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Please send communications for and about *eWind* to the editor, Lynne Kelley, at
lynne@abmc.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

May 7, 2008

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ABCMC NEWS

Extraordinary Opportunity on Saturday, May 10

My Sisters and Brothers in ABCMC,

We have an extraordinary opportunity to initiate (or is it "restart"?) our Christian engagement with the issue of race and ethnicity in church and society this coming Saturday--at the Family Council meeting at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. our host pastor, the Rev. Dr. Alice Greene will lead us in worship and preaching.

Then a distinguished panel of our pastoral colleagues will help us reflect on the issue. The panelists include:

The Rev. Dr. Lee H. Butler, Jr., Professor of Theology and Psychology at Chicago Theological Seminary, Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life, President of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, and Associate Pastor of Third Baptist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Marshall Hatch, Senior Pastor of the New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church and Civic Leader.

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Kohler, Senior Pastor of the Woodside Church and Community Leader in Flint, Michigan.

The Rev. Rony Reyes, Spanish Language Pastor and Minister of Missions at North Shore Baptist Church.

The Rev. David Gregg, our ABCMC representative to the General Board of the American Baptist Churches USA.

All of us then will engage in a conversation about what we have heard and where we think we as individuals and churches and a region out to go from here.

You don't have to be a member of the Family Council to join us for this morning of engagement. In fact, we welcome all who want to be enriched by this time together.

Our quarterly business meeting of the Family Council will take place later in the morning, followed by a lunch.

I look forward to your being with us. Please confirm your attendance plans with Tony Rake in the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655 or tony@abcmc.org.

Larry
Executive Minister

Disciples Dinner

Disciples' Dinner III
American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

RADICAL DISCIPLES: THE CHALLENGE OF NOW

**Saturday, June 21, 2008
Lindner Conference Center
(on the campus of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary)
660 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard**

**5:30 p.m. Reception
7 p.m. Dinner**

**Featured Speaker: Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins
Executive Director of National Ministries, ABCUSA
Chief Executive Officer, Judson Press**

**Reservations must be made and paid for in advance
\$35 donation per person or \$260 for a table of eight**

Facilities are wheelchair-accessible

**Contact office@abcmc.org or 773-804-1655 for more information.
Please make reservations ASAP, no later than May 31**

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

175th Anniversary Year Celebrations

This invitation is from the First Baptist Church of Chicago.

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary during 2008. Please join as we celebrate. Our Women's Day Service is Sunday, May 18th at 11:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Jasmyne A. Brown. Our Children's Day Service is Sunday, June 8th at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Khaliph Green, will be our speaker. Our Men's Day Service will be Sunday, July 13th at 11:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Phelps Pastor of Concord Baptist Church. On Anniversary Sunday, October 12th at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Michael Thomas, the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary will be our guest speaker. On Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. our guest speaker will be Rev. Reginald Bachus Pastor of the historic Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Roy Medley, the General Secretary of ABCUSA will be our guest speaker on December 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Jones

We extend warm congratulations to Damon Ranard Jones, Associate Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Chicago. On May 24 he will receive a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. The degree is the product of several years of hard work. We are proud of you, Dr. Jones!

Free Choir Robes

Available for no cost: 30 gently used adult choir robes (cherry red) with 25 white/gold reversible stoles. Call Christ Community Church (in Wheaton) at 630-665-2259 if interested.

Yard Sale

Just in time for spring cleaning, Woodside Church is holding the "Yards 'n Yards" multi-family rummage sale on Saturday, May 17 beginning at 9:00 a.m and running till 3:00 p.m.

So, clean out your home, your garage or attic. Then reserve a table for \$30 to hold your own sale. Or, consider donating your treasures, which will be sold to raise needed funds. Woodside will even arrange for pick-up of these donations for your convenience. And, of course, all are welcome to come and shop for a wide range of bargains. All proceeds will be used for church operations.

