

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 19, 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

Moving Events

The ABCMC office is engrossed in sorting, wrapping, packing, recycling and tossing. No, we're

not getting ready for Christmas: we're getting ready to move! Our official moving date is Monday, December 31.

Our new office on Grand Avenue on Chicago will not be ready until March. In the meantime, each staff member will be working at home.

Information about ABCMC's mailing address and phone number will appear in future editions of *eWind*. Please watch this spot for more information.

Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Sharp Begins New Ministry

Douglas Sharp, 2006 recipient of ABCMC's Jutsuo Morikawa Award for Relating Christian Faith to Contemporary Life, will begin a new ministry with Protestants for the Common Good on January 14, 2008. He will begin his new work after 23 years as a professor of theology at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will teach his scheduled courses at the seminary as an adjunct professor in the spring 2008 semester.

In his new position, he will have responsibility for developing and managing the Academy for the Common Good. Douglas explained that the academy is "an educational program that has as its intended outcome the deployment of academy-trained persons for advocacy and activism in matters that are subject to debate and resolution in the political arena, matters that affect the quality of life for all in the U.S. of A. The academy's program will be training Christians for involvement in the 'public square' as advocates for social and economic justice."

We congratulate Douglas on this new opportunity. We know that God will make him a blessing to Protestants for the Common Good. We share his excitement about what he will be able to accomplish with the Academy for the Common Good.

Hunger

Last week we sent out an extra edition of *eWind* calling attention to the need for food in community pantries, and asking you to let us know what you and your church are doing to respond to the crisis. We received this message from Millie Myren, interim pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church in Chicago:

Morgan Park for its "In Lieu of Christmas Cards" this year, (especially to church members) donations were given to the Maple/Morgan Park Food Pantry. This is a local food pantry sponsored by the Beverly Morgan Park Community of Churches. At Thanksgiving and Christmas alike they give away hundreds of holiday meal fixings complete with turkey or ham. We took this project on for Christmas because we learned that they ran out of food on Thanksgiving, the demand was so high.

Please let us know what you and your church are doing, so we can lift it up for prayer and thanksgiving.

Rev. J. Frederick Norwood

Rev. J. Frederick Norwood, former pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Evanston, has gone to be with the Lord. Services were held on Thursday, December 13.

A Special Fundraising Opportunity for the Chicago Metro Region and ABCMC Churches

Below is information about a special fundraising opportunity for the Chicago Metro Region and ABCMC churches. As the information flyer describes, this special fundraising opportunity involves an ABCMC member church buying tickets for one or more De Paul University men's basketball home games at the discounted price of \$5.00 each and then selling these discounted tickets at the face value price of \$15.00 each, with the ABCMC member church keeping the resulting profits.

Last year, Irving Park Baptist Church participated in this project and realized a significant profit. This happened even though most Irving Park Baptist Church members were not sports or college basketball fans. However, the members of Irving Park Baptist Church clearly understood that their church would benefit from their efforts to sell game tickets at the face value price of \$15.00 each to their family, friends and business and work associates (as well as buying tickets for themselves). And so they did so enthusiastically. Oh, and by the way, those from the church who attended the game (and many were attending a De Paul men's college basketball game for the first time ever) ended up having a great time. In fact, things went so well last year that Irving Park Baptist Church already has decided to participate in this fundraiser in the 2007-08 season.

ABCMC churches are invited to follow the example of Irving Park Baptist Church and participate in this special fundraising opportunity this season. Make a decision to attend one or two of the De Paul men's basketball home games listed on the flyer; contact the De Paul ticket office and purchase your church's tickets at the discounted price of \$5.00 each; sell these discounted tickets for the face value price of \$15.00 each; and reap the profits.

PLEASE NOTE: The De Paul vs. Rutgers game on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 1:00 PM will be a fundraiser for the Chicago Metro Region. In order to succeed, this Regional fundraiser will need the support of ABCMC churches.

More specifically, the Chicago Metro Region will purchase a bloc of tickets at \$5.00 each for the 01/19/08 De Paul game vs. Rutgers. ABCMC churches will be asked to purchase from 6 to 12 tickets for that game from the Region at the face value price of \$15.00 each and then to sell these tickets for the same face value price. This will result in the Region securing its profit, while each participating ABCMC church will get its original investment (ranging from \$90.00 to \$180.00) back in full!

Doing this not only will help the Chicago Metro Region, it will also help each participating ABCMC church lay the groundwork for success with its own De Paul fundraising game(s). In other words, since they will have experienced first hand the enjoyment and excitement of a De Paul men's college basketball game, the 6 to 12 individuals from a particular ABCMC church who attend the Rutgers game will be better able to encourage others from their church to attend their own

church's De Paul fundraising game(s) and to promote the sale of tickets for those game(s).

