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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 16, 2008

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# ABCMC NEWS

### *From the General Board Meeting*

Friends in ABCMC and beyond:

I urge you to read the sermon "Let Go" by our former Metro Chicago, Dennis Johnson. It is, in my judgment an absolute gem: funny and moving, insightful and wise, and the very heart of the Gospel. As many of you will recall, Dennis pastored both Moraine Valley and Geneva Road and served as president of our Region at one of our most tense times.

The attached sermon was delivered at the opening session of the most recent General Board meeting. Dennis normally serves as the Parliamentarian of the General Board, but this time was also filling in for the Chaplain, who was on sabbatical.

Find the time to read this. Better yet, don't risk missing this; read it now.

Larry

### ***Golf Outing***

*This invitation is from Kids Hope United (formerly Central Baptist Children's Home).*

You're invited to the Kids Hope United 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Outing to be held Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Bonnie Brook Golf Course, 2800 N. Lewis Ave., in Waukegan. *This special event is aimed at raising funds to help ensure a safe home for every child.*

Test your game on the rolling, wooded terrain of this 18-hole, 72-par course that boasts a design, feel and maturity of a golfing era gone by. Recently rated a 4-star course by *Golf Digest*, Bonnie Brook is currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the state for public golf courses and is consistently ranked in the top 50 Chicagoland courses.

The Annual Charity Golf Outing supports programs and services of Kids Hope United—helping ensure a safe home for every child. Kids Hope United works toward the goal of providing a safe home for every child and hope for the future of children and families. The nonprofit organization now serves more than 5,000 children and families across northern Illinois.

**Our goal is to raise \$100,000, and we can only do this with your support!**

To register or become a sponsor, please complete the enclosed sponsorship form and return it to Kids Hope United along with your donation. For more information, contact Marilee LaMattina at 847-245-6553 or at [mlamattina@kidshopeunited.org](mailto:mlamattina@kidshopeunited.org).

Together, we **can** provide vulnerable children and families a new beginning and hope!

Sincerely,

The Golf Committee

## NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

*In the Press*

The First Baptist Church of Waukegan made appearances in the local newspaper twice in recent days.

First is an article about the recent ordinations of Eileen Petersen and Barbara Waller. See link below:

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/1043771,5\\_1\\_WA08\\_ORDAINED\\_S1.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/1043771,5_1_WA08_ORDAINED_S1.article)

The second is an article concerning the church's involvement in a network of Lake County Churches mobilizing to collect 5,000 school supply-filled backpacks for needy families.

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/lifestyles/1042479,5\\_1\\_WA07\\_BACKPACKS\\_S1.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/lifestyles/1042479,5_1_WA07_BACKPACKS_S1.article)

### **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. Dr. Aidsand Wright Riggins will be preaching at FBC on August 10th at the 11:00 a.m. Service.

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 that 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 14 at 11 a.m.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:douglas.sharp@thecommongood.org). Scholarships to cover the registration fee are available.

## ***Many Stories, One Voice***



Registration is now open for Many Stories, One Voice (<http://www.manystoriesonevoice.org/>). This conference for young adults, ages 19-30, will take place in New Orleans September 4-7. The theme of the conference will be "Equipping the Saints for the Ministry of God's Extravagant Welcome."

Here are some words of explanation from the conference web site:

Designed as a leadership development event, this conference offers rich Bible study, challenging and profound worship and praise, genuine relationship-building across and amidst our differences, concrete skills-building, reflective and incisive theological analysis, and strategic action. Our goals are threefold:

- **Personal Transformation**  
Given the gender-phobia, homophobia and heterosexism of our culture and our churches, far too often LGBT Christians experience themselves as powerless victims. In order to build strong leaders, our movement must help individuals move from a sense of disempowerment to one of agency, empowerment and action.
- **Intersectionality**  
It has been said that Sunday morning at 11:00 am is the most segregated hour in America. If our movement toward God's Extravagant Welcome is to be successful and faithful to the gospel, it is incumbent upon us to engage issues of race, class, ability, age and embodiment as we talk about gender identity and sexual orientation. We will explore the ways in which anti-oppression work is at its best and most effective when it engages the intersections of oppressions.
- **Concrete Skills-Building**  
As a movement of pro-LGBT Christians, we need leaders who have the tools and training to act proactively and strategically. We will offer new tools and training in the areas of faith-based community organizing, media training, board development, fund-raising, research, Biblical studies, theology, capacity-building and other concrete skills.



Among the organizations sponsoring the event is the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB). AWAB's Executive Director Ken Pennings encourages Baptists to take part in the conference:

"The "Many Stories, One Voice" conference in New Orleans, September 4 – 7 is an opportunity of a lifetime ([www.manystoriesonevoice.com](http://www.manystoriesonevoice.com)). At the conference, you'll hear incredible speakers such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and others, and strengthen your leadership skills as well.

