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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 14, 2008

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ABCMC NEWS

How You Can Help People in Burma/Myanmar

As reported in last week's eWind, 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 May 3. But you, too, can help.

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.

Thinking Theologically

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield pens a biweekly column for Protestants for the Common Good. You can read his latest column, "The First Time Around" at http://thecommongood.org/showfile.asp?file=7_10/tt.html. It is also attached to this issue of eWind.

Youth Event at FBC-Berwyn

Jesse Brown, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chicago, is sharing this information about preparations for the ABC youth gathering in Colorado this summer.

We are having a Youth Event at the First Baptist Church of Berwyn on June 14 at 2 p.m. to raise the cost of bus transportation for the young people going to Estes Park, Colorado. The churches involved are: First Baptist-Berwyn, First Baptist-Chicago, First Baptist-Park Forest, North Shore, and 3rd Baptist. The program participants will be the young people from each church, and there will be a commissioning prayer by our Executive Minister.

If any of our churches would like to donate funds for this trip they can send them to FBC-Chicago, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago, IL 60615, and make the check payable to First Baptist with the designation, **More Than A Week**. We will be leaving Chicago on July 4th.

ABCMC is paying for 33 teens to attend the National American Baptist Youth Event. We appreciate those gifts.

Disciples Dinner

Please see the attached documents about the upcoming ABCMC Disciples' Dinner. Everything is due no later than May 31. Please print out and use these documents as appropriate to make reservations, nominate Daily Disciples, and nominate region-wide awardees.

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

Voluptuous God Workshop Series

This message is from Lake Street Church.

Bob Thompson will present a workshop series, "Waking Up to a Voluptuous God," based on his book, *A Voluptuous God: A Christian Heretic Speaks*, on the following Sundays from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: May 18, June 1, June 15.

The purpose of this workshop is to remind us of what we know in the deepest recesses of our souls. Awakening to the voluptuous God is not a secret, nor is it a product to be discovered. We awaken to this Mysterious and accessible Presence as we learn to quiet our minds. The mind creates static and prevents us from experiencing the God who is present in the soul.

Together, we will explore where this Divine Presence has appeared in our lives but more importantly, how to open ourselves to it, here and now. To open to this Presence is to see that no matter what befalls us, we are never alone.

Workshop participants will take away a deepened appreciation of the importance of spiritual practice and an increased awareness of the Presence of God in the ordinary experiences of life. Join Bob as he leads us in this provocative study. Further details about the workshop can be found in the May issue of the Spire.

This workshop will serve as a prototype for the development of a book workshop Bob will present at other locations. He will solicit feedback to fine tune the workshop for future presentations.

If you would like to attend any or all the workshop sessions, please RSVP directly to Bob at rvthompson@mindspring.com, or call the church office 847-864-2181.

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.

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.

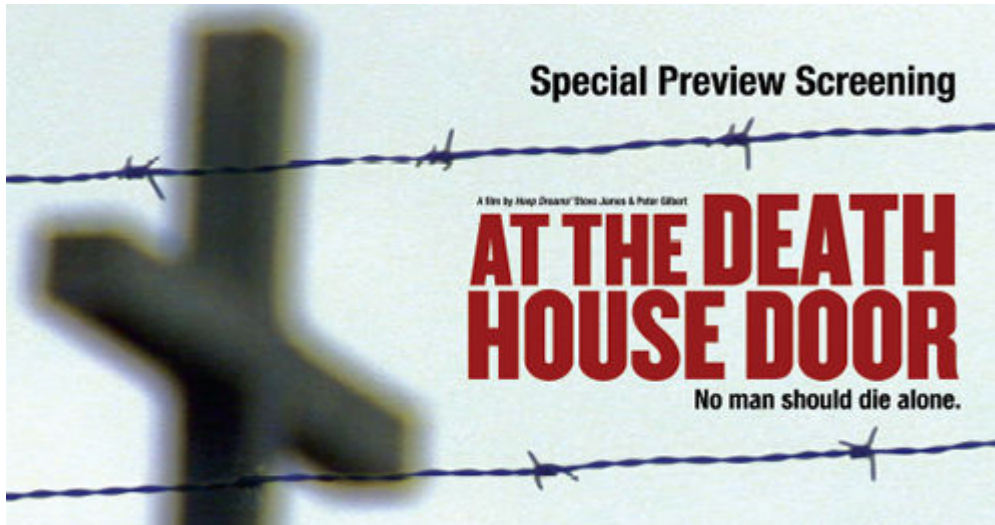
Woodside church is located at 1509 East Court Street, next to Mott College campus. Call 810-767-4911 to reserve a table and/or for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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>.

