

*Metro Chicago*

*eWind*

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...  
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

Weekly Electronic Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago  
A patchwork of varied news and announcements  
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,  
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

October 8, 2008

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# ABCMC NEWS

## ***ABCMC Annual Meeting***

2008 Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago  
Disparity and Difference  
New Testament Perspectives and Imperatives  
November 8  
Morgan Park Baptist Church  
11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago  
Email [office@abcmc.org](mailto:office@abcmc.org) or phone 7730804-1655 with your attendance plans.

## ***30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration of Cook County Jail Ministry***

We are all invited to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> year of Cook County Jail Ministry in Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park on Saturday, November 8 at 6 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Dr. William Goddard, who was instrumental in helping Rev. Andy Gonzalez begin the jail ministry. One of the fruits of this ministry, "Rocky" Vasquez, will share his testimony. The evening's program will also include the premier showing of the DVD telling the story of the Cook County Jail Ministry.

Tickets will be available at the door, and will cost \$15 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, and \$100 for a table of 8. Plan now for a super evening that will substantially feed your soul.

## ***World Mission Offering 2008***

The fall is the season when most American Baptist congregations collect the World Mission Offering. This is the offering to support American Baptist mission work around the world. Your gifts to the World Mission Offering go **100 percent** to support the work of 2,500 short- and long-term missionaries doing work with local partners in 76 countries around the world. LIVE GENEROUSLY!

## **NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS**

### ***175th Anniversary Year Celebrations***

*This invitation is from the First Baptist Church of Chicago.*

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary during 2008. Please join as we celebrate.



**Our 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 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.

## ***Please Help***

The roof of the First Latin American Baptist Church - the Hispanic Church with the longest association with ABCMC and a faithful contributor to our ministries together - has suffered some significant damage that needs immediate attention.

The lowest estimate for repair is just over \$10,000. But work can only start with a down payment of \$3,500.

Would you and/or your church be willing to contribute funds to help with this project?

Checks should be made payable to ABCMC and should specify "First Latin ABC Roof."

Send gifts collected to the ABCMC office at 7035 W. Grand Avenue Suite 102, Chicago, IL 60707 and ABCMC will get the money to the church. (Your church will receive credit for the giving with ABCUSA.)

## ***Four Concerts for a Cause***

In the coming months, Woodside Church, ABCMC's congregation in Flint, Michigan, will present concerts on four specific Fridays, at 7 p.m. at the church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint. Each concert will benefit a particular cause.



### **October 24, 2008 is Breast Cancer Awareness**

featuring Dr. Alyssa Smith, percussionist from Flint Institute of Music.

Alyssa G. Smith holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from The Ohio State University, Master of Music from Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Music from DePaul University. She has studied percussion with members of the Chicago Symphony and international performing artists including Michael Burritt, Susan Powell, Ted Atkatz, Jim Ross and Michael Green. Dr. Smith is

currently on faculty at the Flint School of Performing Arts in Flint, Michigan where she teaches private lessons to all ages, group beginning classes and the adult World Percussion class. In addition, she coaches the Flint Youth Symphony and Youth Wind Ensemble percussion sections and accompanies the Advanced Modern Dance class. Dr. Smith is a member of the French-American Chamber Orchestra, rotating yearly performances between Michigan and Lyon, France. Smith has also performed in several states in the Mid-West as well as in Ireland.

Dr. Smith's breast cancer activism began in May of 2007, when she signed up and began training for The Breast Cancer 3-Day. The 60-mile walk raises funds to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. Smith was inspired to walk after previous research had helped her mother become a survivor in 2005 and she wanted to give something back. She trained over a hundred miles that summer and completed The 3-Day in Chicago in 2007 and again in 2008. In addition to raising a combined total of over \$6900, Smith has worked to raise awareness through personal contact and by presenting two annual recitals at the Flint School of Performing Arts. More information is available at [www.smithmarimba.com](http://www.smithmarimba.com).



Donations are welcome for all concerts, and are at 7 p.m. at Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court St. For reservations contact Dr. Quincy Dobbs at 810-767-4911.

