

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 28, 2007

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should
desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on
him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:1-6

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ABCMC NEWS

A Moving Experience

At the end of 2007, ABCMC will relocate our office. Our new location will be on Grand Avenue just west of Oak Park Avenue in Chicago. More information will appear in future editions of *eWind*.

From Larry

ABCMC Friends,

Advent is not only the beginning of the Christian year but also a time when we tend to focus on babies and children. There's good reason for that, obviously.

But It is also a time when we as American Baptists can express our gratitude for pastoral leaders, now retired, who have cared for us individually and as families, as congregations and institutions, over the years.

I hope, therefore, that you will seriously consider making a gift -- even a small one -- to the Retired Ministers and Missionary Offering in December. Your church has materials on the RMMO to use. Make Advent and Christmas a gift-receiving time for some grandpas and grandmas too!

Larry Greenfield
Executive Minister

ABCMC Festival of Music

To date, choirs and other musical groups from the following churches have agreed to perform at 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:

Central Spanish Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Berwyn
First Baptist Church of Chicago
First Baptist Church of Maywood
Irving Park Baptist Church
North Shore Spanish Baptist Church
Rivers of Living Water Christian Center
Third Baptist Church of Chicago

Any other churches interested in performing should contact Lowell Young immediately at 773-370-2003 or younglowell@aol.com.

Even though your church may not be performing, please make every effort to have large numbers of people from your church attend what will be a glorious time of praising God and celebrating the beauty of the Christmas season in music and song.

Prior to the performances will be a mass singing of seasonal songs, and the program will conclude with a mass singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

A free-will offering in support of the region will be taken, but the concert will be FREE. Anyone who cannot attend, but would like to contribute may send a check to ABCMC, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60631.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

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.

Organ and Bells in La Grange

On Saturday, December 1, the First Baptist Church of La Grange, 21 N. Catherine Avenue, will present two identical concerts featuring their organ, hand bells and church musicians. The first concert will be at 5:30 p.m., and the second one at 7 p.m. Hot chocolate, hot cider and baked goodies will be served in the church social hall after each concert. This program is part of the community Christmas walk. Everyone is welcome to come to the concerts, whether or not you are participating in the walk. For more information, please phone the church at 708-352-2740.

North Shore Second Sunday

The North Shore Second Sunday Series presents

The North Shore Baptist Church Chancel Choir and Ruach, North Shore's contemporary music group, in an afternoon of Christmas Carols, both sacred and secular.

The Chancel Choir will perform Lloyd Pfautsch's "A Day for Dancing," contemporary settings of nine medieval English carols. The choir will be accompanied by a small group of musicians, including North Shore's own Mae Thornburgh on oboe and Randy Fleer on bassoon.

After the Chancel Choir's performance, everyone is invited downstairs for Christmas cookies, cocoa, and a carol sing. Ruach will lead the singing, featuring a program of favorite Christmas songs.

Sunday, December 9, 2007
2:00pm

North Shore Baptist Church
5244 N. Lakewood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640
773-728-4200

The performance is free and all ages are welcome.

The North Shore Second Sunday Series is a recital series featuring musicians and musical groups from Chicago's North Shore neighborhoods. Performances are scheduled on the second Sunday of each month from October through March. All performances are at North Shore Baptist Church and start at 2:00 p.m.

The North Shore Second Sunday Series is in its second season. The remaining performances in its 2007-2008 schedule are:

January 13, 2008
Edge O'Town Sweet Adelines Chorus

February 10, 2008
VII Brass Ensemble

March 9, 2008
Chicago Children's Choir

The recitals are free and open to everyone. Please come and join us!

North Shore Baptist Church was first gathered 102 years ago; is an American Baptist Church; supports ministries from the immediate neighborhood to all corners of the world; provides Sunday Worship in three languages; is proud of its long history of multi-ethnic membership; and welcomes new members.

