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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 9, 2008

They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;
they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31

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ABCMC NEWS

Report from *More than a Week*

ABCMC Executive Minister took a quick break from **More than a Week**, the American Baptist youth conference in Estes Park, Colorado, and called the ABCMC office. Standing in front of a beautiful snow-capped mountain, Larry reported that about 1,350 folks were present at the conference--about 900 kids. Young people from a number of ABCMC congregations, along with their leaders, are at the conference. They are having a real mountain-top experience. We'll have more to report in next week's *eWind*. This week's phone report was cut short by a sudden summer shower.

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 13 at 11 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Pastor of Concord Baptist Church. On Anniversary Sunday, October 12 at 11 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 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 14 at 11 a.m.

FRIDAY! Spring into Summer Fun-raiser 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 "Fun-raiser" 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 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 a.m. until 2 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
ore the place of Christian faith in social and economic life
g biblical and theological perspectives to public issues
cise 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 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.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

National Ministries Board Called to Be the "Transformation We Seek"

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/3/08) — National Ministries Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-

Riggins III urged members of National Ministries' Board of Directors to eliminate boundaries and attitudes that might hamper the organization's future effectiveness as they consider proposed changes in the board's composition and other related matters. At its meeting June 27-28 in King of Prussia, Pa., the board began work on a re-structuring plan to streamline its organizational structure.

Calling for unity, inclusiveness and oneness of purpose for this undertaking, Wright-Riggins said: "In another year to 18 months, this denomination will be very different....Those histories, traditions and processes that have made us who we are today as a board will be shifted. It is up to you to decide how we will gather [and welcome] this new tribe that will take us into our next Promised Land."

Wright-Riggins also told the board that eliminating the racial, geographic, gender and theological boundaries that "tend to put us into little camps" is paramount to National Ministries becoming an organization that respects the rights of others "to be who God made them to be." Wright-Riggins called on the board to "be the transformation that we seek."

Affirming comments made by Wright-Riggins, President Dr. Annie Marie LeBarbour said: "We will change the way the board functions, and we now have the opportunity to make change that will affect us over the long term. We will, with our combined wisdom, figure out how to organize so that this change is productive." The work of re-structuring the board is expected to be completed for presentation at the June 2009 biennial meeting.

Later, the board heard from Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Michael Birdsall who reported that National Ministries is fiscally and financially stable for the future because of a sound investment strategy, alternate income streams and cost controls. In addition, Birdsall announced a \$300,000 contribution from National Ministries to The Isaiah Funds, an interfaith effort that provides low-income victims with disaster relief aid. National Ministries is a founding partner of the Isaiah Funds.

The board also heard reports from Associate Executive Director for Program Ministries Rev. Marilyn P. Turner and Associate Executive Director for Publishing Ministries Laura Alden. Turner highlighted the work of her staff, which she described as "the hands and feet" of National Ministries, who travel throughout ABCUSA regions "equipping and networking Christ-centered leaders for the purpose of transforming people, congregations, communities and cultures." She referred to National Ministries' ongoing work with American Baptist churches helping to re-settle Burmese refugees and Gulf Coast volunteers rebuilding homes for Katrina victims.

Alden updated the board on a new "print-on-demand" feature that will be available for some titles published by Judson Press; this move will reduce inventory storage costs. Alden also urged board members to promote its "Regional Rewards" program in which 10 percent of sales revenue from member regions and their churches goes back to the region. More information about "Regional Rewards" is available at judsonpress.com or by calling 800-458-3766.

In other business, the Recognitions and Awards Committee asked board members to encourage churches in their regions to nominate candidates for National Ministries' Biennial ministry awards, noting that some awards were not given in the last cycle because there were no nominees. The deadline for next year's awards is October 17, 2008. Applications will be available after August 5 on National Ministries' Web site, www.nationalministries.org, as well as by mail.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Call Your State Legislator Today

This request is from the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.

Our health care system is broken. We're all paying more while the insurance companies make record profits as they deny coverage at historic levels. Every year more hard working Illinois families and businesses can't afford to pay for health care. Yet, some in Springfield believe that the health care crisis

is just a delusion.

Inaction by the Illinois House for the past two years on passing comprehensive health care reform, and now passing a budget that even House leadership and representatives admit is not balanced, mean Illinoisans could be forced to pay even more for health care insurance. Millions could be denied coverage or have their treatments delayed, and the provider community could be forced to raise their costs. Enough is enough.

In a year when state legislators debated an 11.7% pay increase for themselves, the budgets of Illinois families and businesses continued to stagger under skyrocketing health care costs. Relief is available, but only if the House chooses to act. So far, they have not. Once again, they are holding health care reform hostage to a crisis of their own creation, and once again, it is the families, businesses, providers and health care consumers of Illinois that will suffer needlessly because of their inaction.

