

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

November 5, 2008

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ABCMC NEWS

ABCMC Annual Meeting

disparity & DIFFERENCE

NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES AND IMPERATIVES

dis-par'i-ty *n* – the quality or state of being of unequal rank, condition, circumstance, etc.; inequality or dissimilarity in respect of age, amount, number, or quality; want of parity or equality.

Dif'-fer-ence – having characters or qualities which diverge from one another; having unlike or distinguishing attributes; not of the same kind; not alike; of other nature, form, or quality.

THE 173RD ANNUAL MEETING AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF METRO CHICAGO

November 8, 2008
Morgan Park Baptist Church
11024 S. Bell Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60643

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Check-In and Refreshments |
| 9:00 | A Service of Prayer for our New National Leaders, for Justice and Unity in our Country, and for Global Peace |
| 9:30 | Plenary Address: The Rev. Carmen Porco
American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin |
| 10:00 | Disparity and Difference: An Interactive Study of the New Testament |
| 11:00 | Disparity and Difference: Contemporary Realities in Metro Chicago |
| 11:45 | Challenges and Opportunities for Congregations and ABCMC |
| 12:30 p.m. | Luncheon and Recognitions |
| 1:30 | Annual Business Meeting |
| 2:30 | A Celtic Worship Experience: The Rev. Dr. Thomas Aldworth, Pastor
Morgan Park Baptist Church |
| 3:00 | Adjournment |

Invitation from Larry Greenfield

TO: American Baptist Sisters and Brothers in Metro Chicago

FROM: Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister

RE: ABCMC Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 8
Morgan Park Baptist Church
11024 S. Bell Avenue
Chicago, 60643

Please make every effort to join us this Saturday for our Annual Meeting.

We'll begin our time together in a period of **prayer for our new national leaders**, for **justice and unity in our country**, and for **peace in the world**. Come as individuals and as churches with a prayer that you can share at this important moment in our life as a people.

We are then going to spend the rest of the morning wrestling as New Testament-grounded people with an important biblical and contemporary issue: **disparity and difference**.

There's obviously no question that Jesus the Christ is at the core of the New Testament witness. And it is abundantly clear that the reign of God he proclaimed and the ethic he taught (and demonstrated) centered on honoring God-made differences and damning human-made disparities.

Somehow we've today got that reversed: virtually blessing disparity and cursing differences.

As you will see from the schedule on the previous page, we'll spend time studying scripture, getting a picture of contemporary realities, and thinking together about what is required of us as disciples of Jesus.

After lunch, we'll convene our business meeting and then close with a Celtic worship service, led by the new pastor of the Morgan Park Baptist Church, the Rev. Thomas Aldworth.

Just a word about our morning speaker: the Rev. Dr. Carmen Porco from ABC Wisconsin. He is a wise, even crafty, one might almost say subversive follower of Jesus, and someone who actually knows how to bring about change. I guarantee he will charm and challenge us.

I look forward to your being with us.

30th Year Anniversary Celebration of Cook County Jail Ministry

We are all invited to celebrate the 30th 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.

Thinking Theologically

Yesterday was a historic day in our nation. This week ABCMC's Executive Minister has prepared a column for Protestants for the common good, and shares his reflections on events at Grant Park and elsewhere. Please read it. It is at the end of this issue of *eWind*.

Kids Hope United Annual Dinner

Kids Hope United invites you to their Annual Dinner. Join them to commemorate 113 years of providing innovative services to protect children and strengthen families.

Jennifer Witherspoon will be the main speaker. She grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes on Chicago's South Side and is now the chief of corrections at Lake County Jail, the first African American and first woman ever to be named to that position. She has worked as a substance abuse counselor and law enforcement patrol sergeant in California, and as a legal advocate for victims of domestic violence in the YWCA ALIVE Program in Washington. She is a founding member of the North Shore Bronzeville Association in Chicago, which assists young men and women from underprivileged families by providing experiences and skills that participants would not ordinarily receive in schools. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the City University in Bellevue, Washington, and her law degree from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She lives in Waukegan with her husband of 24 years, Michael, and their two children, Megan and Tyler.

