

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

December 3, 2008

In this Issue

ABCMC NEWS.....	2
Music Festival.....	2
Festival de Navidad.....	3
Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Baptist Beginnings	3
NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS	4
Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon	4
Christmas at First Baptist.....	4
Ordination at North Shore.....	4
Christmas Tunes.....	4
God-Talk 101	4
COMMUNITY NEWS	5
Holiday Theater	5
2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.....	5
Christians in the Holy Land	5
ABCUSA NEWS	6
MMBB Distributes \$1.1 Million to Retired ABC Ministers, Missionaries, and Lay Employees	6
Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell, Dean Of African-American Women Preachers, Dies	7
2009 National Women’s Conference.....	9
HEALTH CARE NEWS.....	9
Meeting about Health Care Legislation December 6.....	9
Community Health Care Discussions	10
PEACE NEWS.....	11
Northwest Suburban Meeting	11
Baptists and Burma.....	11
Peace Vigils	11
MINISTERS COUNCIL.....	11
Minister Magazine to Be Published In January	11
Pre-Biennial Pasadena, June 25 and 26, 2009 with Dr. Leonard Sweet.....	11
Sabbatical Grants	12
BOOK NOOK.....	12

Judson Press	12
Child Advocacy	12
PRAYER REQUESTS.....	13
CALENDAR.....	13

ABCMC NEWS

Music Festival

DEADLINE THIS FRIDAY

ALL METRO CHICAGO AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2ND ANNUAL ABCMC

CHRISTMAS/ADVENT SEASON MUSIC FESTIVAL

DATE: Saturday, December 13, 2008

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago



The purpose of this program is to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas/ Advent season through music and song. Each participating church is asked to send a musical component (ranging from a full choir to a smaller number of singers, including duets or soloists, as well as musicians and praise dancers) to participate in this glorious afternoon of musical praise for our Lord and Savior and the Christmas/Advent season. And as happened last year, this year's musical festival will begin with a mass sing-a-long (involving all in attendance) of many of everyone's favorite Christmas carols and will conclude with a mass (unrehearsed) singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus", involving all the participants in the program, as well as willing volunteers from the audience.

Regardless of whether or not your church decides to participate musically, members and friends of Chicago Metro ABC churches are encouraged to attend. Admission is **FREE**. There will be a Free-Will Offering to support ABCMC and its programs and missions.

So mark the date and time (Saturday, December 13 @ 3:30PM) on your calendar, encourage your church to participate, plan to attend, and warm up your voice for the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus"!

Any church wishing to participate is asked to call Lowell Young, ABCMC's Mission Support Associate, at 773-804-1655 or 773-370-2003, or e-mail him at younglowell@aol.com. Please contact Lowell, and share your plans for participating in the program, **no later than Friday, December 5.**

Festival de Navidad

FECHA DE REGISTRAR ES EL VIERNES QUE VIENE

TODAS LAS IGLESIAS AMERICANAS BAPTISTA DE METRO CHICAGO ABCMC
ESTÁN INVITADAS A PARTICIPAR EN EL 2ND FESTIVAL DE NAVIDAD

Fecha: Sábado 13 de diciembre
Hora: 3:00 p.m.
Lugar: Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago



El propósito de este programa es celebrar Navidad y la estación de Advenimiento con música y cánticos. A cada Iglesia participante se le pide que traiga un componente musical, puede ser desde un coro, un cantante, dueto o un solo para participar en esta gloriosa tarde de alabanza a nuestro Dios y Salvador en esta Navidad época de Advenimiento. Así como hicimos el año pasado, empezaremos cantando los coros navideños favoritos, para concluir con un coro masivo del "Aleluya," en donde incluiremos a todos los participantes, voluntarios y la audiencia.

Ya sea que su Iglesia participe musicalmente o no, todas las Iglesias y amigos de ABCMC, están invitados. La admisión es GRATIS. Habrá una ofrenda voluntaria para ayudar a los programas y misiones de ABCMC.

¡Marque en su calendario el 13 de diciembre a las 3:30 p.m., participe, asista y entone su voz para cantar el "Coro Aleluya"!

