

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

December 5, 2007

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes;
cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead
for the widow.
Isaiah 1:16-17

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SATURDAY! 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

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

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.

Christmas Cantata

The First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, will present its annual Christmas cantata Sunday, December 16, 2007 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The title is "God's Love Gift," by Harold DeCou. The pastor is the Rev. Jesse M. Brown. The choir director is Virginia Prince.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Karen Walker Freeburg's Mother

Karen Walker Freeburg's mother, Margaret Walker, passed very peacefully – and in a blessing-filled way – from this life to the next on Sunday, December 2. The service was to be held today in the chapel at Judson Park retirement community in De Moines, Washington, where she lived. Please keep Karen, her father Jimmy Walker, and their family in prayer. Karen is Associate Professor of Ministry & Christian Spirituality at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

International Ministries Sends \$10,000 to Bangladesh Partner for Cyclone Sidr Relief

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/03/07) — International Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA has provided a \$10,000 disaster relief grant to help with relief and recovery in Bangladesh after Cyclone Sidr struck two weeks ago.

The grant, funded by One Great Hour of Sharing, was requested by Rev. Stan Murray, area director for Southeast Asia, and global consultant Walt White. It will go to Symbiosis Bangladesh, a local partner and development agency, which will use the money to reconstruct homes and replace important livestock and other animals that families lost due to the cyclone.

According to media reports, Sidr struck on Nov. 15, causing a 15-foot water surge that crippled coastal areas, and has caused the deaths of an estimated 3,500 people. More than 2 million people have been displaced, according to reports.

"We are very grateful for the relief funds being provided by several agencies, including American Baptist through their One Great Hour of Sharing," said White, who is the U.S. representative of Symbiosis. White, who had served jointly for International Ministries and the Australian Baptists in Bangladesh, helped start Symbiosis 12 years ago. The development agency focuses on integrated rural development, health, women and children, and vocational training.

White said more than \$65,000 is being raised, which will be used to provide immediate assistance of \$200 per cyclone-affected family. The money will be used to either replace livestock and other animals killed, or to rebuild homes with a strong concrete pillar in the center, and tin roofs. The homes are primarily made of bamboo, which has to be replaced regularly. White said the goal would be to build new homes where at least a foundation could remain if there was another major storm.

Bangladesh, almost entirely surrounded by Northeast India and a small part of Myanmar, is in a low-lying area, which is vulnerable to cyclones. A storm in 1970 killed about half a million people, and another storm in 1991, caused over 143,000 deaths.

American Baptists wishing to support ongoing Bangladesh efforts can do so through their church's monthly report of mission support, designating contributions "OGHS-Bangladesh Cyclone." For online contributions, go to the Give option available at www.abc-usa.org.

In 1950, several American Protestant denominations merged their campaigns for relief to create what is now known as the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). American Baptists joined this

effort in 1973. The collective effort raises about \$20 million annually for development aid, disaster relief and refugee resettlement assistance in more than 70 countries around the world.

Judson Press Book Awarded National Recognition

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/04/07) — The Judson Press book *Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities* has been chosen as a finalist in the “Social Change” category of the National Best Books 2007 Awards.

The recognition of excellence puts this book among more than 500 national winners and finalists announced by USABookNews.com, an online magazine and review Web site for mainstream and independent publishing houses. A complete listing of winners and finalists is available at usabooknews.com.

[*Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities*](#)—the 2007-2008 ABC Reads selection—analyzes problems causing poverty and offers solutions to the crisis affecting nearly 30 million children living in low-income or poor families. *Publisher's Weekly* describes the book as “a concrete starting point for those in government, social services and churches looking for solutions to these desperate problems.”

Editors Ron Sider and Heidi Unruh draw from the wide-ranging expertise of those addressing the challenge: social service professionals, pastors, academics and other activists. The conditions and opportunities for children living in poverty are examined from a variety of perspectives—biblical, educational, physical, sociological and political—and the book also promotes positive change through public policy and faith-based initiatives.

