of *eWind* is a list of textbooks they would like to have.

You and your church may also choose to have a sister congregaion in Ghana. Several ABCMC congregations have already done so. A list of suggested activities is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Thanksgiving Dinner

On Saturday, November 17 at 6 p.m. the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, will host a Thanksgiving Dinner. The meal will feature turkeys cooked outside on grills. Mary Steffen and Tony Rake will be the hosts for the event, and Tony will be the head turkey cooker. All are welcome to come share in this meal with all the traditional trimmings. The phone number for the church is 847-526-8471.

Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon

On Saturday, December 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, will have a Christmas Bazaar and luncheon. Come do your holiday shopping, and enjoy a bite to eat while you pause to relax.

First Baptist Church of Chicago to Ordain Kirstin Boswell Ford December 9

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will ordain Kirstin C. Boswell Ford, a doctoral student at the University of Chicago Divinity School, to the Christian ministry on Sunday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to be present to witness and participate in this event at The First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago.

All ABCMC clergy are invited to bring their robes and participate in the procession. Clergy will gather at the church at 3:30 p.m. to prepare for the procession.

There will be a reception immediately following the service.

A response is not necessary, but is preferred just so that accurate numbers for the reception can be determined. RSVP to kboswell@uchicago.edu or 773-203-6684

For more information, please phone the church at 773-536-3430

COMMUNITY NEWS

“Being Muslim”

A talk by best-selling author Haroon Siddiqui

On Sunday, November 18, best-selling author Haroon Siddiqui will give a talk titled "Being Muslim." You are cordially invited to attend this program. Here is the information:

Sunday, November 18
2:00-4:00 P.M.
Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
Residents' Dining Hall
800 S. Halsted St.

**** This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.***

RSVP to Miryam Rashid at mrashid@afsc.org or 312-427-2533 x 18

Haroon Siddiqui is award-winning editor and columnist of Canada's largest circulation newspaper,

the Toronto Star. Siddiqui will discuss his best-selling book, "Being Muslim," which summarizes the impact of terrorism on Muslims, dissects Western discourse on Islam and Muslims and tackles controversial topics. "Being Muslim" is being called "a bridge to understanding" between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Book will be available and book-signing will follow discussion.

Co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and Jewish Voice for Peace – Chicago

ABCUSA NEWS

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

National Ministries Releases OGHS Funds to Aid California Wildfire Victims

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/08/07) — National Ministries' office of Direct Human Services has released \$2,000 of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) undesignated disaster funds to American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles (ABCLA) to provide relief to victims of the recent wildfires in California.

"We thank God today for the compassion of American Baptists who have contributed undesignated funds to OGHS for times such as these," says Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, National Ministries' executive director. "Generous support of this offering allows us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ when their lives have been torn asunder by devastation of truly disastrous proportions, offering God's love and the bright light of hope."

The Rice Canyon wildfires touched families of Community Baptist Church in Fallbrook, Calif., completely destroying two homes and damaging four mobile homes, rendering them unfit for habitation for at least six weeks.

The church, which has established a Fire Recovery Fund, estimates it needs at least \$10,000 over the next six weeks to help the fire victims. Sources in the region report that ongoing needs will be identified as insurance companies and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency complete their work in the area. The Rev. James Kilinsky, pastor of One In Christ Baptist Church in National City, Calif., and vice president of American Baptist Congregations of the Southwest and Hawaii, is coordinating ABCLA efforts to uncover needs of American Baptist churches and families throughout the region.

Kenneth George, National Ministries' coordinator of Direct Human Services, invites American Baptists to continue their support of OGHS. "Faithful and joyful giving to this annual offering empowers American Baptist Churches USA, through National Ministries and International Ministries, to make a difference in people's lives, reaching out as Christ would when people need it most."

Contributions to aid in the response for wildfire victims can be made through OGHS, designated to "California Wildfires." Donate through your church's OGHS mission support or visit the American Baptist Churches USA web site, www.abc-usa.org, selecting the "Give" option from the main menu.

Mail checks, noting "California Wildfires" in the memo line, to American Baptist Churches USA, Attn: Barbara Jarrett, Office of the General Secretary, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

Gay-Friendly Baptist Groups Excluded from New Baptist Covenant Event

By Robert Marus

Published July 24, 2007

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP) -- The organization sponsoring an upcoming historic pan-Baptist gathering has told two gay-friendly Baptist groups they cannot participate in an official capacity.

The North American Baptist Fellowship, under whose auspices next year's "Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant" is being held, has informed the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America that they cannot join NABF. Therefore, they cannot be official participants in the event.