La Iglesia que desee participar comuníquese con Lowell Young, ABCMC, al 773-804-1655 o 773-370 2003, por Internet younglowell@aol.com. Favor de comunicarse con Lowell y compartir sus planes en el programa **no mas tarde que el viernes el 5 de diciembre.**

Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Baptist Beginnings

Baptists worldwide will in 2009 celebrate the 400th anniversary of Baptist beginnings. To assist your church in its observance of this historic year, the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer University are pleased to announce that on December 15, 2008, they will jointly distribute the first of twelve **complimentary** Bulletin Inserts.

Available in PDF form and sent via e-mail, the Bulletin Inserts will feature stories of well-known Baptist founders and leaders as well as stories of some lesser-known Baptists. Each Insert will also focus briefly on a Baptist principle or development in Baptist life and will include illustrations.

The Bulletin Inserts measure 8.5 inches by 5.5 inches and will fit into the standard-size church bulletin. Churches may print out as many copies as needed.

The Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies will distribute these in PDF format via e-mail on the 15th of each month through November 15, 2009.

To sign up to receive the Bulletin Inserts, please e-mail Pam Durso at pamdurso@baptisthistory.org prior to December 12.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon

On Saturday, December 6 the women of the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 Barrington Road, Wauconda, will host their annual Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon at the church. There will be lots of great things to buy from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A hot lunch will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring your Christmas wish list, and come enjoy a delightful day in Wauconda.

Christmas at First Baptist

The LaGrange Christmas Walk on Saturday, December 6 will include an open house and concerts at the First Baptist Church of LaGrange. The open house will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The concerts will be at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The concerts will feature the Chancel Handbell Choir; soloist Barbara Leader-Henning, and organist/pianist/music director Kevin C. Robbins.

Everyone is invited to come to this evening of celebration, and to meet the church's new ministers: Rev. Dennis Haggray, Senior Pastor, and Michael Strickland, Assistant Pastor. During the open house the pastors will be in the church building to introduce themselves and welcome attendees to the evening's event. Come, enjoy the music, and enjoy fellowship along with a cup of hot cider or cocoa.

Ordination at North Shore

This invitation is from North Shore Baptist Church.

Fellow Chicago Baptists are cordially invited to the ordination service of Holale Comlan Azondjagni on Sunday, Dec 7, 2008 at 4 p.m. at the North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago IL 60640, 773-728-4200. (Soon-to-be-Rev) Azondjagni graduated from Garrett Evangelical Seminary and shortly afterward received unanimous endorsement from ABCMC's Ordination Commission. He was organizer and leader of the "African Friends Fellowship" French-speaking group that met at North Shore for more than a year. He will depart soon after ordination to return home with wife Awenem Azondjagni for three weeks evangelizing in their native country of Togo.

North Shore members will also be celebrating only the second Sunday after the return of Pastors Douglas Harris and Carol McVetty following their three-month Sabbatical.

Further information is available on North Shore's website: www.northshorebaptist.org

Christmas Tunes

North Shore Baptist Church continues its Second Sunday Series on December 14 at 2 p.m. Come hear Christmas tunes provided by the English Language Chancel Choir and the brass ensemble VII Brass. Following the concert there will be a time for a carol sing-along of your favorite Christmas hymns. Refreshments will be provided.

God-Talk 101

Beginning Sunday, January 18, the Community Church of Wilmette will present "God-Talk 101: An Honest Look at Tough Questions." This five-week course will be led by Dr. Cate Wallace at noon each Sunday. Each session will take place at the church, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette. The class schedule and other information are on the flier attached with this issue of *eWind*. A brief course outline is posted at 222.godtalk101.blogspot.com. You are welcome to contact Dr. Wallace directly with any questions through the contact page at her web site, www.CatherineMWallace.com. For more information, please phone the church at 847-251-4370.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday Theater



Just in time for the holidays, Provision Theater is presenting a world premiere. Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory & The Thanksgiving Visitor*, adapted and directed by Tim Gregory, is playing November 5-December 21 at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted Street, Chicago. Performances are on Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. This is a sweet holiday show that touches the heart. For tickets, phone the box office at 312-988-9000.

2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 4 p.m., the Ecumenical Millennium Committee will host the 9th Annual Chicagoland Ecumenical Prayer Service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will take place at St. Paul Chong Ha Sang Korean Catholic Mission, 675 Dursey Lane, Des Plaines. The preacher will be the Rt. Rev. Victor A. Scantlebury, Assistant Bishop, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Participating presiding leaders who will participate in the service include ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield. The service will be open to everyone. Please print and share the flier attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Christians in the Holy Land

This invitation is from United Christian Communities, Inc.