The Kappa League Program

This information is from Damon Jones.

The Kappa League Mentoring Program, one of Chicago's most successful leadership and academic mentoring programs for high school age young men is holding its admission application and interview process to accept new students. All young men who are completing the 8th, 9th or 10th grade, and interested in earning college scholarships while developing their leadership skills are encouraged to apply and take part in this interview process. Register for the interview and download an admission application at www.kappaleaguechicago.com. Interviews will take place at 9 a.m. on Sturday, May 31.

After completing the online interview registration process, each applicant will receive an email providing them with the address of where the interviews will be held. For more information, contact the Kappa Leadership Institute--Chicago at 312-275-5722 or send an email to admission@kappaleaguechicago.com. The program is administered by the Chicago Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternit, Inc.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

American Baptist Congregation to Address Growing Gun Violence in Urban Neighborhoods

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 05/13/08) — Millcreek Baptist Church, part of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, is planning the Stop the Violence Conference that includes an opportunity for community members to turn in guns for gift cards. They are joined by various civic and community organizations including the Philadelphia Police Department and Philadelphia Safety Net.

"This event is one response to an environment replicated in far too many urban areas across our country, where American Baptist congregants reside," said Rev. Valentine Royal-Thomas, executive director of American Baptist Women In Ministry. "It is a powerful witness of what one congregation and one willing pastor can do to help heal our broken communities. Pastor McCabe and Millcreek's courage is an open invitation to other American Baptist congregations to 'go and do likewise,' to prayerfully consider the possibility of sponsoring a similar event."

Held May 30-31, the conference will feature noted speaker, Dr. R. Dandridge Collins, Ph.D., author of *The Trauma Zone*. A graduate of Eastern University, Palmer Theological Seminary and Temple University, Dr. Collins will address the dynamic of overcoming anger, rage and bitterness.

Besides offering the guns for gift cards trade-in, the conference will also host personal testimonies, music and dance. Millcreek Baptist Church is pastored by Rev. Dr. Dolores E. Lee McCabe, formerly the Associate Professor of Counseling and Social Justice at Eastern University.

ABCUSA General Secretary, Rev. A. Roy Medley, said, "This is a powerful example of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ: the church actively reaching out to set free those imprisoned by violence and the fear of violence."

The church continues to seek additional support to expand its effort. Information on the Conference and ways to support it can be found by contacting the Conference Coordinator, Minister Adrienne Carter, at 215-386-2989.

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.

The Seventh Annual Walk for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

Sunday, May 18, 2008
Oak Park, Illinois

Sixty Years: 1948-2008.
Palestinians and Israelis. Two Peoples. One Future.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel and of the Palestinian Nakba (Catastrophe), join with Muslims, Jews, Christians, and secularists in this inspiring and powerful call for peace and justice for both Palestinians and Israelis.

PROGRAM 1:00 pm
Sanctuary
First United Church of Oak Park
848 Lake Street

WALK 2:00 pm
a one-mile route through
downtown Oak Park

ADVOCACY BUFFET/POTLUCK 2:45 pm
Centennial Hall
First United Church of Oak Park
848 Lake Street

SPECIAL GUESTS

SANDY TOLAN is an award-winning journalist and author of the acclaimed book *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*. *The Lemon Tree* relates the true story of two families—one Israeli and one Palestinian—linked by a single house. The Palestinian family flees the fighting in their home town of al-Ramla during the 1948 war; prevented from returning home, their temporary flight becomes permanent exile. A Jewish family survives terror and near death in Bulgaria; they arrive as refugees in the new Israeli state and are settled in the Palestinians' home, abandoned only four months earlier. Twenty years later, the children of the two families, now grown, finally meet and forge over the following decades a difficult but profound bond. With them, the reader learns how one family's security and happiness is built on another family's devastation. *The Lemon Tree* illuminates a conflict that, 60 years after 1948, continues to roil the world. As a journalist, Tolan has reported from more than 30 countries. He has produced hundreds of documentaries for public radio and written for more than 40 newspapers and magazines. Tolan teaches at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California.