The dinner will be held Wednesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. at Drinker Biddle, 191 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 3700. There is no charge for the event, but reservations are due October 31. Please contact Kristy Cechini at kcechini@kidshopeunited.org or 847-245-6505.

Kids Hope United is an American Baptist related organization. Linda Requilez, Clarke Robinson, Edward Santiago, and William Wallin serve on the Northern Region Board. Larry Greenfield serves on the Federation Board. Come join us.

Save the Date

It's time to tune up your voice and your musical instruments, and prepare seasonal music for the 2nd Annual ABCMC Christmas/Advent Season Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, on Saturday, December 13 at 3:30 p.m. Your church is invited to attend and participate. If your church is interested in being among those sharing musical gifts, please contact Lowell Young at younglowell@aol.com or 773-370-2003. More information will follow.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Invitation and Request from North Shore Baptist Church

Dear Friends,

As we approach our first Karen American Open House on Sunday, November 16th at North Shore Baptist church, we would like to include another opportunity to assist our Karen brothers and sisters.

We been happy to receive clothing and pantry items on their behalf, this has been received with much appreciation and thanks. The biggest surprise to people coming to Chicago has been our frigid temperatures. Yet, we still have had people coming to worship and school in sandals and sweaters!

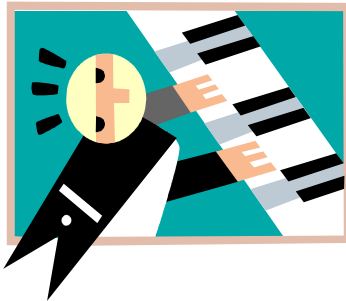
Can you help us help them? We will accept **winter coats** in all children's sizes, women's sizes (S-M-L) and men's sizes (S-M-L). We also need shoes and boots in all sizes.

Another thing we have learned is that there are four young men that have been laid off of their jobs until they have steel-toe shoes. If you would be able to make a donation to help us purchase these shoes, it would help them get back to work. Please make your check payable to *North Shore Baptist Church*, memo: *Karen Welcome Pantry:Shoes*.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dawn Noldan
North Shore Baptist Church
Missional Ministry Chairman

Concert in Flint



At The Good Beans Café, downtown Flint, on Grand Traverse at First Avenue, 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.

The Kite Runner

A one-man show based on the best selling book *The Kite Runner* will be performed at Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan on Sunday, November 9 at 4 p.m. in the Chapel.

Hispanic Congregation's 30th Anniversary



On November 15 and 16, the Hispanic congregation of North Shore Baptist Church will celebrate their 30th anniversary in ministry. At 6:30 p.m. on November 15, the congregation will have a special anniversary service followed by a reception at the church.

Celebration will continue the next day with the customary Spanish service at 10 a.m. followed by North Shore's All Church Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Karen-American Open House



K A R E N - A M E R I C A N OPEN HOUSE

Stepping to the Beat of the Same Drum

You are invited to attend the Karen-American Open House

Where:

North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago 5244 N Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640

When:

Sunday November 16, 2008 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm

Why:

To welcome our new neighbors to Chicago and to join us in exploring ways to help them succeed in America. Over 2,500 refugees from Burma and Thailand, most from the long persecuted Karen ethnic minority, have come to Chicago in the last year.

What to Expect:

An interactive, open forum where Karen refugees and Americans meet to share information and ideas for helping the Karen overcome their most pressing challenges, particularly:

English tutoring for adults
Employment opportunities
Eligibility and Access to Public Support
Housing
Children's Programs

What Else?

Representatives from state and city government specializing in refugee affairs.
Karen crafts and cuisine will be available for sale.
Karen art and culture will be demonstrated and discussed.
Performances by local Karen and American musicians.
Volunteer opportunities for you to explore.

What can I do?

Simply join us on the 16th. Bring your ideas and creative problem-solving skills. Our aim is to leverage the power of networking within our community on the Karens' behalf. No need to bring your checkbook, however, if you like, you may contribute to the Karen Welcome Pantry project of North Shore Baptist Church.