We're planning to hold a meeting of Baptist participants during the conference, where we'll discuss our experiences and brainstorm ways to build on the AWAB mission of being the national voice for LGBT Baptists. We're delighted we can help get you there with a partial scholarship. Please contact Ken Pennings at [ken@wabaptists.org](mailto:ken@wabaptists.org) or 608-255-2155."

Please visit the conference web site, <http://www.manystoriesonevoice.org/>, for more information about the conference, registration, pre-conference events, conference workshops, conference speakers, and post-conference events. Feel free to contact Ken Pennings at the above phone number or email address for more information.

## ***Northern Baptist Theological Seminary's Extension in Lawndale***

The Association of Theological Schools has approved Northern Baptist Theological Seminary's petition to operate "an extension site at the Lawndale Community Church, Chicago, Illinois, as a continuing course-offering site for less than 50 percent of the M. Div and M.A. in Christian Ministries degree programs."

Dean Charles Hambrick-Stowe said of the approval, "This is the best-case scenario that we might have hoped for."

Northern Seminary is currently offering classes at Lawndale Community Church, with a summer course with Ray Bakke and one course each quarter in the 2008-2009 school year. Approval from the Association of Theological Schools gives Northern the green light for a greater amount of courses to be offered at this site.

## ***November Trip to Israel/Palestine***

*This invitation is from the American Friends Service Committee.*

There is no better way to deepen your commitment to justice in Israel/Palestine than to travel with Interfaith Peace-Builders on one of our two-week delegations. You'll meet activists, educators, community organizers, students – and many more. You'll travel throughout the West Bank and Israel and see the realities of the conflict.

Participants routinely describe the experience as 'transformative,' 'eye-opening,' and 'life-changing.' And it shows; when our delegates return, they are better prepared to speak, write, organize, and act on this issue. Join us. Go to Israel/Palestine in November 2008 or April 2009 and help build peace through your own personal experience.

Read about exciting opportunities to visit Israel/Palestine in November 2008 and April 2009 below or click here: <http://www.ifpbdel.org/announce/0809upcoming.html>

Olive Harvest Delegation  
Cosponsored with the American Friends Service Committee  
November 8 - 22, 2008

This delegation will provide an opportunity to participate in the Palestinian olive harvest season — generally a time of great community activism, where people of all ages from Palestine, Israeli peace and justice groups, and international groups join farmers as they reap their harvest. It is international support that makes the harvest possible in many cases. You will hear from Palestinian farmers and learn of the importance of agriculture to the Palestinian economy and culture. As with other delegations, you will also meet additional Israelis and Palestinians working for peace and justice. This delegation will be led by **Jennifer Bing-Canar**, the national

coordinator of the Middle East Peacebuilding Program for AFSC, and **Alta Schwartz**, an IFPB Board member and director of outreach for the Middle East Institute at Georgia State University.

Learn more about this delegation here:

<http://www.ifpbdel.org/del29/default.html>

[<http://www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org/del29/default.html>](http://www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org/del29/default.html)

## **ABCUSA NEWS**

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

### ***ABC Missionary Plays Vital Role in Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Lebanon***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/11/08)** — The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon, recently completed its Middle East Conference -- an event designed to foster understanding between Christians and Muslims in the Arab world, as well as foster understanding with the western world. Dan Buttry, a global consultant for peace and justice issues with American Baptist International Ministries, was a keynote speaker at the event, held June 16 through 20. Buttry was invited by the seminary's Institute of Middle East Studies.

Buttry said in published reports the Institute "is doing some groundbreaking work on the relationship of Christianity and Islam. They aren't just academics sitting back and studying the subject. They are facilitating people talking to each other, interacting constructively as communities, and exploring ways to move constructively into a hopeful and peaceful future in Lebanon, as well as other Middle Eastern contexts."

Buttry has worked in hotspots around the world, helping Christian leaders and non-Christian leaders learn better ways of overcoming their differences and resolving violent conflicts peacefully. He has worked in several places where there has been religious violence, such as Northeast India, the Republic of Georgia (of the former USSR) and Ethiopia.

Though Buttry travels the world working for International Ministries, he is based in Hamtramck, MI., near Detroit. He has worked with the substantial Arab and Muslim communities in the Detroit area as well.

He is the author of several books, including the recent compilation, *Interfaith Heroes*, a 31-day devotional, with brief biographies on several religious peacemakers, including Baptists such as Roger Williams and Martin Luther King, Jr., along with other Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, Jews and Hindus.

American Baptist International Ministries, organized in 1814, is the oldest Baptist mission agency formed in North America. We serve more than 2,500 short-term and long-term missionaries annually, bringing U.S. and Puerto Rico churches together with partners in 76 countries in cutting-edge ministries that tell the good news of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs.

### ***WCC Seeks Young Adults for Ecumenical Service Opportunity***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/16/08)** —The World Council of Churches is seeking ecumenically minded young adults for a variety of young adult service opportunities.

The first two programs, dealing with urgent issues of social concern, are the National Council of Churches' ecumenical work week in New Orleans, and a weeklong volunteer experience with No More Deaths, concerning help and justice for migrant workers on the Arizona/Mexico border. Both opportunities will take place the week of August 17 to 23, 2008.

