

# **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 12, 2007

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***Christmas Blessings***

The ABCMC staff sends to the entire ABCMC family our warmest wishes for the Christmas season.

**Larry Greenfield, Lynne Kelley, Tony Rake, Jesse Smith and Lowell Young**

### **TOMORROW! Rev. J. Frederick Norton**

Rev. J. Frederick Norton, former pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1113 Clark Street, Evanston, has gone to be with the Lord. The wake and funeral for him will be Thursday at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. respectively.

### **What a Great Time We Had!**

Folk from many ABCMC congregations gathered on Saturday, December 8 at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Baptist Church for a festival of Christmas and Advent music. It was a wonderful way for the ABCMC family to join together to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The program began with everyone singing Christmas carols together in both Spanish and English. Soloists and groups from 9 congregations performed during the course of the afternoon. The program concluded with a large group singing--unrehearsed--the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah, and they sounded terrific.

It was a fine program filled with music and fellowship that everyone enjoyed. We plan to have such a program again in future years.

### **Thinking Theologically**

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield creates a fortnightly column for Protestants for the Common Good. His latest column is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

### **Fund Raising**

## **SPECIAL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF METRO CHICAGO**

*PURCHASE FROM 25 TO 200 TICKETS FOR SELECTED DE PAUL UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES FOR \$5.00 EACH; SELL THESE TICKETS FOR THE FACE VALUE PRICE OF \$15.00 EACH; YOUR CHURCH KEEPS THE RESULTING PROFITS!*

### **The Available Games**

*Each participating ABCMC church may select the one game available in January 2008 and/or one of the two games available in February 2008.*

**JANUARY 2008**

***Wednesday, January 30, 2008 @ 7:30 PM vs. Syracuse***  
(The deadline to purchase tickets for this game is Friday, January 11, 2008)

## FEBRUARY 2008

*Saturday, February 9, 2008 @ 1:00 PM vs. University of South Florida*

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008 @ 8:00PM vs. Louisville*

(The deadline to purchase tickets for one of the February games is Friday, Jan. 25, 2008)

*(All De Paul men's basketball home games are played at the All State Arena in Rosemont, IL)*

HURRY! Get your church's block of tickets while they are available! Each church may purchase a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 200 tickets for one or two of the available three games.

COME TO THE ALL STATE ARENA'S FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT AND EXPERIENCE THE ENJOYMENT AND EXCITEMENT OF DE PAUL MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL AND RAISE FROM \$250.00 TO \$4,000.00 FOR YOUR CHURCH!

For further information, please contact Lowell Young at 773-370-2003 or [younglowell@aol.com](mailto:younglowell@aol.com). To order your church's tickets, please contact Jay Finnerty, De Paul University Director of Ticket Sales at 773-325-7544 or via e-mail at [jfinner2@depaul.edu](mailto:jfinner2@depaul.edu). (Please refer to PROJECT 501).

## **NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS**

### **SUNDAY! *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**

### ***Grown-Up Christmas List***

*This message is from Douglas Sharp, a member of Community Baptist Church in Warrenville, and theology professor at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.*

Dear friends,

Back in 1990, David Foster and Linda Thompson-Jenner wrote the words and music to a piece entitled "Grown-up Christmas List." It has been recorded by such divas as Amy Grant and Barbara Streisand and can be heard at this

time of year on many radio stations and elevators. When I first heard it, I was quite moved, and ever since I've practiced and played it religiously on my piano during the holiday season—and done something extra-ordinary during the holidays that would help make a difference.

I've stumbled across a YouTube video that backgrounds the song as sung by Kelly Clarkson. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zRtLptyc4> I pass it on to you as my Christmas gift - hoping that your hearing and seeing it will make a difference... Toward that end, I also pass on the lyrics of the piece.

Peace,

Douglas

### **My Grown Up Christmas List**

Do you remember me  
I sat upon your knee  
I wrote to you  
With childhood fantasies

Well, I'm all grown up now  
And still need help somehow  
I'm not a child  
But my heart still can dream

So here's my lifelong wish  
My grown up christmas list  
Not for myself  
But for a world in need

No more lives torn apart  
That wars would never start  
and wars would never start  
And time would heal all hearts  
And everyone would have a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end  
This is my grown up christmas list

As children we believed  
The grandest sight to see  
Was something lovely  
Wrapped beneath our tree

Well heaven only knows  
That packages and bows  
Can never heal  
A hurting human soul

No more lives torn apart  
That wars would never start  
And time would heal all hearts  
And everyone would have a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end  
This is my grown up christmas list

What is this illusion called the innocence of youth  
Maybe only in our blind belief can we ever find the truth  
(there'd be)

No more lives torn apart  
That wars would never start  
And time would heal all hearts  
And everyone would have a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end, oh  
This is my grown up christmas list

This is my grown up christmas list

## **TONIGHT! Protestants for the Common Good Party Tonight**

Wednesday, December 12, Protestants for the Common Good (PCG) will host a Young Professionals Karaoke Fundraiser at Trader Todd's, 3216 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago at 7 p.m. The event will feature 2 hours of open bar and light snacks. Karaoke will start at 8 p.m. Proceeds will benefit PCG's efforts toward social justice issues including: health care for all, the environment, opportunities for ex-offenders, poverty and human rights/equality. For questions, directions or to confirm attendance, please contact Courtney O'Brien at the PCG office, 312-223-9544, ext. 221 or [courtney@thecommongood.org](mailto:courtney@thecommongood.org).