How do I RSVP?

Please email Theneeners@aol.com to confirm your attendance and/or to ask questions. Please feel free to forward this email to others who may be interested. (Of course, you do not need to be Karen to benefit from the information presented at this event. It is OPEN to all!)

Bethesdan Choir to Present Cantata

On Sunday, November 16 at 4 p.m., the Bethesdan Choir of Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church will perform the Christmas Cantata "Born to Die," Opus 25 by Glenn Edward Burleigh. This fine work traces the birth, live, death and resurrection of Jesus. It ends with a glorious chorus of "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will to men."

The Bethesdan Choir was organized in April, 1976 by then pastor (now pastor emeritus) Dr. A. Lincoln James, Sr., and has become an integral part of the music ministry at Greater Bethesda Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Kenneth Woods, Jr., this 25-member group has become known for its superb ensemble sound, excellent soloists, and inspirational musical messages. The outstanding success of the choir's annual "Sermon-In-Song" presentation has enabled the group to minister to various congregations and other religious groups.

All are invited to come and enjoy the Christmas cantata. It will be presented at the church, 5301 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Fun Raiser at Irving Park

If you weren't able to make it to either of the previous musical fun raisers at Irving Park Baptist Church, you really missed a good time. Don't deprive yourself again! The next musical fun-raiser is scheduled for November 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago.

175th Anniversary Celebration

The First Baptist Church of Chicago, the oldest Baptist church in the city of Chicago, is celebrating 175 years of ministry this year. On October 12 they held a joy-filled time of celebration. They're not done yet, though.

First Baptist's 175th Anniversary Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, November 23. The banquet will take place in Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 East 59th Street on the campus of the University of Chicago. Tickets are \$50.00 per person. Please call the church office at 773-536-3430 reserve your seats. Evening attire is requested.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Peace for India



Tomorrow, Thursday, November 6, there will be a panel discussion, "Peace for India: Promoting Religious Tolerance." It will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Commons Room, McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 S. University Avenue, Chicago. This is a very important subject, considering ongoing violence against Christians in India.

Featured Panelists will be **Swami Varadananda** of the Vivekananda Society, Chicago; Mr. **Rasheed Ahmed**, National President, Indian Muslim Council – USA; Mr. **Jose Anthony**, Regional Vice President, The Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America; **Professor Z. C. Devadanam**, National Christian Forum – India (Former Member); and **Dr. Shridhar Damle**, Co-author of *The*

Brotherhood in Saffron: The Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Hindu Revivalism.

This event is sponsored by Peace for India Coordinating Committee, Concerned students from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago Divinity School. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Northern Family Welcomes New President Alistair Brown

This article is from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

On September 15, 2008, Northern Seminary welcomed its tenth President, the Rev. Dr. Alistair Brown, to the campus with a reception and fellowship. Employees sat with refreshments to get to know their new president a little better and hear about his first week on campus. The next day, Dr. Brown spoke at the seminary's first chapel of the year.

Dr. Brown's previous position was the General Director of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) with its World Mission headquarters in Didcot, Oxfordshire, UK. BMS is responsible for 160 mid and long term mission workers and 200 plus supported partner workers (indigenous personnel). The Society has a staff of 70 with an annual budget of 14.4 million dollars.

Alistair Brown is originally from near Edinburgh. After a short career in journalism, Dr. Brown sensed a call to ministry and studied at the University of Edinburgh, gaining a B.A. with Merit, a B.D. Honours degree in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology, and a Ph.D. with a thesis that examined metaphors of baptism in the Pauline literature. Later, while serving with BMS, he gained an M.B.A. from The Open University.

In 1979 he began work as a pastor, first as a church planter in Livingston and for more than ten years as senior pastor of a large city center church in Aberdeen. In 1996, he joined BMS World Mission as General Director.

His work with BMS took him to an almost uncountable number of countries. He has also written extensively, including *Near Christianity* and *I Believe in Mission*. Alistair has been a main platform speaker at events like Spring Harvest, Leading Edge, the Baptist Assembly, and at international meetings run by the Baptist World Alliance.