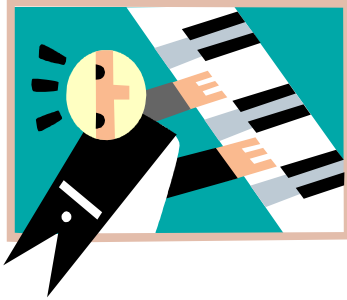
### **Other Concert Dates for the Season:**

January 16, 2009 benefits **Organ Donation Awareness**; March 13, 2009 benefits Awareness of the **Americans with Disabilities Act**; May 1, 2009 benefits **Heart Health Awareness**, including Blood Pressure and Cholesterol, which also benefits Stroke Awareness.

## ***Elijah***

The Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, will present a performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* on Friday, October 24, at 8:00 p.m. There is no admission charge. *Elijah* will be sung in the original English. The Choir is under the direction of Winifred Brown. It will be a great evening. Call the church for additional information. 847-256-4592.

## ***Concert in Flint***



At The Good Beans Café, downtown Flint, On Grand Traverse at First Ave, hear the mellow notes of Dr. Quincy Dobbs on piano and the sultry tones of Annie Oper on vocals.

You'll enjoy a selection of the Classic '40s-style' music that has been rediscovered by such greats as Linda Ronstadt, Rod Stewart, and Aaron Neville.

**Absolutely free**

(Tips are not required, but encouraged – In fact we may beg you for them)

**Friday, November 7, from 7 to 9 p.m.**



## ***Morgan Park to Install New Pastor***

On Sunday, October 26th, at 3 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Thomas Aldworth will be installed as Pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church. The speaker for the afternoon will be Dr. Larry Greenfield. All are invited. A reception will follow the service.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### ***Middle East Matters***

*Where My Parents Grew Up: Tales of Two Witnesses in Israel/Palestine* will be the title of a presentation on Sunday, October 12. The program will be at KAM Isaiah Israel, 1100 E. Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago, at 10:30 a.m. Yotam Amit, a member of KAM, and Miryam Rashid of the American Friends Service Committee, will discuss their recent delegation to Palestine/Israel. We are all invited to attend this event.

Since this temple is directly opposite Sen. Obama's house, there is Secret Service security. If you plan to attend, you will get in faster if you RSVP to Yali Amit at amit@marx.uchicago.edu by Wednesday, October 8.

## **Remembering Don Benedict**

In recent weeks, Protestants for the Common Good has been grieving the passing of Don Benedict, one of the organization's founders. This week's special issue of the organization's newsletter, *The Common Good Network*, celebrates the life of Don Benedict. It includes reflections and tributes from the memorial service that was held at Saint Paul United Church of Christ. To read this issue of the newsletter, please go to

<http://thecommongood.org/showfile.asp?file=index.html>

Part of this issue of *The Common Good Network* is the regular column by ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield, who is the Theologian in Residence for the Protestants for the Common Good. Larry's column appears in each issue of PCG's newsletter, and he is the editor. His latest column is also at the end of this issue of *eWind*.



## **“The Israel Lobby” and the 2008 Elections by John Mearsheimer**

What is the role of the “Israel Lobby” in shaping candidates' rhetoric and strategy for the 2008 presidential elections? How will “The Lobby” affect the diplomatic and legislative options available to the incoming president and U.S. Congress? We are invited to a program on this topic on Saturday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street Oak Park.

Hear a timely analysis of these issues by John Mearsheimer, co-author of the controversial 2007 book, *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (co-written with Stephen Walt, professor of international relations at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government). Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and the co-director of the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago.

A West Point graduate and former U.S. Air Force officer, Mearsheimer holds a PhD from Cornell University and has held fellowships with the Brookings Institution, Harvard University's Center for International Affairs, and the Council on Foreign Relations. The presentation in Oak Park will be sponsored by the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine (CJPIP).

The program will be part of CJPIP's 2008 – 2009 Community Education and Dialogue Series, “Breaking Through Silence and Censorship: The American Conversation on Israel/ Palestine.” For more information on CJPIP and the series, visit [www.cjpip.org](http://www.cjpip.org).

