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Please send communications for and 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

July 2, 2008

A strong answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.
Proverbs 15:1

IN THIS ISSUE

ABCMC NEWS

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Blood Drive

175th Anniversary Year Celebrations
Spring into Summer Funraiser at Irving Park Baptist
Unity Revival
Community Health and Wellness Fair

COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreclosure and Domestic Relations: Vocabulary for Ministers and Helping Professionals
Announcing **The Academy for the Common Good**
Fifth Annual Faith-Based Conference
Raising Freedom's Voice in Illinois' 13th District

ABCUSA NEWS

Baptist Joint Committee Responds to Obama Speech on White House Faith-Based Office
General Board Considers New Structure
American Baptist Leaders Endorse New Structure
Proposed New Structure Reduces Governance Costs
General Board Responds to New Structure Proposal
American Baptist Historical Society Relocates
AB Women's Ministries, Judson Press Launch "SheReads: A Book Club for Women"

PEACE NEWS

Summer Peace Conference

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Minister's Council Cookout at McVetty- Harris Home

PRAYER REQUESTS

CALENDAR

ABCMC NEWS

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Blood Drive

Please take a look at the attached flyer for North Shore Baptist Church's upcoming blood drive on July 19! Forward it on to anyone you think would be interested, and post it up for all to see! All are welcome.

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 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.

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

Spring into Summer Fundraiser at Irving Park Baptist

The music department of Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, will present a concert, "Spring into Summer," and "Fundraiser" on Friday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. This congregation is blessed with talented and creative musicians. Go to the concert, have some fun and share in their blessing.

Unity Revival

Save the dates for Irving Park Baptist's Unity Revival, August 1-3. Our guest preachers include Rev. Ozzie Smith, Rev. Carol Brown, Rev. Zina Jacque; Rev. Ramon Soto, and more! Join on Friday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, August 2 at 2 p.m., and Sunday, August 3 from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. More details to follow soon. You won't want to miss this one!

Community Health and Wellness Fair

Irving Park Baptist Church is holding its 2nd Annual "Community Health and Wellness Fair," on Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come out as we hear from community health agencies, the local "Y" (they taught us belly-dancing last year!), financial consultants, and others who will provide vital information for health and wholeness. We'll have good healthy food, too!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Foreclosure and Domestic Relations:

Vocabulary for Ministers and Helping Professionals

Attorneys Kelli Dudley and Kevin Ross Johnson will offer this exciting seminar on August 11, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served. Cost is \$50.00 per person. Place will be determined. Kelli and Kevin are amenable to providing free or reduced-cost attendance in exchange for space. To indicate interest, please call (708)229-2420.

This is a workshop designed to share substantive information to provide you with guidance when a church member faces a legal problem. Kelli Dudley does not accept new clients and Kevin Ross Johnson is only able to accept new clients on a selective basis; therefore, this is not an advertising seminar. Instead, it is designed to provide tools to assist you in your ministry. Come re-tool as you prepare for congregants to return from summer travels and as you plan your fall programs.

Training on these topics can be made available to individual churches or groups upon request.

Announcing THE ACADEMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

...Seeking a place and way to make a difference...?

“BRINGING FAITH TO PUBLIC LIFE”

Experience an educational program that equips you to

- Explore the place of Christian faith in social and economic life
- Bring biblical and theological perspectives to public issues
- Exercise leadership in congregational education and social justice

Announcing the Inaugural Program of **THE ACADEMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD**, a new initiative of Protestants for the Common Good to provide training in faith-based education and advocacy for older adults, age 50 and above.

The program begins . Please see the attached file, “Fall Academy,” for more information and a registration form, or contact Douglas Sharp at (312) 223-9544, ext. 234, or email at douglas.sharp@thecommongood.org. Scholarships to cover the registration fee are available.



Announcing THE ACADEMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

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The program begins August 8, 2008. Please see the attached file, “Fall Academy,” for more information and a registration form, or contact Douglas Sharp at (312) 223-9544, ext. 234, or email at douglas.sharp@thecommongood.org. Scholarships to cover the registration fee are available.