The General Assembly needs to pass a budget that will ensure no cuts to existing health care programs, and to pass comprehensive reform that guarantees access to quality, affordable health care to all Illinoisans. ***Illinois deserves better!***

**ON WEDNESDAY JULY 9
CALL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE!
TELL THEM:
PASS A BALANCED BUDGET TO STOP ALL HEALTH CARE CUTS!
PASS MEANINGFUL HEALTH CARE REFORM NOW!**

1. Dial 1.800.664.9903 to be connected to your State Representative at the Capitol.
2. Once you dial, you will hear a greeting and then be asked to enter your zip code.
3. After entering the zip code, you will hear a list of representatives whose districts cross that zip code. (If you don't know it, you can find the name of your representative [here](#).)
4. Follow the voice prompts to be connected to your State Representative.

PEACE NEWS

Northwest Suburban Meeting

Are you aware that the U. S. military is recruiting young people in our high schools? Recruiters from all branches of the military are pressuring children as young as 13 to join the military even before they finish high school. Some children are being persuaded to complete basic training (boot camp) during the summer before their senior year of high school. Some are being convinced to finish high school a semester early so they can enter the military before they were scheduled to graduate.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires public schools to allow recruiters to be present in the schools. In addition, the same law requires public schools to give the names and contact information of their students *without parental permission* to military recruiters.

Having read news reports of high pressure and misinformation from recruiters in the schools, and having been told first-hand accounts by local students of pressure and untruths from recruiters, some military veterans, parents and others are working with schools to present other perspectives to students. One such group of concerned adults is the Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project (www.nwsbpep.org).

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will have its regular monthly meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mount Prospect. All who care about young people and

peacemaking are welcome to come to the meeting. The group meets at the church at the same time the second Wednesday of each month.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Kutter to Serve as Ministers Council Acting Executive Director

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/8/08) — The Ministers Council has elected the Rev. Dr. Joseph Ray Kutter as Acting Executive Director. Kutter will assume the responsibility on September 1. He was chosen by unanimous vote of the Ministers Council Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was authorized by Senate 2007 to finalize the selection on behalf of the constituency. Since last summer the Personnel Committee has received and reviewed names of potential candidates, and recommended Joe Kutter.

During his 39 years in American Baptist pastoral ministry Kutter has served five congregations. Since 1997 he has served as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas. With his leadership, that congregation constructed a new community life center, costing about \$2.3 million. The center has allowed them to create new ministries to impact the community, including the Topeka Shepherd Center for senior adults, an after school program for middle school students, and Upward Basketball for more than 200 elementary school children from the community.

Prior pastorates include: the First Baptist Church of Royal Oak, Michigan, from 1987 to 1997; Cherry Hill Baptist Church, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, from 1980 to 1987; First Baptist Church of Arlington, Kearny, New Jersey, 1972-1980; and Assistant Pastor, First Baptist Church, Haddonfield, New Jersey, from 1970 to 1972.

Kutter has also served as President of the Ministers Council, as trustee of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, as chaplain to the General Board and General Board Executive Committee, and in a variety of regional and community leadership roles.

He received his education at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, Doctor of Ministry, 1978; Crozer Theological Seminary, Rochester, New York, Master of Divinity, 1971; and Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, Bachelor of Arts, 1967.

The Ministers Council was founded in 1935. As the professional association of pastoral leaders in the American Baptist Churches, the Ministers Council defines itself as the "the only group solely committed to the well-being of the clergy person" and seeks to fulfill its mission through a three-part Ministers Council strategy: face-to-face collegial covenant groups that meet monthly; strong constituent Councils with exciting programs; and a pattern of national clergy conferences

In 2002 the Ministers Council launched the Together in Ministry project. Funded by the Lilly Endowment Sustaining Pastoral Effectiveness initiative, Together in Ministry was designed with the goal of inspiring and resourcing pastoral leaders to form collegial covenant groups to strengthen them for their ministries. The Together in Ministry web address is www.ministerscouncil.com/togetherinministry/default.aspx.

Current Ministers Council Executive Director Kate Harvey states, "Joe Kutter's numerous leadership capacities over the years with the Ministers Council, as well as his work on the Together in Ministry Steering Committee, equip him superbly for the role. The next stage of the Ministers Council strategy is a Lilly-funded project for organizational capacity building through resourcing and strengthening constituent Council leadership. His gifts make him the ideal leader for that phase of the work and I am thrilled to have him succeed me in the position."

Kutter will serve the Ministers Council for two or three years as the American Baptist Churches USA pursues a process of restructuring.

An article written by Kutter appeared in the 2008 issue of Minister Magazine that is shaped around the theme of transition. It presents his perspective on this major transition in his pursuit of God's calling on his life: www.ministerscouncil.com/Periodicals/documents/summer08minmag.pdf.

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!

Sabbatical Grant Resource

The Louisville Institute Pastoral Sabbatical Grant's next grant application due date is for the Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders (SGPL) program, with applications due September 15. To check information for a sabbatical grant visit their website: www.louisville-institute.org

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 our nation's young people as they make decisions about education and careers.

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.

FRIDAY! July 11--Spring into Summer Concert and Fundraiser, 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 coddout 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 11--Foreclosure and Domestic Relations workshop for clergy, 10 a.m.-2.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.

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--ABCMC 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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