MAZIN QUMSIYEH was born on the outskirts of Bethlehem and now splits his time between the US and Palestine. His most recent book is *Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human Rights and the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle (Pluto)*. Qumsiyeh has served on the executive committees of numerous groups including Peace Action, the US Campaign to End the Occupation, the Palestinian American Congress, and the Association for One Democratic State in Israel/Palestine. Qumsiyeh is widely known as a media activist and public educator who also regularly lectures on issues of human rights and international law. He is a former researcher and

faculty member in cytogenetics at Duke and Yale Universities.

RABBI LYNN GOTTLIEB is a cofounder of the Muslim Jewish Peace Walk and currently performs Play With Borders: Palestine and Israel in narrative dialogue. Gottlieb leads delegations to the Middle East (including, most recently, Iran) through the auspices of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Gottlieb and other Jewish religious leaders have recently established Shomer Shalom, a network whose members are committed to living a nonviolent Jewish life, participating in nonviolence organizations as Jews and in Jewish organizations as practitioners of non-violence. Gottlieb is on the advisory board of Jewish Voice for Peace.

INFORMATION

www.cjpip.org

<<http://www.cjpip.org/>> justpeace1@aol.com

312/427-2533x18

Sponsored by:

- Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

Co-sponsoring organizations (list in formation):

- Action for Justice Committee--St. Giles Family Mass Community
- American Friends Service Committee
- Arab Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East
- Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy
- The Church Network on Education on Palestine
- DuPage Peace Through Justice Coalition
- 8th Day Center for Justice
- End the Occupation Coalition, Northern Illinois
- Fox Valley Citizens for Peace and Justice
- Friends of Sabeel – North America
- International Solidarity Movement – Chicago Chapter
- Islamic Medical Association (IMA) of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Jewish Voice for Peace – Boston
- Jewish Voice for Peace – Chicago
- Logan Square Neighbors for Justice and Peace
- The Middle East Task Force of the Presbytery of Chicago
- National Organization for Women, West Suburban Chapter
- Near West Citizens for Peace and Justice
- Oak Park Club of the Communist Party USA
- Pax Christi Illinois
- Support Sanity
- Tikkun Chicago
- United Methodist NIC-ETO
- U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

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 14--Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

May 18--Seventh Annual Walk for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine, First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park. 1 p.m., program; 2 p.m., walk; 2:45 p.m., advocacy buffet/potluck.

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.

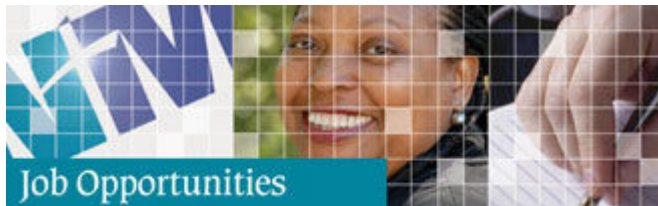
August 19—Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

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.



[Associate Executive Director for Mission Interpretation and Development](#)
(application deadline: 6/13/2008)

[Investment Accountant](#) (application deadline: 6/30/2008)

[Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent](#) (application deadline: 6/30/2008)

[Accounts Receivable and Collections Assistant](#) (application deadline: 5/31/2008)

[Employment Application](#)

At National Ministries, our mission and core purpose is "Transforming leadership, Transforming lives!" We recognize that our employees are our single greatest asset in achieving this mission.

National Ministries is committed to diversity, integrity, stewardship, collaboration and teamwork. Here you will have an opportunity to work with talented and dedicated colleagues while developing and expanding your own skills.

Each member of the National Ministries team has an extraordinary sense of purpose. As part of American Baptist Churches USA, National Ministries answers God's call to live out Christian faith and transform individuals, congregations and communities through developing Christ-centered leadership, networks and programs committed to witness and evangelism, social justice, discipleship and mission work across the United States and Puerto Rico.

So, tour our site, visit the “About Us” tab. Learn more about our people—their backgrounds and interests—our work and our mission to discern if National Ministries is a match for you. We hope as you discover more about us, you’ll discover more and more reasons to join us.

Please e-mail employment-related questions directly to [Laura Miraz](#), Ph.D., SPHR.

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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