## **Children's Sabbath**

Children's Sabbath this year will be observed on the weekend of October 17-19. ABCMC congregations are encouraged to observe Children's Sabbath in their worship services on Sunday, October 19.

Excellent resources are available for use in observing Children's Sabbath. “When Will We Hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Call to End Poverty in America?” is the title of the manual with educational and worship sources for this year. It can be obtained by calling 865-457-6466 or by visiting [childrensdefensefund.org](http://childrensdefensefund.org) >Programs >Religious Action Program.

## ***CROP Hunger Walk***

October 19 will be the day for Chicago's CROP Hunger Walk. A number of ABCMC congregations and individuals are planning to participate in CROP Hunger Walks this fall. The First Baptist Church of Waukegan will be a part of the walk in Waukegan. Not only will members participate, the church will be an official rest stop for walkers. The South Church in Mt. Prospect will take part in the Northwest Suburban CROP Walk. Would you like to take part in a CROP Hunger Walk? It's a great thing to do. Please visit <http://cwscrop.org/greatrivers/> to find out how.

## ***Children, Nature and Faith***

This invitation is from Su Casa.

Explore Connections among Environmental, Community Service, and Faith-based Organizations at the First "Leave No Child Inside" Roundtable on Children, Nature, and Faith, on Monday, October 20, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at Su Casa, 5045 S. Laflin Street, Chicago.

Please join us for a discussion of the opportunities, challenges, and benefits of children's access to the outdoors, as seen by local environmental, community service, and faith-based organizations. Come explore connections among the work of these organizations and share your ideas for potential partnerships and collaborations on the topic of children, nature, and faith.

The Roundtable will be hosted by Su Casa, a Catholic organization devoted to providing a safe space to displaced Hispanic children and families. The participants will spend the first hour working side-by-side on clearing space for a community garden at the site (weather permitting). The second hour will be devoted to discussing the participants' shared interests in connecting children with nature.

Due to space limitations, an RSVP would be greatly appreciated. Please send your name and the name of your organization to Emilian Geczi, LNCI Coordinator, at [egeczi@chicagowilderness.org](mailto:egeczi@chicagowilderness.org).

Leave No Child Inside is an initiative of Chicago Wilderness that aims to nourish children's curiosity, growth, and creativity through unstructured outdoor playtime and other outdoor activities. For more information about Leave No Child Inside or the Roundtable event, please contact Emilian Geczi at the address above or visit [www.kidsoutside.info](http://www.kidsoutside.info). For more information about the work of Su Casa, please visit [www.sucasacatholicworker.blogspot.com](http://www.sucasacatholicworker.blogspot.com).

## ***Iraqi Refugee Benefit Concert***

On Saturday, October 25, there will be a concert at 7 p.m. at St. Gertrude Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago. Proceeds will go to Catholic Relief Services Middle East Iraqi Refugees Trauma Project, training social workers in the Middle East already working with Iraqi refugees through the Eastern Mennonite University STAR program; and MECCS (Middle East Cultural and Charitable Society, working to identify Iraqis with acute medical needs and aid in direct health care delivery.

Live Musical Performances will be offered by:

- VOICES, Chicago-based political folk group
- Lamajamal, world music from the Black Sea to the Nile
- Kuumba Lynx Performance Ensemble, hip hop for social change
- Ecos del Pacifico, the Montaña-Arboleda Family

St. Gertrude Talent performing at the concert includes: The Buttitta Sisters plus Peter Buttitta, Suzie Corbett, Mary Clare Barker, Debra and Gabriel Inserra-Mousin, Anita Klueg, Jim Manzardo, John & Maura Neafsey, Jim Szmurlo.

Enjoy light refreshments and a cash bar. The suggested donation will be \$10-\$15; no one will be turned away.

## ***Election Year Program***

Protestants for the Common Good invites all of us to a special election year program with speaker David Wilhelm. "The 2008 Election: Why Faith Matters...And How!" will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 27 at the Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington Street (James Parlor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor).