Woodside church is located at 1509 East Court Street, next to Mott College campus. Call 810-767-4911 to reserve a table and/or for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pluralism Sunday

This announcement is from the Center for Progressive Christianity.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 2008, churches around the world will dedicate their worship to a celebration of our interfaith world. Progressive Christians thank God for religious diversity! We don't claim that our religion is superior to all others. We can grow closer to God and deeper in compassion-and we can understand our own traditions better-through a greater awareness of the world's religions. Last year's event, on May 27, 2007, was celebrated in Christian churches in the United States, England, Australia, and Canada. This year, we expect even more congregations to participate.

If you haven't done so already- Now is the time to sign your church up for this special event! It can be just one part of your regular service- a reading, a dance, or within the sermon-or you can use the opportunity to celebrate pluralism throughout the entire service. Check out the [Pluralism Sunday](#) website for ideas and a wealth of resources.

We are asking that churches interested in participating [email our Pluralism Sunday Coordinator, Rev. Jim Burklo](#), with your name, your church and denomination, mailing address, and church website address, and also with your plans for holding the event in your church.

Planning for Pastoral Care in Disasters

On June 3 the Chicago Citywide Hospital Psychosocial Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee will present a conference, "Disaster Planning: Building Bridges to Provide Care." The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, 222 S. Riverside, Suite 1900, Chicago. A flier explaining the conference is attached to this issue of *eWind*. This conference will help us to understand how chaplains and other pastors can make positive contributions in the event of a disaster.

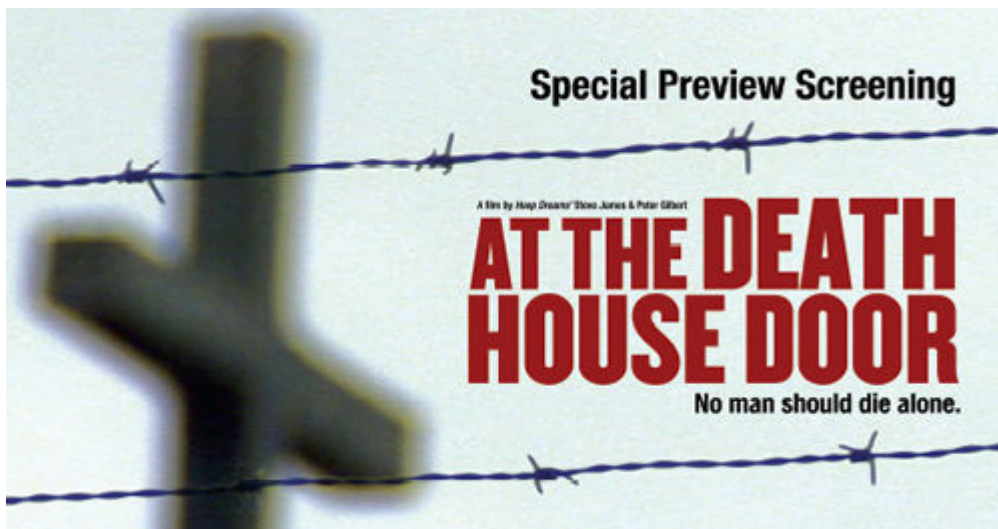
ABCMC Executive Minister Larry Greenfield says, "I urge pastors and other church leaders to take advantage of a conference on the role of religions leaders and communities in preparing for disaster relief--led, as you will note from the conference notice, by ABCMC's own John Wilson. Please make plans to attend."

To attend the conference, you must register at www.mchc.org. This conference is being offered free of charge through a grant provided by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. Professional Chaplains may be eligible to receive six CEU hours. Lunch will be provided. Please contact JoAnna Griffin at 312-747-9390 if you have any questions.

Film Viewing and Discussion

This invitation is from the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois

Civic Cinema: At the Death House Door **Chicago Screening and Discussion**



Wednesday, May 28

7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Northwestern University School of Law

Thorne Auditorium

375 East Chicago Avenue

Chicago

This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and can be made online. To RSVP email screening@aclu-il.org or call 312-201-9740 x307.