For more information on the National Council of Churches' ecumenical work week, visit [www.nccusa.org/justrebuilding](http://www.nccusa.org/justrebuilding).

For more information on the No More Deaths summer volunteer experience, visit [www.nomoredeaths.org](http://www.nomoredeaths.org).

Young adults interested in either of the first two programs, please email [webmaster@abc-usa.org](mailto:webmaster@abc-usa.org) for details on the application process. The application deadline is Tuesday, July 22.

There are also five internships available in Geneva, Switzerland for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. The internships, from February 2009 to January 2010, provide an opportunity for learning and work experience in an international, ecumenical setting. This opportunity is ideal for young people who are actively involved in the church and are interested in learning more about the World Council of Churches and ecumenism. These World Council of Churches internships are a chance for young adults to develop their professional skills and capacities in order to better serve churches locally.

As part of the program, interns develop an ecumenical project that they can implement when they return from Geneva to their home community and church. This is a way to ensure that the ecumenical movement is strengthened at a local level with their church's support.

The five WCC internships available in 2009 are:

1. Accompanying Churches in Situations of Conflict
2. Youth and Ecumenical Relationships
3. Visitors Program/Media Relations
4. Faith, Science, Technology and Ethics
5. Faith and Order

Application forms are available on the youth page of the WCC website: [www.ecumenicalyouth.org](http://www.ecumenicalyouth.org).

The deadline for applications for these five internship positions is September 15, 2008.

### ***Coalition Letter to Candidates Urges Religious Freedom, Civil Liberties Protections in Faith-Based Initiative***

Click [here](#) to read the full text of the letter to the candidates.

WASHINGTON — Members of a diverse coalition of religious and civil rights organizations have called on candidates John McCain and Barack Obama to formulate policies on the Faith-Based Initiative that protect and restore religious freedom and civil rights to partnerships between government and community and faith-based organizations.

More than 40 members of the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination signed a letter criticizing the lack of proper accountability and constitutional safeguards in the Bush administration's Faith-Based Initiative that would protect the independence of religious organizations and protect the civil rights and religious liberty of employees and beneficiaries of government-funded programs.

"The next administration has the opportunity to restore the constitutionally required safeguards

and civil rights protections that were in place for decades prior to the passage of the charitable choice statutes and the creation of the Faith-Based Initiative,” the letter states.

A major coalition criticism of the Faith-Based Initiative is that it allows religious organizations to take government funds and use those funds to discriminate in hiring a qualified individual based on nothing more than his or her religious beliefs. “The federal government should not subsidize workplace discrimination,” the letter states.

K. Hollyn Hollman, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, said the letter comes at an important time as the candidates are stating their intentions regarding the future of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The BJC is a coalition leader and an outspoken critic of those policies pursued under the label “charitable choice” or “Faith-Based Initiatives” that would threaten religious freedom.

“The BJC, along with the Coalition Against Discrimination, has long-fought against policies that would jeopardize the religious freedom rights of social service providers and beneficiaries,” Hollman said. “We’re challenging the candidates to do right the right way.”

## HEALTH CARE NEWS

### *Community Health Care Discussion*

*This invitation is from the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition.*

Date: **Tuesday, July 22nd**

Time: **6:30-8:00 pm**

Location: **1505 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park** (two doors down from the Common Cup)

This will be an action-oriented discussion. Let's work together on moving forward with real health care reform in Illinois. The inability of our state legislators to work together to achieve sensible solutions and the lack of real leadership in Springfield is a great disservice to the citizens and small businesses of Illinois. The health care situation in Illinois is deteriorating. Communities and families across the state are struggling with the high costs of health care. Illinois can do better. The people of Illinois deserve better. It is time!

All are invited to attend. Please bring along a friend or two!

Please RSVP to Eric Quamme at (312) 491-8161 x25 or Caitlin Paul at x34 or [equamme@ilmaternal.org](mailto:equamme@ilmaternal.org)

Thank you.

with peace and compassion always,

Eric O. Quamme  
Regional Organizer  
Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition

1256 W. Chicago  
Chicago, IL 60622  
(312) 491-8161 (o)  
(773) 619-3857 (c)

[www.ilmaternal.org](http://www.ilmaternal.org)

# PEACE NEWS

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.louisville-institute.org)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for rest and travel mercies for all who are on holiday this time of year.

Please pray for ABC missionaries working to educate pastoral leaders in Latin America.

Please lift up in prayer those who are losing their homes in the current economic climate.

Please pray for blessings and hope for those dealing with wild fires on the west coast.

Please pray for all victims and survivors of domestic violence.

## CALENDAR

**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 20**--Lynne Kelley preaches at South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mt. Prospect, 10:30 a.m.

**July 22**-- Health Care Discussion, Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, 1505 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park (two doors down from the Common Cup), 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**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](mailto: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](http://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 4-7**--Many Stories One Voice conference, New Orleans. Please visit web site, [www.manystoriesonevoice.org](http://www.manystoriesonevoice.org).

**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](mailto: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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