As he pondered the possibility of becoming Northern's president Dr. Brown wrote, "Walking by faith never ends, so exploring this role is part of my faith journey. Christ is more real and more precious now than ever before, and my determination to know and do his will controls all my decisions. ... With every breath and every act I seek to serve Jesus and always will." In responding to Northern's call he quoted the language of Northern's prospectus seeking a new president, "The next leader of Northern will come because following Jesus offers no other choice."

The Chair of Northern's Board and chair of the search, Ted Rodgers, stated, "We are profoundly grateful to God for guiding us to Alistair Brown. Dr. Brown is a proven effective and visionary leader with the skills and breadth and depth of experience necessary to lead Northern as she approaches her second century of preparing pastoral and congregational leaders."

In his letter to the Board of Trustees of March 7, 2008 Dr. Brown stated, "It's said that nothing ever takes God by surprise. I agree. But God certainly takes us by surprise. God holds me, as he holds Northern in his firm grasp, and that's all we need. ... Right now we may be a little surprised at what God is doing. I look forward to the surprise turning into wonder and gratitude as we see God accomplish far more than we can imagine."

Inaugural Edgar Boss Lecture Series to Take Place

This article is from Judson University in Elgin.

The first Edgar Boss Lecture Series will take place the week of November 17 and feature visiting lecturer Dr. Fisher Humphreys. Dr. Humphreys is a noted Baptist theologian and professor emeritus of Systematic Theology from Beeson Divinity School, Samford University of Birmingham, Ala.

The Series includes Dr. Humphreys delivering the message at chapel on Monday, November 17, on the theme "The Will of God," and Wednesday, November 19, on the theme of forgiveness. During the three-day lecture series he will also speak to select classes and the faculty through the Colloquia Series.

Dr. Humphreys will be the featured guest for a Pastor's Luncheon and Dialogue on Tuesday, November 18. The luncheon will provide a "question and answer" forum with Humphreys providing guidance and theological perspective for area pastors.

The Lecture Series honors the late Dr. Edgar Boss, Judson's founding dean of the academic programs. The series is sponsored by Dr. Albert and Edith Lambert. A flier promoting the event is attached with this issue of *eWind*.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST FOR BOMBINGS IN ASSAM

FROM J.M. Ngul Khan Pau, General Secretary, The Council of Baptist Churches in North East India

The Nine explosions shook Assam yesterday within 70 minutes, of which three bombs were exploded in the busy market and important offices of Guwahati. Telegraph news paper front page called ASSAM AFIRE, leaving 70 dead and 350 injured. The number of the death cannot be ascertained as there are some missings. Some of the critically injured are struggling between live and death.

The Council of Baptist Churches in North East India, strongly condemned such heartless violence unleashed to common people. From our compound Lewis Memorial Hostel, two boys were found missing last night. Mr. Talimoa and two student leaders went to search when the curfew was lifted and identified the body of Mr. Pitolu Yeptho (20 years) son of Mr. Tohoshe Yeptho from Nagaland. His friend Mr. Dometrust Suntem (18 years) son of (Late) Sawajam Dkhar from Meghalaya is still missing.

"Guwahati or Baghdad," a partially burnt body at the driver's seat, the hands still clutching the steering wheel - death has never arrived in Guwahati with more gruesome an image. As soon as the blast took place outside our compound in Pan Bazar, I went out to see the jeep burnt with black smoke, a man whose throat was cut by a flint collapsed near our gate and succumbed to his injuries. Another person came dragging his body about 10 feet without leg, both were cutted below his knees. A father with his son, and a mother with her daughter were charred beyond recognition. A young jolly shop keeper life was untimely snapped off inside his rented shop.

We are requesting our partners in the national and international to pray for those who have lost their loved ones. We are now waiting for the body of Mr. Pitolu, here in our compound, his hostel friends would like to give their last fare-well to him. Pray for the state government, that they will be able to maintain law and order. Pray that such violence will not take place in any where, that the plan of the perpetrators will fail.