For more information about the recital series, visit the web-site at <http://SecondSundaySeries.org>, call North Shore Baptist Church at 773-728-4200, or send an E-mail to info@SundaySundaySeries.org.

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

November 29 United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

This invitation is from the American Friends Service Committee.

Vigil: End the Siege of Gaza!

When: Thursday, November 29, 2007, 4-6 pm

Where: Water Tower Park, 830 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

Bring your flashlight for "candlelight" effect

Sponsors: American Friends Service Committee, Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy, Jewish Voice for Peace- Chicago, Arab-Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East

Call for more information: 312-427-2533 x18

For more information on the Palestinian International Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza: <http://www.end-gaza-siege.ps/IndexEn.htm>

Separation of Church and State

This invitation is from the North Shore Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The next regular meeting of the North Shore Chapter will be on Thursday, November 29th at 7:00 pm in the 1st Floor Auditorium of the Northbrook Public Library 1201 Cedar Lane - Northbrook.

Our guest speaker will be Bonnie Grabenhofer, president of the Illinois National Organization for Women (NOW), who will speak on the topic of Planned Parenthood and Church-State Separation. While much of the discussion will center around the recent controversy over the Aurora Planned Parenthood Clinic, this will not be a discussion of the morality and/or ethics of abortion, but will rather focus on church-state separation issues. For more details, see our website at www.nscaw.org

We hope to see you there!

Cheers,

Matt Lowry - President
North Shore AU chapter
www.nscaw.org

Christmas by Candlelight

This invitation is from Judson University in Elgin.

You are invited to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with Judson University at our annual Christmas by Candlelight celebration on November 30, 2007 and December 1, 2007, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Lindner Campus Commons on Judson's campus, 1151 N. State Street, Elgin.

It will be a traditional Christmas celebration with a hearty holiday meal followed by a special Christmas concert in the Herrick Chapel featuring Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass!

Comprised of 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, a tuba, percussion, and keyboards, Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass present original arrangements of hymn classics that are sure to captivate audiences of all ages. Critics have called their concerts "Truly, an unforgettable experience!"

The holiday season is quickly approaching, so don't delay! Make your reservations today for your family, friends, church group or office!

For more information regarding Christmas by Candlelight, contact Judson's Advancement Office at 847-628-2080 or e-mail us at advancement@JudsonU.edu.

[Click here to register online!](#)

ABCUSA NEWS

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

ABCUSA Is One Step Closer to Transfer of Valley Forge Mission Center

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/13/07) — At their November meeting, The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board's (MMBB) Board of Managers voted to join a Limited Liability Company (LLC) and a Limited Partnership (LP) of American Baptist Churches (ABC) Partners with a goal of purchasing the Valley Forge Mission Center. This was the next in a series of steps that began last June when the ABCUSA General Board approved a proposal to sell the property.

Following the General Board's decision, the property was offered to Brandywine Realty Trust, a real estate investment trust with a long term lease on the ABCUSA-owned property adjacent to the Mission Center. Included in its lease, Brandywine had a "right of first offer" on the property should ABCUSA ever decide to sell the property. As per the agreement, the property was offered to Brandywine who declined the offer in September allowing the recent vote by the MMBB Board to take place.

The next step in the process will be for ABCUSA to petition a New York state court for permission to sell the property. Because ABCUSA is incorporated as a "not for profit" in New York, that state's Supreme Court must determine if it is in the organization's best interest to complete the sale. After that decision, the LLC and the LP would be legally formed and the property transferred to the ABC Partners LP, which includes ABCUSA, National Ministries, International Ministries and MMBB.

It is anticipated the sale will be complete early in 2008. Proceeds of the sale will provide an endowment to partially fund the work of ABCUSA's Office of the General Secretary and related ministries.

Two American Baptist Women Honored at NCC General Assembly

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/21/07) — Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, former director of Ecumenical Formation for American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), and Rev. Mary Mild, former director of American Baptist Personnel Services for National Ministries (NM), were among twenty-four women recognized for work in the ecumenical movement by the National Council of Churches (NCC) at their General Assembly in Woodbridge, N.J., Nov. 6-8.