Fifth Annual Faith-Based Conference

On July 17, Prevention Partnership will host the Fifth Annual Faith-Based Conference on

preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Through this conference, a large coalition of organizations and churches are seeking to provide resources for those who are working in the area of HIV/AIDS education and prevention. It will take place at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort, 3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook. The event will include workshops on program development, implementation, grant application writing, and evaluation. This is a free conference event. Seating is limited, and available on a first come, first served basis. To guarantee your slot, pre-register at 773-378-4195, extension 21.

Raising Freedom's Voice in Illinois' 13th District

A Forum on Civil liberties and the Constitution in 2009 and beyond

Wednesday, July 9th, 2008, 7-9 p.m.

Annerino Community Center
201 N. Recreation Drive, Bolingbrook, IL

The forum will feature national and local civil liberties updates from Ed Yohnka, Director of Communications and Public Policy, and James Ferg-Cadima, Legislative Counsel.

Allie Carter, Senior Field Manager, will discuss what you can do to stand up for the Constitution in Illinois' 13th District.

RSVP to Allie at acarter@aclu-il.org or by calling 312-201-9740 x333.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

Baptist Joint Committee Responds to Obama Speech on White House Faith-Based Office

In an address on federal government partnerships with religious entities, Sen. Barack Obama announced plans to refashion and rename the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Obama said he would create a council focused on government partnerships with community and faith-based groups that would be a "crucial part" of his administration and would ensure no religious entity accepting taxpayer funds would be permitted to use the funds to proselytize or discriminate.

Before the speech, The Associated Press published an article under the headline "Obama to expand Bush's faith based programs," which mischaracterized Obama's proposal and touched off a firestorm of controversy. The outlines of the senator's approach, however, were clarified as the speech itself was released.

While recognizing that many challenges will arise in the implementation of his proposal, BJC General Counsel K. Hollyn Hollman said many of the senator's comments are reassuring. "The speech reflects a keen appreciation for the separation of church and state's role to ensure religious liberty even while promoting partnerships between government and religious institutions," Hollman said.

Hollman noted, however, that one problematic aspect of the speech was its reference to direct government funding of houses of worship. Though Obama noted that federal dollars that go to houses of worship and community groups "can only be used on secular programs," Hollman urged caution. "The Baptist Joint Committee would never recommend money going directly to houses of worship because of the risk of entanglement and the practical difficulties that may threaten the institution's integrity. We think best practices, legally and practically, weigh heavily

toward creating a separate corporate entity if a house of worship is inclined to seek government funding for services it provides.”

Religious entities have long partnered with government to provide social services under the same rules that apply to other nonprofits. The BJC has been critical of efforts to alter the traditional way in which religious entities and the government have cooperated to the extent that such efforts blur important boundaries between church and state.

General Board Considers New Structure

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/27/08) — During the first session of its annual meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia, Pa., the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA was introduced to a proposed new structure for governance designed to bring greater empowerment for mission.

In their joint report, Mary Armacost Hulst, board president, and General Secretary A. Roy Medley, described how the changes under consideration would support the current mission goals of the American Baptist mission partners — National Ministries, International Ministries, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, and the General Secretary’s Office. However, the new structure would also implement changes that allow the denomination to “be more nimble” in responding quickly to mission opportunities, Medley reported. Hulst said, “Structure is the larger tool enabling the mission of local churches.”

If the new structure is adopted, ways of doing mission that bring healing to hurting people, are sensitive to cultural differences, and seek justice for all would continue, fulfilling the denomination’s essential mission to be the hands of Christ “blessing the world” and the feet of Christ “walking to do good.” Hulst said hallmarks that would remain are the denomination’s commitment to local churches and the high value placed on representation and diversity.

In other reporting, Budget Review Officer James R. Ratliff said the auditors were pleased with the audit process and gave an unqualified opinion on the 2007 financials. Last year was good financially for American Baptist Churches USA. Mission support has gone up in some areas, while other areas have seen a decline.

One anticipated financial advantage is the internal purchase of the Mission Center building. The acting treasurer and associate general secretary for finance, Lloyd Hamblin, indicated that the purchase could be finalized by late July at the earliest. The transfer of the property to the American Baptist mission partners will result in creation of an endowment fund to help balance the budget.