David Wilhelm is one of America's leading political strategists and managers. He was the national manager of the 1992 presidential campaign of William Jefferson Clinton and directed the campaigns of some of America's most respected leaders, including Richard M. Daley, Joseph Biden, and the late Paul Simon. He is the founder and president of Woodland Venture Management, a company dedicated to the proposition that entrepreneurial vision and management talent may be found in parts of the United States rarely visited by private equity investors, including the hills of central Appalachia (where Wilhelm was raised) and the prairies of the Midwest.

## ***McCormick Days 2008***

Monday, October 27 through Tuesday, October 28 McCormick Theological Seminary will present a program on the Emerging Church. Presenters will include the following:

- Brian D. McLaren**, a leader in the emerging church movement, is a prolific author, speaker, pastor, and networker among innovative Christian leaders, thinkers, and activists.
- Diana Butler Bass** is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture.
- Nanette Sawyer**, worship leader for the event, is an alumna of McCormick and the founding pastor of Wicker Park Grace, an innovative Christian community that meets in an art gallery on the west side of Chicago.

**Online registration (now working!) and full brochure at [www.mccormick.edu](http://www.mccormick.edu)**

**For more information**, contact Grayson Van Camp at 773.947.6283 or [gvancamp@mccormick.edu](mailto:gvancamp@mccormick.edu)  
Cost \$75. Scholarships available.

## ***Election Anxiety***

*This invitation is from Living Well Ministries.*

On Saturday, November 1, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Living Well Ministries will offer "A Meal with Micah: Prayer Breakfast for Election Anxiety." The event will be based on a line from the prophet Micah, "...and no one will make them afraid" (Micah 4:4)

Bring your friends – red, blue and purple – to make this experiment a success! This prayer breakfast is open to people of all political and religious backgrounds who want to gather for Bible study (Micah 3-4), discussion and prayer for our candidates, country and world. We'll give special attention to Micah's themes of accountable leadership, justice and peace-making. We'll honor the personal journeys of major presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Attendees can expect and share candid opinions in a space dedicated to humanizing dialogue and the uniting power of prayer. The event will be led by Jacki Belile, founding minister of Living Well Ministries. Space is limited to 25 attendees.

Visit [www.livingwellministries.net](http://www.livingwellministries.net) to print and mail registration form on LWM's blog. Registration: \$12. Pre-registration required. Deadline: 10/27. Contact Jacki for more information at 773.655.4357 or [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net).

## **ABCUSA NEWS**

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

### ***Pray for an End to Violence that Has Broken Out in Assam India***

Conflict between Muslim settlers from Bangladesh and native Bodo tribes people has resulted in violence, death and the destruction of property. A local Baptist leader has said, "Life is sacred and precious. No one has the right to take it except the Giver. We don't need to resort to arms and violence to show our anger and displeasure, there is proper way to argue and to be heard. Violence is not the answer. I appeal to both tribes to immediately stop violence and come to negotiating table."

Pray for peace to return to this troubles area.

### ***Newly Released DVD "Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism"***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/03/08)** — "Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism," a newly released DVD about racism and religion from the Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville, Tennessee, is available from Judson Press. National Ministries supported development of the resource.

"Beneath the Skin" explores how Baptists are working together in proactive ways to break down racial and ethnic walls that have allowed racism to exist inside and outside the church. The DVD features a series of discussions with noted theologians, pastors, and social justice activists about racism and the church-- from its role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the current immigration debate. "Beneath the Skin" dissects the root cause of prejudice and confronts it with clear Biblical mandates.

Among those featured in the DVD are National Ministries' Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III and Associate Executive Director for Program Ministries Rev. Marilyn P. Turner. The vice president of the Board of National Ministries, Rev. Douglas Stowers, pastor, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., is included as well. Additional American Baptist clergy featured include Rev. James Stallings, executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Metro New York, and Rev. Yana Pagan, associate pastor, Upper Merion Baptist Church, King of Prussia, Pa.

Commenting on "Beneath the Skin's" significance for American Baptists, Wright-Riggins noted: "By sponsoring this video, National Ministries affirms American Baptist Churches USA's commitment to the values of diversity and social justice."