Join us for Kartemquin Films' latest award-winning documentary, *At the Death House Door*, which looks at the death penalty in Texas through the eyes of prison chaplain **Carroll Pickett**. After the screening, there will be a discussion on the ethics and effectiveness of the death penalty and the state of the criminal justice system in the United States, featuring **Carroll Pickett**. He will be joined by Chicago Tribune reporter **Steve Mills**, filmmakers **Steve James** and **Peter Gilbert**, **Ed Yohnka** of the ACLU of Illinois, and **Rob Warden**, director of the Center for Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University.

At The Death House Door tells the story of Carroll Pickett, who served 15 years as the death house chaplain to the infamous "Walls" prison unit in Huntsville and presided over 95 executions, including the world's first lethal injection. The film particularly focuses on how Pickett was affected by Carlos De Luna, one of the inmates he counseled and who is now widely-regarded as

wrongfully convicted—based on evidence uncovered by Chicago Tribune reporters Steve Mills and Maurice Possley. It is a film about of the failures of the criminal justice system; about one man's spiritual and moral journey; and how this very final act of punishment does not bring closure. It was co-directed and co-produced by Steve James and Peter Gilbert. It runs approximately 94 minutes. For more information on the film, visit its official website: <http://kartemquin.com/films/at-the-death-house-door>.

Note: Rev. Carroll Pickett will also participate in the 2008 ACLU National Membership Conference! Read more about it: <http://blog.aclu.org/index.php?/archives/652-Death-Row-Chaplain-Becomes-Abolition-Activist.html>.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

International Ministries to Give \$5,000 Grant for Myanmar Cyclone Relief

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 05/05/08) — American Baptist International Ministries will provide an initial \$5,000 disaster relief grant to help with relief and recovery in Myanmar, where Cyclone Nargis struck on Saturday.

The grant, funded by One Great Hour of Sharing, was requested by Rev. Stan Murray, area director for Southeast Asia. The initial funds will be used by partners to provide immediate relief of clean drinking water, non-perishable food, blankets and medical kits to those who are victims of the devastating storm.

According to media reports, Nargis struck on May 3, in a low-lying delta region of this Southeast Asian country, with winds of up to 120 miles per hour. News account give estimates of at least 10,000 deaths, with another 3,000 people missing and 100,000 people displaced. In a country with a population of nearly 55.4 million, the cyclone struck a region in the southwestern tip of the country, home to 24 million people.

"Myanmar has tremendous historical and current importance to American Baptists," said Murray. "Formerly known as Burma, our mission agency began with the work of the Judsons in that country. Today, we are still partners with the Myanmar Baptist Convention, and work with many ethnic groups from Burma who are refugees seeking to make a new life in the United States," Murray said. He added that International Ministries has not been able to make contact with its partners in Myanmar, but hopes to do so very soon and get better assessments of the immediate and long-term needs in the country for relief and recovery.

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

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.

World Mission Conferences, International Ministries

Whether you just starting to explore your commitment to mission or are deeply passionate and involved, the World Mission Conference is for YOU! Packed with news and stories from mission

fields in dozens of countries, the World Mission Conference is your chance to talk with your American Baptist missionaries and our international Baptist partners in mission. What is being done about the big issues facing us today? Through workshops, programs, videos, drama and sharing you'll think through the complex issues surrounding Human Trafficking, AIDS and Refugees.

Come experience international worship music and devotions. Step outside your comfort zone through unique "Mission in Motion" opportunities that give new meaning to having a hands-on mission experience. Learn about places overseas where you can volunteer for a week, a month or a year!

The conference has a Youth Mission Program for grades 6 - 12, and a brand new mission curriculum for the Kids Mission Program for grades K - 5. Child care is available too!

July 18 - 20, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, Oregon

September 19 - 21, Second Baptist Church, Suffield, Connecticut

October 3 - 5, First Baptist Church, Marshalltown, Iowa,

For registration and information:

www.worldmissionconference.org

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href="http://www.worldmissionconference.org">www.worldmissionconference.org

PEACE NEWS

Northwest Suburban Meeting

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project holds a monthly meeting at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect. This volunteer organization works with students and others in public high schools to promote peace. For more information, please visit www.nwsubpep.org. The next meeting will be on May 14.