"This is not a rejection of either organization or the people in those organization[s]," wrote Alan Stanford, general secretary of the NABF, in a July 18 e-mail alerting leaders of the two groups to NABF's decision. "[I]t is a recognition that we can not hold together the large coalition of Baptists needed to create a new Baptist voice in North America and address the issue of sexual orientation at the same time. We ask for your forbearance and understanding."

The event is scheduled for early 2008 in Atlanta. It is designed to bring together as many different Baptist denominational bodies in North America as possible, including those of Southern Baptist, American Baptist and African-American Baptist heritage. Organizers -- who include former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton -- have said they hope to unite an ideologically diverse array of Baptists around the common causes of promoting evangelism, fighting poverty and supporting religious freedom.

But Ken Pennings, executive director of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, said organizers are ignoring one of the biggest social-justice issues by avoiding the controversial topic of sexuality and the church.

"This sort of thing ought not to go on in Christ's church," he said in an e-mail responding to Stanford. "Here we are at a critical juncture when Baptists of all stripes are coming together to take a strong stand for justice for all of God's children, and the very people in American society being scapegoated and marginalized the most ... are not going to be invited to participate." To become official sponsors of the celebration, the organizations would have had to become affiliates of the NABF, which is comprised of the denominational bodies in the United States and Canada that belong to the Baptist World Alliance, as well as those groups affiliated with them.

In a July 24 telephone interview, Stanford said inviting groups with explicitly pro-gay stances -- AWAB is made up of gay-friendly congregations and BPFNA counts supporting gay rights as a justice issue -- would imply changing the terms of the meeting. That could cause an already fragile coalition to unravel, he said.

"We agreed that we would focus on those things that there was broad agreement about, and there is not broad agreement on this subject," Stanford said. "So, while everyone thinks that [sexuality] is a topic of grave concern -- it is a topic that needs lots of discussion and prayer -- it was not a part of the stated agenda from the beginning. And so I think a lot of the North American [Baptist] leaders thought that his would be changing the agreed-upon terms."

But Pennings said such an attitude betrays the purpose and name of the celebration itself. "This really is more like the Old Covenant than the New Covenant," he said July 23. "Why would we want to participate in this? There's nothing new about this; it's the same old exclusion."

The criticism of the event from the left is new, but organizers of the celebration have already

received extensive criticism from the right. Some leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention -- also not invited to participate in an official capacity because it is no longer a member body of the NABF or the BWA -- have characterized the event as excluding conservatives. Others have cited Carter and Clinton's involvement in the event as simply a way to drum up Baptist support for Democrats, even though organizers have also enlisted prominent Baptist Republicans as speakers.

Although BPFNA and AWAB will not be official participants in the celebration, individual members and participating churches of both groups will. Both Pennings and Evelyn Hanneman, the Peace Fellowship's interim director, noted that the vast majority of their partner congregations are affiliated with the American Baptist Churches USA or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Both groups are member bodies of NABF and BWA.

"In fact, three Baptist Peace Fellowship members are part of a planning committee" for the celebration, Hanneman said. "So, they're interested in keeping us off the table for our stance on LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] issues, and yet we're already at the table in some ways."

Hanneman said BPFNA would likely try to hold an auxiliary event during the celebration to discuss gay rights and other peace and justice issues.

Pennings said he initially considered recommending that AWAB supporters protest the celebration but now thinks the organization will simply encourage its supporters to go to the event and call subtle attention to the issue of sexuality in Baptist life. AWAB leaders will likely "urge our constituency to show up in full strength ... and we'll wear our rainbow stoles and our buttons, and we'll be a visible witness there," he said.

Stanford said he hopes all interested in bringing Baptists together will support the covenant celebration, recognizing that "the most significant thing is that we have a vast diversity, especially the Anglo and the African-American groups that have never worked together in any significant way."

MINISTERS COUNCIL

New Baptist Covenant Celebration, January 30-February 2, 2008, Atlanta

This article is from the Ministers Council.

~ABCUSA participants will receive 2.0 Continuing Education Units.

~Commentary by Joe Kutter in the October 2007 issue of the Baptist Studies Bulletin focuses on the early 2008 Baptist gathering in Atlanta. Joe is Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, and Immediate Past President of the Ministers Council.

<http://www.centerforbaptiststudies.org/bulletin/2007/october.htm#Soapbox>

~New conference information is posted:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/NewBaptistCovenant108.aspx> ~Room blocks for the New Baptist Covenant Celebration continue to fill. Special rates have been negotiated for attendees and must be booked through the Housing Bureau, not direct with the hotels. The majority of New Baptist Covenant Celebration housing is set up for arrivals on Wednesday, January 30, with departures on Saturday, February 2. Reservations can be made at http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=42 or by calling the Housing Bureau at 866-557-0961.