Added recognition for "Beneath the Skin" comes from Nashville's acclaimed International Black Film Festival (IBFF), which has chosen the DVD for screening at its annual film festival, October 15-18. "Beneath the Skin" will also be featured during the American Baptist Churches USA 2009 Biennial in Pasadena, Calif., in June 2009.

The DVD contains two versions, a 35- minute (short) and 47 minute (long) version. A discussion guide is included as a PDF download, made available through a special "pass code" located on the DVD.

"Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism," is available for \$15 from Judson Press, 1-800-458-3766 or [www.judsonpress.com](http://www.judsonpress.com).

## ***Special Prayer Request from David and Joyce Reed in Baja, Mexico***

ABC missionaries David and Joyce Reed have reported, "Hurricane Norbert is headed towards Baja Sur. On Wednesday, October 8, it was upgraded to a Category 4 Hurricane although it may only be a 2 by the time it makes landfall sometime Friday or Saturday. It is predicted to land on the Pacific side and then move across the peninsula towards the Sea of Cortez, just north of La Paz. We are being told to prepare for heavy winds, rain, and flooding. (If you'd like to read more about the storm as it progresses, go to [Bajainsider.com](http://Bajainsider.com) and click on the Hurricane Watch link located in the left hand column.)"

Would you please pray for God's protection over Southern Baja in the coming days? At present, David is in San Jose (2.5 hours south of La Paz) working with a mission group from FBC of Scottsdale, AZ. He and the pastor of that group were on their way to the airport to see about changing the group's airline tickets so they could fly out earlier than their scheduled flight on Friday. Please keep their travel plans in your prayers, too.

## ***NM Names Lisa Harris Interim Coordinator for Children's Ministries***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/03/08)** — National Ministries has named Rev. Lisa R. Harris acting national coordinator for children's ministries/Children in Poverty initiative. Harris, who assumed the position vacated by Rev. Dorian Mendez-Vaz, joined National Ministries September 2.

Harris previously served as executive director of Bethel Neighborhood Center, a National Ministries' Neighborhood Action Program (NAP) in Kansas City, Kan., that provides youth development, adult education, recreation and other services for individuals and families.

At National Ministries, Harris directs resources to advance its Children in Poverty (CIP) initiative, which seeks to focus national attention on the millions of children living in poverty in the United States. She also coordinates advocacy efforts around issues that adversely affect poor children, such as substandard public education, inadequate health care, hunger and poor quality housing. In addition, Harris provides leadership in forging partnerships with community organizations and ABCUSA churches, and represents National Ministries at local and national CIP events.

In commenting on the position, Harris said, "When I left Bethel Neighborhood Center in July 2008, my plan was to serve in a 12-month chaplain residency in a Washington, D.C. area hospital. In August my steps were redirected. I am pleased to serve with National Ministries as American Baptists continue to hear and answer God's call to care for children in poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is my hope that as we support congregations serving in and with communities struggling with acute economic issues, we will remind the children and adults through action and words that they are not alone and that God loves them."

A native of Scotch Plains, N.J., Harris holds a master of divinity degree from Duke University in Durham, N.C., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. Her Christian faith was nurtured by her family and the St. Paul Baptist Church of Montclair, N.J. Since 1990, Harris' academic, extracurricular, professional and volunteer vocation has centered on serving with communities at the margins. An ordained American Baptist minister, Harris served as pastor for the Bethel New Beginnings Church in Kansas City, Kan., and as an associate pastor for churches in North Carolina and New Jersey.

In welcoming Harris to National Ministries, Associate Executive Director for Program Ministries Rev. Marilyn P. Turner said, "I first met Rev. Harris when she served as the minister of mission support for Philadelphia Baptist Association and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. Her commitment to mission as it related to people of all ages, which was evident then, remains at the forefront of her ministry today. We are blessed in that her love for Jesus and her creativity are now focused upon this essential ministry on behalf of children. And we are certain that her energy and gifts will have a life-giving impact across American Baptist Churches USA."