Ten percent of proceeds from the book's sales will support the [Children in Poverty](#) initiative, a denomination-wide effort endorsed by the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA.

Founded in 1824, Judson Press—a publishing ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA—produces Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of persons, congregations, communities and cultures.

To order *Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities* or a complete catalog of Judson resources, visit judsonpress.com or call 800-458-3766.

Baptist Center for Ethics Lifts Up CHRISTIAN CITIZEN Prophetic Ministry Focus

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/04/07) — Two articles from a recent issue of National Ministries' publication *The Christian Citizen*, focused on prophetic ministry, are featured on the Baptist Center for Ethics' Web site at ethicsdaily.com.

“Where Have All the Prophets Gone?” by the Rev. Dr. Marvin A. McMickle, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland and professor of homiletics at Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio, is included on the site's “Movie, Books & Culture” pages. This article was featured on the ethicsdaily.com home page for a short time as well.

In addition, a commentary by National Ministries' Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, “Repairers of the Breach, Restorers of Paths,” is featured on the site's “Church Leadership” pages.

“This recognition of *The Christian Citizen* by the Baptist Center for Ethics (BCE) is a testament to the quality of the publication and the excellent content provided by our contributing authors,” says Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, managing director of Resource Development for National Ministries. “The

fact that BCE has chosen to highlight two articles from the prophetic ministry issue is an encouraging reminder of the desire in some corners of Baptist life for work and witness that challenges the base materialism and self striving so pervasive in our society—one that calls for a fundamental change in our nation's priorities."

Long a foundation for faith-based efforts to redeem society's institutions and practices, prophetic ministry is a scripturally-founded, Christ-centered gift afforded "God-fearing men and women who were willing and able to speak truth to power," writes McMickle. From Samuel and Isaiah to Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King Jr. and William Sloane Coffin, "they reminded us of who we said we believed in and...how we had promised to live."

For information about *The Christian Citizen* and other National Ministries resources, call 800-ABC-3USA/ext. 2394 or visit nationalministries.org.

PEACE NEWS

BPFNA Features Larry Greenfield

The fall 2007 issue of *Baptist Peacemaker* includes an article, "Confession and Profession" by ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield. The article is the address that Larry gave to the Peace Breakfast of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America on June 30 at the ABCUSA Biennial Meeting.

The confession was that Baptists—including the BPFNA—"have not mounted a witness, a Baptist witness, that effectively challenges our national leaders, our fellow citizens, and even our own Baptist congregations, to consider, with any seriousness at all in this first decade of the new millennium, the way of peace that comes from following the Prince of Peace." This failure makes us "complicit in this evil and unjust war" that the U.S. is waging in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Larry's profession was "a profound sense of gratitude for the God of grace who forgives me of my sins, explicit and complicit, who frees me from myself and the ideologies that would keep me bound, and who empowers me to walk on a new path as part of a new community that is defined by a love that is inclusive of all."

Be sure to read Larry's address. For information about receiving *Baptist Peacemaker*, please visit www.bpfna.org.

SATURDAY! *Peace Vigil*

This Saturday, December 8, from 3 pm to 4 pm, Families for Peace will hold its monthly silent vigil at the corner of Arlington Heights Rd. and Northwest Highway, northeast corner. Signs provided or bring your own. Children, military families welcome. Site is accessible. Dress warmly.

Families for Peace is a group of concerned citizens working to promote peace dialogue in the northwest suburbs: Sisters of the Living Word, The Viatorian Community and the Women's Resource Center.

Contact this address for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

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.

Please hold in prayer congregations that are in the midst of pastoral transitions.

Please pray for LaMon and Pat Brown, ABC missionaries who teach at a seminary in Thailand.

CALENDAR

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

SATURDAY! December 8--Peace Vigil in Arlington Heights at Arlington Heights Road and Northwest Highway, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY! 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.

SUNDAY! 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

MONDAY! 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--Christmas cantata at First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, in worship service, 11 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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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