Medley also reported that the denomination has acted on the statement issued on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., which says American Baptists need to “seize the moment now to be a witness and agent of Christ’s reconciliation and peace.” The intercultural team of National Ministries made recommendations and provided resources for congregations, available at the National Ministries website.

Medley said, “We are growing in our competency for dealing with diversity,” due to the efforts of the denomination to gain expertise in handling this issue.

American Baptist Leaders Endorse New Structure

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/27/08) — Representatives of the General Executive Council gave a full presentation of the proposed governance structure for American Baptist Churches USA at the morning plenary of the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA.

The new structure eliminates interlocking mission boards but maintains inter-relatedness through

a Mission Table and Mission Summit held in conjunction with the denomination's Biennial Meeting. A notable difference is the process of selecting board members that allows for matching interests with board service and includes an orientation prior to commencing service. The denomination's commitment to diversity would be reflected in board members being selected from churches of different sizes and locations; across age groups, geographic regions, ethnicities, and economic classes; having differing physical abilities.

A proposed smaller board would reduce the expenses associated with holding meetings and administrating the expansive mission of American Baptist Churches USA. In lieu of representation on a larger board, the Mission Table provides a means by which churches relate to the mission together, expressing their accountability along with their intentions for ministry involvement. The president of the Board of National Ministries, Annie Marie LaBarbour, said, "I think people have heard each other and presented a divergence of opinion to create the best possible product for this time. It is a platform from which to develop the denomination more thoroughly toward what is right for us in the 21st century. I support this proposal and believe it will support us as we move forward."

The Rev. Dr. James McJunkin, executive minister of the Philadelphia Baptist Association also voiced his support: "I want to move forward as American Baptists. The structure won't change what we do, we will. If I'm going to live out my faith through American Baptists I need to be diligent, sincere and intentional — I pledge myself to it."

While General Secretary A. Roy Medley is certain there will be "tweaking" of the proposed structure, he said "The General Executive Committee worked for the best possible process in making this recommendation." He commented on the careful balance being struck between autonomy and interdependence. "The current structure has bound us up in some ways. But in moving toward autonomy, we keep the interdependence that we value as well. We're American Baptists before we're regions or national boards. We are first and foremost 'us'."

Mary Armacost Hulst, president of the General Board, said, "My local church in the new structure would be taken seriously. We would have a very strong voice that is central when we gather together to suggest ideas and implement ideas and vision for the denomination. Actually, representation could be even broader than it is now." Hulst said the Leadership Pool is a database that will be kept current and used to bring in representation from the local churches. "All of the boards combined would give the representation," she added.

Dr. Reid Trulson, executive director of International Ministries, called the structure a "federation model" that he believes will position American Baptist Churches USA for the greatest impact in missions in its cultural context. "The central principle we observe in global mission is the need to understand the culture and to take appropriate actions," Trulson said.

Proposed New Structure Reduces Governance Costs

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/29/08) — David Knipel, legal counsel to the denomination, reviewed with the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA, at its twice-yearly meeting, amendments to the bylaws that are needed for the proposed governance structure to be put into place. Limited to governance, the changes do not affect the purpose of the denomination, and no amendments were proposed relating to provisions for cooperating churches and regions.

The proposed structure takes financial realities into account, as it is designed to save money. But Mary Armacost Hulst, president of the General Board, said that finances are not the only concern: "We are acting out of the need to be relevant, efficient and effective in mission, and responsive to the culture."

Hulst called on Lloyd Hamblin, acting treasurer and associate general secretary for finance, to

clarify the financial implications of the new structure. He said that while the Treasurers Council recommended a reduction in governance costs by a minimum of 25 percent, the proposed structure reduces them by 43 percent. American Baptist Churches USA as an organization deals with vision, coordination, structure, leadership, and stewardship, but structure is the one area presently under discussion. Of the budgeting needs for the denomination, the new structure only affects the costs of governance.

A smaller General Board in the proposed new structure reduces administrative and meeting costs. The proposed board size of 30 would include members elected from 18 regions serving at any time, rotating representation among regions as the members' terms for service expire.