## ***Proposed ABCUSA Structure and By-Laws Revision***

At the last ABCMC Family Council meeting, our General Board Representative David Gregg gave a presentation about the proposals for restructuring the denomination. If you missed David's presentation, or if you desire further information, you may wish to go to <http://www.abc-usa.org/documents/general%20board%20docs/gbdocs0808.pdf>

## **HEALTH CARE NEWS**

### ***National Call-in Week for Healthcare***

*This request is from Citizen Action Illinois.*

This week, please join thousands of people across the country in contacting members of Congress to demand affordable, accessible and quality healthcare for all Americans. **We are asking Congress, "Which side are you on?"** Are you on the side of quality, affordable health care we all can count on or leaving people at the mercy of the private health insurance industry that is charging us more, giving us less and putting company profits before our health?

Go to <http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org/> for information. Health Care for America Now's calling tool will update you on the current list of Congressional supporters, provide some talking points, and connect you directly to your members of Congress. Please go to <http://blog.healthcareforamericanow.org/congressional-support-for-health-care-for-america-now/>. To get started, go to <http://tools.advomatic.com/8/hcn>

Now is the time to act. We need a comprehensive solution in which all of us – individuals, employers, and government – share responsibility for guaranteeing health care we can count on. The HCAN proposal reflects this goal.

Please take 5 minutes right now to let your Congressional representatives know your opinion on health care reform. Legislators across the country are tracking these calls to measure the real support behind reforming the health care system or leaving it as it is. Your representatives need to hear the urgency behind your support for the principles of Health Care for America Now that would guarantee quality, affordable health care for all Americans.

Call 1-888-436-8427 for the Capitol Switchboard. Make the call this week. Thank you!

### ***Health Care Sabbath Is Coming***

It is impossible to quantify the amount of suffering, frustration, and disparities in communities across the state of Illinois when it comes to health care. With so many other burning issues demanding our utmost attention these days, access to affordable and quality health care seems to be relegated a lesser priority. The reality of the situation, though, is that communities and families across the state are struggling with the rising costs of health care.

The tough question that we need to ask ourselves is: "Can we, in good conscience, continue down this broken path that leaves families and individuals without adequate coverage?" It is time to acknowledge that our health care system is broken. We cannot afford to do nothing. The rising cost of health care in this state is causing economic hardships for hard-working families all over the state. The rising cost of health care is having an adverse effect not only on families and communities, but on the state budget as well. Something must be done. Illinois can do so much better. Wouldn't it be great to see Illinois take strong leadership on health care reform?

You and your congregation are encouraged to participate in this year's Health Care Sabbath. You can determine to what extent you wish to get involved. Each congregation will approach the Sabbath differently, and according to their own values. This is an opportunity for the faith community to raise awareness on health care justice, and a way for congregations to get involved to help make a difference.

To find out more about how to get involved, please download the free online faith-based advocacy tool kit now at [www.cbhconline.org](http://www.cbhconline.org)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for World peace.

Please pray for professional church leaders seeking employment.

Please hold in prayer the people in India, who are in the midst of a season of sectarian danger and violence. Please pray also for those from International Ministries giving them support at this time.

Please pray for all who are dealing with the aftermath of violent weather in the hurricane season. Please lift up in prayer those who are facing new dangers from the weather.

Please pray for those who have concerns about their retirement savings and income in these difficult economic times.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Terry and Tom Myers, who are working with teenaged orphans in Bulgaria.

Please pray for Americans who lack access to health care that they need. Please hold in prayer everyone who is working to repair our nation's health care system.

## POSITION OPENING

### *Financial Secretary*

North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, is seeking a new financial secretary to work part time (20 hours per week). For a position description, please visit <http://www.northshorebaptist.org/fin%20sec%20position%20description.pdf>. If you are interested in applying, please contact [Ron Barlow](mailto:Ron.Barlow) at 773-728-4200, extension 22 or [rbarlow@northshorebaptist.org](mailto:rbarlow@northshorebaptist.org).

## CALENDAR

**October 11**—Peace Vigil, Arlington Heights Road and Northwest Highway, 3-4 p.m.

**October 12**—ABC MC Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Berwyn, 6916 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Berwyn; Larry Greenfield preaches.

**October 12**—Memorial service for Andrew Kmetko, First Baptist Church of Park Ridge, 1266 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, 3 p.m.