In His comfort;

J.M. Ngul Khan Pau

Seminarians and New Pastors Receive Orientation to ABC Life

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/31/08) — A group of 103 seminarians and 52 ministers new to ABC met at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin, for the October 16-18 2008 Orientation to American Baptist Life (OTABL) Conference.

"It was excellent and overwhelming," said Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Brockport, New York. "It was one of the best experiences of my life, and I really enjoyed the preachers during the worship services, for they were authentic to their diverse styles and were well prepared."

The OTABL Conference, with Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board's Education Director and Corporate Secretary Holly Bean as Coordinator of the Planning Team, offered participants an opportunity to be introduced to, and develop an understanding of, American Baptist identity, mission, and future as people of God.

"The weekend left me with a passion as I live out my life to be the hands and feet of Christ alongside my American Baptist sisters and brothers," said Rev. Ryan Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, IN.

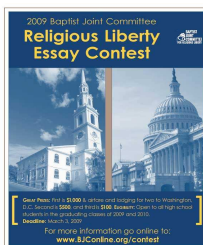
ABC's President, Rev. Mary Hulst, participated in the program with a number of other national staff persons and spouses of seminarians and new ministers. Rev. Hulst recalls that her favorite quote was from a young man who said to her, "ABC is a different and great denomination. I am proud to be part of it." Also in attendance was General Secretary Dr. A. Roy Medley, along with program board directors and staff from International Ministries, National Ministries and the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

One of the stated goals of the OTABL Conference was to delight in the Lord through worshipping in a variety of forms. The daily worship experience led by Brad Berglund and his worship team provided a wide variety of worship styles. "Whether staff, student, or pastor, I give praise to God," said Linwood Carter, second year seminarian from Shaw University Divinity School, "for the fellowship and worship I experienced in the beauty and serenity of Green Lake. God has great hands and feet working for Him here on earth."

The next OTABL meeting is scheduled for January 4 to 8, 2010, when another similar group will be combined with seminarians and ministers new to ABC at the Ministers Council gathering in Florida.

Details Released for the 2009 Essay Contest!

Contest open to all students in 2009, 2010 graduating classes



The Baptist Joint Committee has released details of its annual religious liberty essay contest, which is open this year to **all** high school students in the 2009 and 2010 graduating classes. The contest offers a grand prize of **\$1,000** and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is **\$500**, and third prize is **\$100**.

The topic for the 2009 contest and all of the requirements are available from the [BJC Web site](http://www.BJCOnline.org/contest). All entries must be postmarked by March 2, 2009.

Completed essays and required forms should be mailed to:

**Baptist Joint Committee Essay Contest
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

Visit the BJC Web site (www.bjconline.org) to download registration materials and for more information. If you have questions, contact Jeff Huett at 202-544-4226 or by e-mail at jhuett@bjconline.org

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Campaign for Better Health Care 2008 Annual Meeting

The Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care, an advocacy organization for improving the quality and availability of health care in our state, will have their annual meeting on Tuesday, November 25 for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The gathering will take place at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza in Chicago.

The morning program will present a panel discussion featuring a number of leaders from state government. They will discuss the role of states in health care, and what the federal government can do to help and support states in moving forward in securing health care for all. The afternoon will see a panel discussion by leaders of different advocacy organizations, who will address health care reform on the national level.

Tickets for the meeting are \$60. To order yours, please go to www.cbhconline.org or contact Kathleen Duffy at 312-913-9449 or kduffy@cbhconline.org.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Debbie and Jim Kelsey, working with immigrants in Italy. Please pray also for the people whom they are trying to help.

Please pray for Daniel and Sarah Chetti, ABC missionaries teaching at a seminary in Beirut, Lebanon.

PEACE NEWS

Peace Vigils

A Families for Peace vigil will take place this coming Saturday, November 8, from 3 pm to 4 pm at the corner of Arlington Heights Rd. and Northwest Highway, Dunton Park, Arlington Heights. Signs are provided, or you may bring your own.