Give the Gift of Peace this Mother's Day



**Baptist Peace Fellowship
of North America**

"Women want peace in their hearts. They want peace in their homes. They want to see their children grow up with enough food, healthy. They want to see their sons grow up and not get killed in wars. They want to see flowers in their gardens, rather than land mines. They are the main victims of war, and yet when the time comes for peacemaking they are not represented. We need to be the instruments to give women hope." - Ana D'Amico, a Baptist missionary in New York City

In 1870, Julia Ward Howe issued a [declaration](#) calling for women to rise up in opposition to war in all its forms. Believing that what we hold in common is above that which divides us, Howe urged women to come together across national lines and commit themselves to finding peaceful resolutions to conflicts.

Influenced by Howe's efforts, Anna Reeves Jarvis began a crusade to start a women's memorial day. After Jarvis' death, her daughter, Anna M. Jarvis, sought to establish a "Mother's Day" in remembrance of her mother and in honor of peace. She petitioned the superintendent of the church where her mother had taught Sunday School for 20 years, and on May 10, 1908, Mother's Day was observed in West Virginia. The custom spread



Julia Ward Howe

quickly to 45 states, and US President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day in 1914.

This Mother's Day, you can remember the origins of the day and honor the special women in your life by giving them gift memberships in the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. We'll send them a handwritten card acknowledging your gift, and, best of all, they'll receive a full year (6 issues) of our award-winning journal, *Baptist Peacemaker*, to inspire and inform the work of peacemaking in their own lives.

BPFNA membership starts at just \$40 and can be purchased securely online at our website or by phone at (704) 521-6051. [Click here](#) or visit www.bpfna.org and click the "Donate Now" button to give the gift of peace this Mother's Day.

4800 Wedgewood Dr * Charlotte, NC 28210 * [unsubscribe](#)

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Ralph Garfield Schell Presidential Award Nominations

Do you know a local Ministers Council member deserving of the Ralph Garfield Schell Presidential award? Criteria: a pastoral leader who seems to be extraordinarily faithful in carrying out the principles of the Ministers Council Code of Ethics, as well as unusually effective in fulfilling the objectives of the five committees of our structure. The award is announced annually at the closing banquet of the American Baptist Ministers Council Senate. Nominations are due by June 15. For nomination information and form click here:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WhoWeAre/RalphGarfieldSchellAwardInfo.aspx>

Together In Ministry Grant Applications for 2009

Applications are being received for 2009 covenant group grants. Groups may be comprised of pastoral leaders or may combine pastoral and lay leaders focused on faith practices. All information on group formation options may be found on the Ministers Council website:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/08ApplicationProcess.aspx>

Application forms are also available online:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/TIMApplication.aspx>

All TIM groups funded in 2008 are asked to complete the evaluation instruments for facilitators and group members. Continuing groups that wish to re-apply for funding are reminded that they must complete the 2008 evaluation forms. The group facilitator submits one form and each group member submits another. The forms are user friendly and may be completed online and then printed. Each TIM group contact person is asked to forward this information and these links to the group facilitator and every group member. Once completed, please collect them and send them together to the national Ministers Council office.

Facilitator form:

http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/FacilitatorSurvey2008rev_000.pdf

Group Member Form:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/documents/Membergroupsurvey08rev.pdf>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

CALENDAR

May 10—Family Council Meeting, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Registration begins at 8:30. RSVP by May 7 to office@abcmc.org or 773-804-1655.

May 20—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

May 28--Viewing and discussion of film, *At the Death House Door*, Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium, 375 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 7-9 p.m.

May 31—Legal Seminar for churches, True Rock Ministries, 57 East 16th Street, Chicago.

June 3—“Disaster Planning: Building Bridges to Provide Care,” Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, 222 S. Riverside, Suite 1900, Chicago, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. You must register at www.mchc.org to attend the conference.

June 21—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—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—Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America's Peace Camp. Please visit www.bpfna.org for more information.

July 17—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

August 17-22—Christian Writers Conference, Green Lake Conference Center. Visit www.glcc.org and click on "conferences" for complete information.

August 19—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

September 16—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

October 21—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

November 18—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

December 16—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

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, 773-804-2655. The ABCMC office is at 7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102, Chicago, Illinois 60707

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