### ***Prayer for Christian Unity***

*This invitation is from the Ecumenical Millennium Committee.*

December 2007

Dear Parish/Congregation Leader:

The Ecumenical Millennium Committee invites you and the people of your congregation to participate with your presence at an **Ecumenical Prayer Service, January 20, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** which will be held at Christ Community Church of God in Christ 1151 E. 170th St. South Holland. Dr. David Daniels will bring the message.

This will be the eighth year the service has been sponsored by the churches listed here. The EMC was formed at the end of 1999 to herald in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Christ, and continues to promote the goal of unity in Christ as the goal and emblem of this new millennium.

**You are encouraged to invite the members of your congregation/parish to this ecumenical service. Please distribute the enclosed flyer as widely as possible.**

The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2008 is "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5: 17) Despite our brokenness and imperfections, we seek through prayer the unity God intends for his creation. The service is adapted by the Ecumenical Millennium Committee from a service prepared by an ecumenical group of biblical scholars, theologians, priests, pastors and lay persons.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was established in 1908. It is now sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. It is celebrated between the feasts of Saint Peter (January 18) and St. Paul (January 25). Concurrent with Dr. Martin Luther King Day observances, it compels Christians to promote reconciliation among races, nations, and all peoples, as well as among churches.

Please promote attendance at the January 20<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Prayer Service and participation locally throughout the whole Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Edgar L. Hiestand Jr.  
Chairperson WPCU service

## **ABCUSA NEWS**

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

### ***General Executive Council Work on ABC Restructure***

The General Executive Council (GEC) of the American Baptist Churches USA met for two days, December 2-4, in Kansas City to advance its deliberations on a proposed ABC structure and its

representative process. The group advanced work on its concept of the Mission Table, the work of the National Staff Leadership Council, and the structure and role of the Board of General Ministries. Critical to the discussions was a commitment to the spiritual vitality and health of the local church and to the reduction of costs as compared to the current structure. This work will now go back to the Writing Team for drafting. To read more, please go to <http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2007/20071206a.htm>.

***A Must-Read for American Baptists:  
Jimmy Carter's Op-Ed in Tuesday's Atlanta Journal Constitution***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/07/07)** — ABCUSA General Secretary issued the following memo today to American Baptists:

Dear Friend:

While I know that our thoughts are focused on this most holy of seasons, I want to call attention to the largest, most historic event in Baptist history that will take place only seven weeks from now — the three-day celebration of a New Baptist Covenant, beginning Jan. 30, in Atlanta, Ga.

Yesterday, The Atlanta Journal Constitution ran an opinion piece by former President Jimmy Carter that outlines the reasons and need for such a gathering. It contains a call to action that we cannot ignore. You can read it by clicking on this link:  
[http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2007/12/10/cartered\\_1211.html](http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2007/12/10/cartered_1211.html)

If you haven't already reserved your place at this unprecedented event, you can register (for free) at this link. <http://www.newbaptistcelebration.org/>.

Please also make sure you register as soon as possible for the Feb. 2 free American Baptist Breakfast at <http://www.abc-usa.org/documents/nbc.htm> More than 300 people have already registered. Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Neville Callam will be our keynote speaker and our special guest will be Dr. Alan Bean, executive director of the Friends of Justice, a faith-based, grassroots organization that works to restore due process to all Americans. Also on our website, you'll find materials you can duplicate and distribute, such as church bulletins, to make sure that your fellow church members and friends know about the event and consider attending.

As a Baptist people who are committed to serving as the hands and feet of Christ, I urge you to join the larger Baptist community at this meeting to determine how, together, we can focus on new ways to fulfill Christ's mandate to share the Gospel.

With my best for a blessed Christmas and New Year.  
Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley  
General Secretary  
American Baptist Churches

***Daughters of the Flame Conference***

ABC Women in Ministry are encouraged to attend the Daughters of the Flame Conference on April 16 – 19, 2008 at the Hilton, St. Louis International Airport. More information is available at <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/DaughtersoftheFlameConferenceSchedule-Leadership.doc>

**MINISTERS COUNCIL**

## ***Clergy Renewal Sabbatical Grants***

The Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program provides sabbatical grants up to \$45,000 “to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for the pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection.” This year’s selection process has awarded grants to 132 pastors. We congratulate American Baptist colleagues Naomi Kirstein, Wellspring Community Church, Des Moines, IA; Heather Entekin, Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS; James Evans, St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church, Rochester, NY; and Donna Britt, Calvary Baptist Church, Roanoke, VA. The next application due date is May 14, 2008. If you are interested in applying check the website and begin the process soon: <http://www.lillyendowment.org/religion.html>.