ABCMC churches interested in supporting the Chicago Metro Region by purchasing 6-12 tickets for the January 19, 2008 De Paul vs. Rutgers game are asked to phone Lowell Young, ABCMC Mission Support Associate, at 773-370-2003 or to e-mail him at younglowell@aol.

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. 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. (Please refer to **PROJECT 501**).

ABCUSA NEWS

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

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>

Baptist Joint Committee News

These articles are from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.



In 'On Faith,' Walker asks: Who needs government observances? In his post for *On Faith* this week, Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director Brent Walker wrote that it's ironic that the season during which many celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace often comes with a manufactured "War on Christmas."

Walker was responding to this question:

Britain's equality chief says "It's time to stop being daft about Christmas. It's fine to celebrate and it's fine for Christ to be the star of the show" in all public celebrations. Are we being too politically correct about Christmas?

Walker said: "There is a big difference between *public* celebrations and governmental observances. Private citizens and religious organizations are perfectly free to celebrate Christmas openly, visibly and in most public places! It's only governments that, under the First Amendment, cannot observe religious holidays or lead religious exercises."

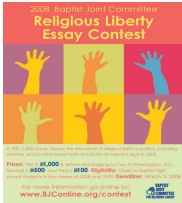
To read the entire post, please visit the [On Faith](#) Web site.

While you're online, view Hollman on *Dan Rather Reports!*

Rather moderated the town hall discussion taped recently at Princeton University in Princeton, N.J. Participants included the nation's top experts and academics,

featuring BJC General Counsel K. Hollyn Hollman and three additional panelists discussing the history of the religion clauses of the First Amendment. Click [here](#) to watch the show.

Religious Liberty Essay Contest



Forward this message to high school juniors and seniors!

WASHINGTON—To engage high school students in church-state issues and to generate interest from a wide range of Baptists, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty has launched the 2008 Religious Liberty Essay Contest.

Open to all Baptist high school students in the classes of 2008 and 2009, the contest offers a grand prize of **\$1,000** and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is **\$500**, and third prize is **\$100**.

Winners will be announced in the summer of 2008 and will be featured in the BJC's flagship publication, *Report from the Capital*. The grand prize winner will also be recognized at the BJC board meeting in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 6.

The topic for the 2008 contest is: In a 700-1000 word essay, discuss the relevance of religious faith to politics, including whether and to what extent faith should be an election issue in 2008. All entries must be postmarked by March 3, 2008.

New to the 2008 contest, students must have a submission coordinator review his or her essay before submitting it. Coordinators must be a staff member from the student's home church and cannot be a parent. The coordinator reviews the essay to ensure that it meets all the necessary requirements, is free of typographical and grammatical errors and appropriately addresses the topic. A submission coordinator may work with more than one student.

Essays will be judged on the depth of their content and the skill with which they are written. Students should demonstrate a sound knowledge of the subject matter and support their assertions and provide bibliographical references. Essays that do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be judged. Judges reserve the right to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.

Completed essays and registration forms should be mailed to: Attn: Baptist Joint Committee Essay Contest 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002.

Visit [the BJC's Web site](#) to download registration materials. For more information, contact Phallan Davis at 202-544-4226 or e-mail her at pdavis@bjconline.org

Click [here](#) to download a registration form.

Click [here](#) to download a coordinator form.

Click [here](#) to download a promotional flier.

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 Entrekin, 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

PRAYER REQUESTS

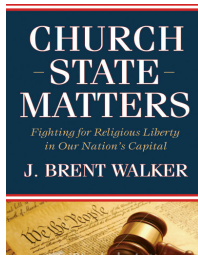
Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for the ABCMC staff as they pack and move the ABCMC office.

Please pray for those who are hungry and in need of food. Please support with prayer and action the ministries of food pantries. Please pray for churches as they reach out to help.

BOOK NOOK

Pre-ordering Available for Walker's 'Church State-Matters'



Mercer University Press is set to release J. Brent Walker's new book "*Church-State Matters: Fighting for Religious Liberty in Our Nation's Capital*" in April 2008. The book, a collection of essays, speeches, sermons, and congressional testimony, provides a living history of the modern era of the life of the Baptist Joint Committee, now in its eighth decade.

Church-State Matters includes historical essays dealing with the role of the pulpit in the fight for American independence, the involvement of James Madison and Thomas Jefferson in fashioning the First Amendment, and the contribution of numerous Baptists such as Roger Williams and John Clarke to our understanding of the proper relationship between church and state.

Pre-ordering is now available. Click [here](#) here to download an order form to be mailed or faxed to Mercer University Press.

CALENDAR

December 31--ABCMC office moving date.

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, 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. Aids and 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. The office of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago is at 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60631