**October 16**—Faith and Health Summit, DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street, Chicago, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Register at [www.advocatehealth.com/seminars](http://www.advocatehealth.com/seminars) or 1-800-3ADVOCATE.

**October 17-19**—Children's Sabbath. Please observe Children's Sabbath in your congregation on Sunday, October 19. For resources and additional information, please visit [childrensdefensefund.org](http://childrensdefensefund.org) >Programs >Religious Action Program.

**October 17-19**--Health Care Sabbath. Please observe Health Care Sabbath in your congregation on Sunday, October 19. Please contact Eric Quamme ([equamme@ilmaternal.org](mailto:equamme@ilmaternal.org)) or Jonathan VanderBrug ([jvanderbrug@cbhconline.org](mailto:jvanderbrug@cbhconline.org)) for more information. For a toolkit, please go to <http://www.cbhconline.org/index.html>.

**October 18**—Peace Vigil, Northwest Highway and Hicks Road, Palatine, 3-4 p.m.

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

**October 21-22**—Conference of Baptist Leaders from Burma, October 21-22, at the Chin Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

**October 25**—Benefit concert for Iraqi Refugees, 7 p.m. at St. Gertrude Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago.

**October 26**—Installation of Thomas Aldworth as pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11025 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 3 p.m.

**October 27-28**—McCormick Days 2008 program on the Emerging Church. For more information, please visit [www.mccormick.edu](http://www.mccormick.edu)

**November 1**—Workshop with Ken Medema, Rockford. For more information, please contact Mark Vincent by e-mail: [marklv@DesignForMinistry.com](mailto:marklv@DesignForMinistry.com) or [marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com](mailto:marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com) or phone: 877-771-3330 or 888-463-9995.

**November 8**—ABCMC Annual Meeting, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.). This year's theme will be "Disparity and Difference: New Testament Perspectives and Imperatives."

**November 8**—Cook County Jail Ministry 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, 6 p.m.

**November 12**—Kids Hope United Annual Dinner, law firm of Drinker Biddle, 191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 3700, Chicago (in the Loop), 6 p.m.

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

**November 25**—Annual Meeting, Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care, Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 West Mart Center Drive, Chicago, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Please contact Kathleen Duffy at 312-913-9449 or [kduffy@cbhconline.org](mailto:kduffy@cbhconline.org) for more information.

**December 20**--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 the editor, Lynne Kelley, at [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

## Thinking Theologically About the Common Good

*Reflections on theology, scripture, and public life  
from the Rev. Larry Greenfield.*

### "Seating Arrangements"

In an [interview](#) one time, I asked Don Benedict how he originally got interested in criminal justice.

It started, he said, when he found himself sitting in jail.

For all the decades that followed, he fought for reform of the system, while caring for and about those, justly or unjustly, imprisoned.

And that's pretty much the story – whatever the territory of injustice he found himself seated in – of Don's life: re-forming systemic injustice and caring for and about those who suffered from that injustice.

He was always *talking* about a new Reformation, and he was always *acting* on particular reformations in all sorts of territories with prophetic deeds and with compassionate care for those who suffered from injustice.

His script for the reforming talk and his model for the reforming action were the teachings and the life of Jesus.

Whether friend or foe of Don's, everyone could recognize that he was a prophetic and caring disciple of the one who proclaimed and embodied a re-formed realm of God.

\* \* \* \* \*

Near the end of his life, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, a mother asked Jesus for a favor: would he assure her that her two sons would sit next to him – one on Jesus' right hand and the other on his left – when the new realm he preached about became a reality?

Jesus told the mother and her boys that he wouldn't be in charge of seating arrangements in the re-formed realm of God.

But he told the mother and her two sons, along with all those who were gathered around him, how those seating arrangements would be determined:

*You know that in the world, rulers lord it over their subjects, and their great men make them feel the weight of authority; but it shall not be so with you. Among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever would be first must be the willing slave of all – like the Son of Man; he did not come to be served, but to serve, and to surrender his life as a ransom for many. (20: 25 – 28)*

\* \* \* \* \*

I'm pretty sure that Don will end up on the *left* side of the throne.  
I'm very sure his seat will be up close.