### **PEACE NEWS**

#### **SUNDAY! *Seeking Peace in Palestine***

TO: ABCMC Colleagues

FROM: Larry Greenfield

As many of you know I have an intense and longstanding commitment to justice for the Palestinian people and share the assessment of many that a just settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is key to peace in the whole Middle East region.

Understanding the issues is absolutely key to making progress on this critical matter. That's why I urge you to attend the event announced below, which features three of my friends: Rosemary Ruether, Jim Wall, and Dean Lueking. And please do encourage family and friends to join you. (Unfortunately I have a commitment in NYC, so will not be able to attend, but I look forward to hearing about the program. But if I were here, this is one program I wouldn't miss.)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prominent Christian thinkers share personal reflections on the crisis in Palestine

**A presentation by  
Rosemary Radford Ruether, Jim Wall, and Dean Lueking**

Sunday, December 16, 2007, 2:30pm  
St. Giles Catholic Church  
McDonough Hall  
1101 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park, IL

Also: SPECIAL GIFT SALE TO BENEFIT PALESTINIAN ARTISANS, PRODUCERS (see below)

**Sponsored by the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine  
Co-sponsored by Beyond the Soundbite Project of the St. Giles Family Mass Community**

Rosemary Radford Ruether is a noted Roman Catholic feminist theologian and prolific author praised for her wide range of inquiry. Her books include the seminal *Sexism and God-Talk*; *Faith and Fratricide* (an examination of Christian anti-Semitism); and *The Wrath of Jonah* (a study of Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict). Ruether is an emerita professor of feminist theology at Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union, as well an emerita professor of applied theology at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Jim Wall, an ordained United Methodist minister, was Editor of *Christian Century* for 27 years and is now Senior Contributing Editor. Wall is the author of *Church and Cinema*; *Winning the War, Losing our Soul*; and *Hidden Treasures: Searching for God in Modern Culture*. Wall served in key positions in the electoral campaigns of Bill Clinton, Paul Simon, and Jimmy Carter. He has specialized in writing on religion and

politics in the Middle East.

Dean Lueking is Pastor Emeritus of Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest. He holds advanced degrees from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and the University of Chicago. He is author of numerous publications, including *The Grace of It All: The Art of Pastoral Ministry and Let's Talk Marriage*. He is currently an adjunct professor for World Vision and Habitat For Humanity staff in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. He is the recipient of numerous awards from institutions including the Anti-Defamation League and Dominican University.

For more information, 312/427-2533x18 or [justpeace1@aol.com](mailto:justpeace1@aol.com)

## **SUNDAY! *Special Gift Sale to Benefit Palestinian Artisans, Producers***

At the December 16 event, be sure to visit our selection of distinctive traditional crafts and fair-trade merchandise from Palestine and Israel! The sale of these items helps Palestinians preserve their rich craft traditions while bringing vital income to artisans and farmers struggling to maintain economic self-sufficiency despite conditions that make normal commerce difficult or impossible. Our purchases build hope for a better future by supporting the continued presence and economic self-sufficiency of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Choose from these distinctive products:

- handsome bottles of Zatoun fair-trade Palestinian extra-virgin olive oil
- decorative gift boxes containing pure, natural olive oil soaps—one of Nablus' most-famous products
- hand-painted pottery from Bethlehem adorned with beautiful traditional motifs
- artisan-carved olive wood candle holders, produced by a handicraft cooperative in Beit Sahour
- modern replicas of ancient terracotta oil lamps, hand-built in Nazareth and packaged in gift sets containing wicks and a vial of fragrant olive oil fuel
- purses and accessory cases featuring intricate and colorful traditional tatreez embroidery—a vital source of income for Palestinian women

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for ABCUSA missionary Lauran Bethell and the people with whom she ministers in an effort to end the exploitation and abuse of women and children around the world.

Please pray for ABCUSA missionaries Daniel and Sarah Chetti, who serve at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. Please pray also for their daughter Rachel Chetti, who had to be evacuated to Oregon during the upheaval in Lebanon this year. Please pray also for the people and government of Lebanon.

Please pray for the ABCMC staff as they move the ABCMC office over the next few weeks.

## **CALENDAR**

**TONIGHT! December 12--**Protestants for the Common Good Young Professionals Christmas Karaoke Fundraiser, Trader Todd's 3216 N. Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, 7-9 p.m.

**TOMORROW! December 13--**Wake for J. Frederick Norton, former pastor of MountZion Missionary Baptist Church, 1113 Clark Street, Evanston, 10:30 a.m.; funeral at 11:30 a.m.

**SUNDAY! December 16--**Christmas cantata at First Baptist Church of Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, in worship service, 11 a.m.

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

**SUNDAY! December 16**--"O Little Town of Bethlehem," St. Giles Catholic Church, McDonough Hall, 1101 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park, 2:30 p.m. Also: SPECIAL GIFT SALE TO BENEFIT PALESTINIAN ARTISANS, PRODUCERS

**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](http://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, Hilton, St. Louis Airport. Please see <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/DaughtersoftheFlameConferenceSchedule-Leadership.doc>

**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](http://www.morethanaweek.org).

**July 14-19, 2008**--Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America's Peace Camp. Please visit [www.bpfna.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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. The office of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago is at 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60631