Puerto Rico raised a concern regarding representation because of its uniqueness as a region. For instance, English is not its first language, it was a mission field of the Home Mission Society before it became a region, and it has a different political relationship with the U.S. government. Therefore, Puerto Rico conveyed to the General Board its need to have continuous representation in the new governance structure. The General Executive Committee will take up Puerto Rico's concern at the Committee meeting in September.

The General Board will be able to suggest modifications to the proposed Bylaw amendments for the General Executive Committee to consider at its meeting in September. All changes to the Bylaws will be voted on by the delegates to the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena, Calif.

General Board Responds to New Structure Proposal

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/30/08) — The General Board of American Baptist Churches USA had opportunity during its three-day meeting in King of Prussia, Pa., to speak about positive features of the proposed new governance structure, as well as to raise concerns. Basing it on a federation model, the General Executive Council made the proposal after a two-year development process, before submitting it to the General Board Executive Committee.

In roundtable discussions, some General Board members commented positively on how the proposed new structure empowers American Baptists to focus on doing mission together. They noted gains in effectiveness by selecting board members whose skills and interests match the work of a particular board. In addition, they thought that having members serve on only one board at a time would allow for more focused boards, greater energy and clearer priorities. Some also saw opportunities to build greater collaboration among churches, regions and national boards. Others were positive about the proposed Board of General Ministries, which would forward mission activity, rather than focus on legislation as the General Board presently does.

Concerns were raised most often about guaranteeing that regions and program boards would carry out agreed upon mission priorities advanced at the Mission Summit. In addition, representation from among local churches was also raised by several table groups as a matter of concern, as was the need for diversity on each board. Other concerns were that churches would receive adequate communications back from the boards and that relationships among the boards would be maintained when members no longer serve on multiple boards.

"The General Board worked hard in grasping the scope and details of the proposed restructure and in raising pertinent issues," General Secretary A. Roy Medley said. "I am pleased with the quality and tenor of the Board and structure and the implementing of the Bylaws."

Mary Armacost Hulst, president of the General Board, said, "The hard work of the General Board confirmed that The Future is Bright. Our commitment to Gospel-based mission, with relevancy and more efficient response, suggests wise stewardship of our dollars and is reflected in the decisions of this meeting."

In the business of its final session yesterday, the General Board adopted Resolutions on Children

in Poverty and on Ministerial Development, which were both presented to it at the June 2007 meeting. A Resolution Against Slavery was also adopted. The Board approved a recommendation for the number of regionally nominated representatives who will serve on the General Board if the proposed bylaws are not adopted by the delegates to the 2009 Biennial.

Charles R. Case, chair of the Credentials and Caucus Committee, presented reports on the changed relationships of local churches for recognition by the General Board. The committee reviewed the changes, which originate in the regions, in a meeting that Case said was "informative and soul-searching, representing deep concerns of the denomination." The reports covering June 2007 to February 2008, and March to June 2008, accounted for newly received, withdrawn, disbanded and merged congregations, and yielded a total of 5,254 churches affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA as of June 17, 2008.

The General Board will convene again in the days before the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena, Calif. Dr. Leo Thorne, associate general secretary for Mission Resource Development and Biennial program coordinator, told board members that this will be an important biennial for American Baptists to capture a vision of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ, both individually and corporately.

A DVD presentation that gives the look and feel of the 2009 Biennial is available through the Office of Mission Resource Development for use by regions and churches.

Planning is underway for the 2011 Biennial to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

American Baptist Historical Society Relocates

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/27/08) — The American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) reported to the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA that the Society relocated to Mercer University in Atlanta, Ga., through a safe, well-executed move.

When the last, large collection room is completed, the materials archived at Colgate Divinity School will be added. A grand reopening and dedication is scheduled for September 27, 2008.

The campaign to raise \$800,000 for the move of ABHS resulted in \$225,000 in pledges, of which \$100,000 has come in.

The Society is piloting a social network for History Matters, where it will post articles, blogs, photos, with the idea of creating a community for anyone interested in history. The network's address is <http://historymatters.ning.com>.