Another peace vigil will be held on Saturday, November 15, from 3 pm to 4 pm in Palatine, at Hicks Road and Northwest Hwy. Information: 847-934-9648/LO21859@aol.com, Lisa Goranson

Families for Peace is sponsored by Sisters of the Living Word, Viatorian Community, Social Action Committee of Countryside Universalist Church of Palatine and the Women's Resource Center.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for newly elected leaders, as well as those leaving office, during their times of transition.

Please hold the people of India in prayer.

POSITION OPENINGS

Associate Director of Development for ABCUSA



Role and Responsibilities: Responsible for significantly increasing giving to the Office of the General Secretary/General Ministries through a pool of new donors, by enhancing the giving potential of the General Secretary's Circle, and by creating and sustaining an annual fund campaign to consistently add to the endowment of the Office of the General Secretary. Provide congregation training in financial stewardship

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree, but master is preferred. Proven and specialized skills and experience in the field of fundraising, 5 years minimum. A track record within the faith based community, with particular skills in congregational life, preferably within ABCUSA. A passion for the ministry of fundraising. Ability to focus on tasks to bring results. Effective communication and interpersonal skills, especially in diverse settings. Leadership skills, as well as ability to work with others.

Compensation: Competitive compensation package including employer paid contributions to a 403b retirement plan, healthcare benefits (medical, dental & vision) and paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and holidays).

If you are ready to be a part of this dynamic, faith based organization, send a cover letter, resume, and name/address/phone numbers of three (3) professional references to: jobs@abc-usa.org.

This posting will close on November 14, 2008

The American Baptist Churches USA is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Staff Accountant

Role and Responsibilities: As staff accountant, this position supports the Controller/Treasurer by overseeing monthly reconciliations, performing monthly closing procedures, assisting with monitoring and analyzing ledger accounts, and preparing monthly financial reports. Other responsibilities include bank reconciliations, A/P, A/R and journal entries.

As a mission fund accountant, this position will ensure Mission fund receipts are accounted for timely and accurately in ABCIS and MIP and to disburse mission funds in accordance with donor wishes.

Education and Experience: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting/Business or equivalent experience required. Minimum two years of prior accounting experience. Knowledge of accounting principles and the ability to handle several projects of varying timing and importance. Must be detail oriented. Excellent computer skills with working knowledge of Excel, and Word required (MIP Accounting System experience a plus). Excellent analytical, communication, organization, and time management skills.

Compensation: Competitive compensation package including employer paid contributions to a 403b retirement plan, healthcare benefits (medical, dental & vision) and paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and holidays).



If you are ready to be a part of this dynamic organization, send a cover letter, resume, and name/address/phone numbers of three (3) professional references to: jobs@abc-usa.org.

This posting will close on November 14, 2008

CALENDAR

November 6—"Peace for India: Promoting Religious Tolerance," Common Room, McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 S. University Avenue, Chicago, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

November 7—Concert by Quincy Dobbs and Annie Oper of Woodside Church, The Good Beans Café, downtown Flint, Grand Traverse at First Ave, 7-9 p.m.

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—Families for Peace's Peace Vigil, Northwest Highway and Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, 3-4 p.m.

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

November 12—Monthly meeting of Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project, South Church, 501 S. Emerson, Mount Prospect, 7 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 15—Peace Vigil, Northwest Highway and Hicks Road, Palatine, 3-4 p.m.

November 16—Karen-American Open House, North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago 5244 N Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 2-6 p.m.

November 16—Bethesdan Choir performs Christmas cantata "Born to Die," Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 5301 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 4 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 for more information.

December 13—2nd Annual ABCMC Christmas/Advent Season Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 3:30 p.m.

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. 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

November 5, 2008

“Reflections on Waiting”

Forty years and a couple of months ago I was in Chicago’s Grant Park witnessing non-stop protests about what was happening at the Democratic National Convention meeting a few miles away at the Chicago Amphitheater, and about what was happening in the nation, and about what was happening around the world, especially in Southeast Asia.

Police were everywhere, with their nightsticks not just ready for use but in use.