~'Nazareth Manifesto' DVD Explores Jesus' Message in Luke 4 The Baptist Center for Ethics has released a 13-minute DVD, "The Nazareth Manifesto," exploring Luke 4:18-19, the Bible passage that sets the theme for the New Baptist Covenant celebration scheduled Jan. 30-Feb 1 in Atlanta. http://www.ethicsdaily.com/article_detail.cfm?AID=9622

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please hold in prayer those who have lost dear ones to suicide.

Please hold in prayer the board and staff of Camp Grow Ministries as they meet this week and work to maintain and strengthen this important part of ABCMC's ministry.

BOOK NOOK

Judson Press Book Highlights Inspirational Side of NASCAR

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/05/07) — The heroes, events and atmosphere of the hugely popular world of professional auto racing are revealed in an enlightening spiritual perspective—*Before the Thunder Rolls: Devotions for NASCAR Fans*, newly released by Judson Press.

Author Dale Beaver, former Motor Racing Outreach chaplain, offers stories, anecdotes and insights into Christian living drawn from some of NASCAR's leading racers and their crew members. Behind-the-scenes details abound, with Beaver recounting faith perspectives he experienced during his years with the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series.

Some of auto racing's biggest names—Jeff Gordon, Dale Jarrett, Ward Burton, Bill Elliott, Bobby Labonte, Ryan Newman, Jimmy Spencer and Tony Stewart, among others—provide inspirational accounts of faith kept on track through word and deed despite the high-stress, high-living challenges of one of America's most popular sports.

Additionally Beaver looks at each critical stage of the NASCAR schedule—from "It Starts in the Shop" and "Final Inspection" to "Staying on Track Off the Track"—providing Scriptural applications for all who follow professional auto racing.

Before the Thunder Rolls: Devotions for NASCAR Fans includes forewords by Jimmie Johnson and Ryan Newman as well as the eulogy Beaver preached at the nationally broadcast memorial service for one of NASCAR's legends. It is part of the NASCAR Library Collection, the seal of authentication for NASCAR-licensed books.

The book is available for \$13 from Judson Press, a publishing ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA. Founded in 1824, Judson publishes Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of persons, congregations, communities and cultures. For a complete catalog of Judson resources, call 800-458-3766 or visit www.judsonpress.com.

CALENDAR

November 16--Thanksgiving Dinner, the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, 6 p.m.

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

November 18--Best-selling author Haroon Siddiqui gives a talk titled "Being Muslim," Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Residents' Dining Hall, 800 S. Halsted Street, 2-4 p.m.

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

November 20--Campaign for Better Health Care annual meeting, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (lunch provided!), Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N Orleans St, Chicago. To register, go to (<http://e2ma.net/go/777465632/668492/23596578/goto:http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/annualmeeting07form.html>)

November 30--Benefit Concert for music ministry, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 7 p.m.

December--Christmas Bazaar and luncheon, the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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 9--North Shore Second Sunday Concert Series, featuring the church's Chancel Choir, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 2 p.m.

December 9--Ordination of Kirstin Boswell Ford, First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago, 4 p.m. ABCMC clergy, please gather at 3:30 p.m. for procession

December 10--Fund Raiser Dinner for AFSC's Middle East Program in Chicago, Alhambra Palace Restaurant, 1240 W. Randolph, Chicago, 7 p.m. RSVP by December 5 to lpollack@afsc.org or call Lynn or Miryam at 312-427-2533

December 15--Family Cabinet meeting, ABCMC office, 9:30 a.m.

December 16--*Blue Nativity*, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 12:30 p.m.

December 17--Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m., ABCMC office.

January 13, 2008--North Shore Second Sunday Concert Series, featuring Edge O'Town Sweet Adelines Chorus, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 2 p.m.

January 30-February 1, 2008--New Baptist Covenant Celebration, Atlanta, Georgia. Please visit www.newbaptistcovenant.org for more information.

February 10, 2008--North Shore Second Sunday Concert Series, featuring VII Brass Ensemble, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 2 p.m.

February 21-23, 2008--Gathering of Baptist bodies from across the U.S. for a celebration of a new Baptist covenant, Dallas, TX.

March 9--North Shore Second Sunday Concert Series, featuring Chicago Children's Choir, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 2 p.m.

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 5-11, 2008--**The National Gathering of American Baptist Youth**, Estes Park, Colorado, sponsored by National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA. For more information and registration, please visit www.morethanaweek.org.

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.