AB Women's Ministries, Judson Press Launch "SheReads: A Book Club for Women"

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/1/08) — American Baptist Women's Ministries announced today the launch on July 1 of a joint venture with Judson Press, "SheReads: A Book Club for Women."

Every two months, four featured selections of Judson Press publications will be offered that are of particular interest to women. The featured selections will be available for purchase at a discounted price when customers use the promotional code

"SheReads." People interested in participating in SheReads may do so as individuals or as part of a book discussion group. In addition to promoting the book club opportunity, AB Women's Ministries is exploring opportunities for discussion of SheReads featured selections online or through workshops at national events.

"I am so pleased about this new partnership with Judson Press that can resource women's groups that enjoy book discussions. There is a wealth of excellent titles that will be featured in the coming months; it was difficult to choose only four books for the launch," said Virginia Holmstrom, executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

"We are excited about our part in helping to make our books more available to American Baptists," said Laura Alden, publisher for Judson Press. "It's a great opportunity for everyone—shared books, shared income, a shared deal—what could be better?"

The first four discounted books selected for SheReads are: *Connected: Christian Parenting in an Age of IM and MySpace*, by Peggy Kendall; *Letters of Light for First Ladies*, by Cecelia Williams Bryant; *To Know God: Small Group Exercises for Spiritual Formation*, by Michael Gemignani; and *Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy*, by Rosalie Hall Hunt. For more information about SheReads: A Book Club for Women, contact the office of American Baptist Women's Ministries at info@abwministries.org or by calling 610-768-2288.

Books may be ordered directly from Judson Press by calling 800-458-3766 or online at www.judsonpress.com.

PEACE NEWS

Summer Peace Conference

The annual summer conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will take place at John Abbott College Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, Canada July 14-19. Below is information from the web site, www.bpfna.org. Please check the web site for more details.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Ministers Council Cookout at McVetty- Harris Home

This invitation is from Doug Harris and Carol McVetty, pastors at North Shore Baptist Church. Doug is president of the Ministers Council of ABCMC.

Join us for a potluck cookout on Saturday, August 9th at 4:30pm
Bring your favorite picnic cookout dish to share with others
We live at 5232 North Lakewood Ave. just south of the North Shore Baptist Church
RSVP to dharris@northshorebaptist.org or by phone 773-728-4200
We will provide the drinks and stuff for the grill, so come and let's have a good time!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please remember in prayer ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield ministering at the ABC youth gathering in Colorado

Please lift up in prayer all the young people, chaperons and leaders attending **More than a Week** in Estes Park, Colorado.

Please hold in prayer Jorge and Hermelinda Damasceno, ABC missionaries ministering with Portuguese migrant workers in Great Britain.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Chuck and Ramona Shawver, serving with the Mayan Intercultural Seminary in Mexico.

CALENDAR

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 6--Lynne Kelley preaches at Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 11 a.m.

July 11--Spring into Summer Concert and Fun-raiser, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

July 13--175th Anniversary Celebration Men's Day, First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th Street, Chicago, Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Pastor of Concord Baptist Church, guest speaker, 11 a.m.

July 14-19—Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America's Peace Camp. Please visit www.bpfna.org for more information.

July 17—Fifth Annual HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Faith-Based Conference by Prevention Partnership, Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort, 3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook. Phone 773-378-4195 to register. This is a free conference.

July 27--Larry Greenfield preaches at Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington.

August 1-3--Unity Revival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Dates and times: Friday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, August 2 at 2 p.m., and Sunday, August 3 from 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 9—Ministers Council cookout at McVetty-Harris Home, 5232 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 4:30 p.m. RSVP to dharris@northshorebaptist.org or by phone 773-728-4200.

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.

August 23—Family Council meeting, Community Church of Barrington, 407 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington, 9 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch. Registration open at 8:30 a.m. Suggested donation for lunch: \$5.

September 14--ABC MC Sunday, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago; Larry Greenfield preaching, 11 a.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.

September 28—ABCMC Sunday, First Baptist Church, 80 N. Orchard, Park Forest; Larry Greenfield preaching.

November 8—ABCMC Annual Meeting.

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, 773-804-1655. The ABCMC office is at 7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102, Chicago, Illinois 60707

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