United Christian Communities Inc.

Suite 449
305 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10165
Tel: 1.800.869.4919
info@UnitedChristianCommunities.org

When was the last time you thought about the Christian Communities in the Holy Land?

This Holiday season, won't you remember the ongoing flight of the Christian communities from the Holy Land? We aren't asking you for money. We are asking you to do a few simple things before it is too late. The Christian flight from the Holy Land is so severe that prominent voices are now expressing the fear that we may soon . . . very soon . . . witness the Holy Land devoid of Christians.

You can help by getting connected in at least some of the following ways:

- **Get informed** about the situation by visiting www.UnitedChristianCommunities.org
- **Keep informed** by signing up for our free newsletter at <http://www.unitedchristiancommunities.org/newslettersignup.htm>.
- **Participate in our blog** at UnitedChristianCommunities.blogspot.com
- **Show your solidarity** with the Christian communities in the Holy Land by participating in the dedication of the Christian Forest on Mt. Tabor (you can find out more about this on our web site at <http://www.unitedchristiancommunities.org/>).
- **Help inform others:** forward this e-mail to your friends and your clergy
- **Ask your church** to contact us for suggestions on how they can help.

- **Visit the Holy Land** to reconnect with your religion and your heritage. Meet with local Christian charities to learn about their work. Have dinner with Christians living in the Holy Land. You can even build your trip around hiking, biking or birding in the Holy Land. For information, please email info@unitedchristiancommunities.org.

We are **United Christian Communities, Inc.**, a tax-exempt organization dedicated to helping to stem the flight of Christians from the Holy Land through building connections between Christians living outside the Holy Land and those living within it.

If you would like to learn more about the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land, please visit us at www.UnitedChristianCommunities.org. And while you are there, please visit [Feed Your Mind, Nourish Your Soul](#), our new on-line bookstore, for further readings on this and other topics relating to the Holy Land and the Christian communities living there.

Also, if you know of others who may be interested in receiving information from us, please contact us at ReachingOut@UnitedChristianCommunities.org

ABCUSA NEWS

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

MMBB Distributes \$1.1 Million to Retired ABC Ministers, Missionaries, and Lay Employees

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/26/08) — The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) announced today that it has distributed \$1,125,881 to nearly 4,000 retired ABCUSA ministers, missionaries, their surviving spouses and retired lay employees of ABC churches and related organizations in 2008. Checks ranged from \$50 to \$374.

“MMBB was founded nearly 100 years ago for the better maintenance of the ministry,” stated MMBB’s executive director, Sumner M. Grant. “The Thank You checks we distribute around Thanksgiving are an important part of our effort to fulfill this mission.”

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is the largest part of this effort. Through the generous contributions of ABCUSA congregations to the RMMO, MMBB was able to send 3,238 Thank You checks, totaling \$837,652, to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries, or their surviving spouses.

Since 1980 MMBB has also sent Thank You checks drawn directly from MMBB funds to eligible retired lay employees. In November, MMBB sent 639 checks, totaling \$115,229, to these valued annuitants. In addition to the Thank You checks, MMBB distributed an additional \$173,000 from RMMO funds to eligible retirees with emergency and other financial needs.

The purpose of the RMMO, expressed in the theme Remember with Love—Give with Gratitude, is to give American Baptist congregations a tangible means of honoring retired ABC ministers and missionaries, or their surviving spouses. The offering provides:

- Thank You checks to those with at least 15 years of dedicated ABC service; and
- Emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need.

The RMMO will be received by most ABC congregations on Sunday, December 7, 2008, and many of those congregations will continue accepting contributions through the end of December. Promotional materials are available from Judson Press at 800.458.3766 or online at www.abc-usa.org/missions/retired.aspx. A link to the RMMO resources can also be found on www.abc-usa.org in the RMMO advertisement on the right of the home page.

Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell, Dean Of African-American Women Preachers, Dies

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/26/08) — Rev. Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell, a distinguished religious educator, renowned preacher, and celebrated author, died November 19 in Atlanta, GA. She was 91.

Ella Pearson Mitchell was one half of an acclaimed ministry duo that included her husband of 64 years, Dr. Henry H. Mitchell. She was a pioneer in African-American preaching and religious education, and her reputation as a promoter and encourager of women in ministry, especially in the area of homiletics, earned her the title, “dean of African-American women preachers.” Outspoken on the subject, she once declared, “I am convinced that women were ordained to be in ministry from the very beginning of time.”