Each year, the Justice for Women Work Group of the NCC sponsors a Women's Caucus Lunch open to all interested delegates and visitors at the General Assembly. This year the lunch was dedicated to Claire Randall, the first female General Secretary of the NCC, who passed away in September and also recognized the thirty-year anniversary of the Work Group. At the lunch, Chhangte and Mild were honored for their work in the field of ecumenism and service on the Justice for Women Work Group.

"It brings me great pleasure to see Rothang's work recognized by the National Council of Churches in this way," said Rev. A. Roy Medley, ABCUSA general secretary. "Her dedication to the ecumenical movement and her important role on the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches reflect great credit upon herself and all American Baptists, whom she represents."

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director for NM, said, "We are very pleased about this national recognition of Rev. Mild's ministry. She is one of ABCUSA's pioneers, advocating for and serving women and the church. Her remarkable ministry journey includes exemplary service as

both a lay person and clergy professional. It was my pleasure to join with many other American Baptists at the luncheon where Mary Mild was counted among the roll call of outstanding women ecumenical leaders. She is deserving of this honor.”

The NCC also took the opportunity at the lunch to announce the new Claire Randall Fund in Women’s Development which will support Ecumenical Justice for Women programs, Leadership Development for Women of Diverse Traditions, the full participation of lay and clergy women in the ecumenical community and production of resources for women’s ministry.

ABCUSA is an active member of the NCC, an ecumenical partnership of 35 of America's Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican, historic African American and traditional peace churches.

PEACE NEWS

Film and Discussion

FREE public FILM & DISCUSSION program
*--on the U.S. weapons of mass destruction using depleted uranium,
lethal, toxic, inhuman radioactive weapons used in Iraq, Afghanistan
and elsewhere--*

Albany Park, North Park, Mayfair Neighbors for Peace and Justice will be showing
***The Invisible War: Depleted Uranium & the Politics
of Radiation***

**Saturday, December 1 at 2 p.m. at the Albany Park Branch
Library**

The library is at 5150 N. Kimball, Foster and Kimball. (This is four blocks north of the last stop on the Brown Line.) The Kimball bus stops right on the corner, as does the Foster bus. It is wheel chair accessible. Questions? **Call 773.250.3335.**

For the discussion: Have we been informed about the use of depleted uranium weapons by the main media outlets? Who is responsible for the problems resulting from the use of depleted uranium weapons? What can we do to deal with this and associated problems? ...All views are welcome.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for Jan and Larry Martin, ABC missionaries in rural Thailand, where they work with families and teach them about Jesus and help them learn to manage their finances and develop small businesses.

Please pray for ABC missionaries David and Leslie Turley, and the Bible studies they lead in Okinawa, Japan.

Please hold in prayer the work of Katherine and Wayne Niles, ABC missionaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where they help people develop ways of making a living through agriculture or business.

Please pray for the healing of the many folks who are dealing with seasonal colds and illnesses.

Please consider prayerfully how our gifts to the RMMO bring delight to the hearts of those who have retired after years of service in our denomination.

CALENDAR

November 29--Vigil for ending the seige of Gaza, Water Tower Park, 830 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 4-6 p.m.

Bring your flashlight for "candlelight" effect

November 29--Meetin of the North Shore Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, 7:00 p.m., 1st Floor Auditorium, Northbrook Public Library 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook.

November 30--Benefit Concert for music ministry, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 7 p.m. Rev. Dr. Alice Greene is scheduled to sing a solo.

December 1--Christmas Bazaar and luncheon, the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

December 1--Christmas concert at the First Baptist Church of La Grange, 21 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange, 5:30 p.m. and 7 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.

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

April 16-19, 2008--"Daughters of the Flame" women in ministry conference, St. Louis.

April 22-25, 2008--"Fanning the Flame" national pastors' conference, Green Lake Conference Center.

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.

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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