I was a temporary employee of *The Atlantic Monthly*, working as a driver and guide for the magazine’s editors and writers. My press pass gave me access to the convention hall where I witnessed the floor fight taking place, and access to hotels where delegates were arguing ‘til the wee hours of the morning, and access, across police lines, to the streets and parks where the physical battles were taking place.

I remember listening in on a conversation late one night between Studs Terkel and some of his friends on the corner of Balbo and Michigan, as they tried to make sense of what was going on.

But no one, really, could figure it out fully. Here were all these people, deeply committed to justice and peace, and yet they felt helpless in our democratic society to bring about racial equality and an end to a war in Viet Nam.

They thought they had waited long enough and now they wanted to see and experience change.

What they got instead that fall was Richard Nixon, Spiro Agnew, and Henry Kissinger.

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Five days ago I was on a plane from Chicago to Rochester, New York, to watch my oldest bi-racial grandchild run the final cross country race of his high school career. But I was also thinking about what my youngest daughter had told me the night before.

This is what I wrote in the notebook I always keep with me.

It's more than a month away, but the forthcoming Advent season will have a distinctive meaning this time around.

A story my daughter, Jessica, told me yesterday will make it so.

She was waiting in line to vote on the South Side of Chicago. It took her four hours to get her ballot.

Near the end of her wait she turned to an aged African American man who had been

standing near her all that time, and she said to him, "I'm sorry you had to wait so long."

He paused for just a moment and then replied, "I'm not bothered, I've waited a long, long time for this."

As a Euro-American who, up to this year, has always voted in the general election for other Euro-Americans for president, I realized how much I had taken for granted, and how much I had missed in not having to wait for an incredible promise to be fulfilled.

The old man's words will help me remedy that deficit in a couple of ways.

They will make my experience in the coming Advent season a lot more intense and realistic as I anticipate the coming of God's Promised One into my life and the life of the world.

And the old man's words will keep reminding me of how much more I can do to make not just the voting lines shorter, but also to reduce the time so many of my fellow human beings have to wait for justice.

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Last night I made my way back to Grant Park in Chicago. I had waited in the apartment until the networks called the election for my Hyde Park neighbor, and only then took a bus to the Loop.

The bus was full of young people, excited about what had just happened.

I heard one young woman say to two of her friends, "I know I won't get close to where he's going to speak, but I just want to tell my children and my grandchildren I was there."

I knew what she was talking about. I felt the same way.

Lake Shore Drive was closed, so the driver took us on a different route. At first I couldn't tell what street we were on, but then I saw some familiar landmarks, and I realized we were using Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive to get to the victory celebration of the first African American to be elected president of the nation.

I doubt if anyone else on the bus made that connection. But it made me weep for joy.

I walked east on Congress Parkway to the celebration at that same Grant Park where I had witnessed something so entirely different forty years ago.

Let me tell you, it was worth the wait.

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The assigned Gospel text from the lectionary for next Sunday is about ten bridesmaids who are waiting for the groom and his bride to return from their wedding for the reception at the groom's family home. All ten have torches to light the way in the darkness when the wedding couple arrives, and to join the wedding party in the celebration.

Five of the bridesmaids think ahead and bring some extra oil for their torches with them just in case the wedding party is delayed in getting to the reception. The other five don't make those provisions of extra oil.

Sure enough, there's a long delay – so long, in fact, that all ten bridesmaids doze off while their torches are still lit. So when the bride and groom finally arrive, and the bridesmaids are awakened, their fires are about to go out.

The half who had brought extra oil refuel their torches, but don't have any to provide for the five who are out of oil. So the ill-prepared go off and buy some more. And while they are away the party begins, with the five bridesmaids who had been able to keep their fire burning invited to join the festivities. But when the delinquent bridesmaids return the doors are shut and aren't to be reopened for them. They are told, in fact, that they are no longer even known to the groom.

The assigned text ends with this advice: Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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I can testify, along with a lot of others, that it's almost impossible to know when promises of sacred and secular kinds will be fulfilled, but I know, we know – despite all the weariness and the frustration of keeping the flame alive – the waiting is worth it.