Dr. Mitchell compiled and edited six books featuring women and preaching. Most notable is her five-volume series, “Those Preaching Women,” begun in 1985. In 2008, Judson Press published *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection*, co-edited by Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Valerie Bridgeman Davis.

Ella and Henry Mitchell, known for their dialogues in the pulpit, published their sermons in *Fire in the Well*. They also wrote *Together for Good: Lessons from Fifty-Five Years of Marriage* (also Judson Press). A longtime member of American Baptist Churches USA, Dr. Mitchell served as president of the Board of Educational Ministries from 1959 to 1973.

Longtime friend and fellow American Baptist Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of National Ministries, said of her passing, “Dr. Ella Mitchell is a true Christian ‘shero’ of our time. She and Henry modeled black church ministerial leadership for a generation of African-American preachers. She certainly helped to shape my identity as a preacher, reminding me of my roots in the black church. Ella Mitchell also represented hope that women, and African American women in particular, could respond affirmatively to the call of God on their lives. Their overwhelming response is her legacy.”

Dr. Mitchell broke down many barriers, achieving a number of “firsts” for women in ministry. She was the first female dean of Sisters Chapel, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, and the first woman to preach at Hampton Ministerial Conference, Hampton, VA. She earned a doctor of ministry degree from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA.

Dr. Mitchell was the second African-American woman to graduate from New York’s Union Theological Seminary, which honored Drs. Ella and Henry Mitchell in February with their 2008 Trailblazer award, given to distinguished black graduates.

As an educator, she taught Religious Education at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School (now American Baptist Seminary of the West), Berkeley, CA, and served as associate professor of Christian Education, Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA. She also taught Homiletics as visiting professor at Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center from 1988-2001.

Dr. Mitchell’s passing has been received by colleagues, friends and admirers with a mixture of sadness and fond remembrances of her more than 60 years in ministry.

At the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta where she was a longtime member, senior pastor Dr. Raphael G. Warnock said, “Rev. Dr. Mitchell was the consummate trailblazer. At a time when it would seem impossible, by the power of God made manifest in her own eloquent voice and dignified presence, she took on the evils of racism and sexism. By doing so, she paved the way for others and helped to liberate the church from that which would undermine the strength and credibility of its own witness to the Kingdom of God.”

Other tributes were forthcoming from several clergywomen whose lives she also touched. Dr. Brenda Halliburton, National Ministries’ national coordinator, Black Churches Strategist, said, “[Dr. Mitchell] was a

tremendous influence on my ministry while I was a student at Candler School of Theology/Emory University. I still remember the sermon she preached at my ordination, 'God Uses Who God Chooses.'"

Rev. Lisa R. Harris, National Ministries' acting national coordinator, Children in Poverty Initiative and Children's Ministry, said, "Dr. Ella and I met on the day I preached my initial sermon. She prayed for me and with me as she did for countless others. I have a sense her intercession will continue on behalf of those she claimed as daughters and sons in ministry, who carry her legacy with humility and gratitude."

Rev. Valentine B. Royal-Thomas, Director of American Baptist Women in Ministry, said, "She was the essence of a pioneer woman in ministry. Her sermon entitled, 'Do What Your Hands Find To Do,' from Ecclesiastes 9:10, spoke of always seeking to do ministry in every setting, and Dr. Mitchell embodied this example throughout her life. For her, being a minister of the gospel was more than preaching; it was lifestyle. Wherever she was, whoever she was with, she recognized her call to minister to God's people. Through her preaching, her writing, her teaching, her marriage, and in the way that she mentored and cared about the younger women coming into ministry, Dr. Mitchell expressed God's call in every facet of her life. She was a voice for ordination of women not just in ABCUSA but in the Church at large. Her ministry and her passing will leave a major void in our lives, in ABCUSA, and indeed throughout the world. The best memorial any of us can make to honor this godly woman's life is to follow her example as she followed Christ. Henry has our support and our prayers as we grieve with him."

In addition to her earned doctorate from Claremont, Dr. Mitchell also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 1989 from Talladega College, Talladega, AL, where she had earned her bachelor's degree years earlier.

Dr. Albert Paul Brinson, retired Associate General Secretary for ABCUSA World Mission Support and a leader in civil rights work, said, "Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell was a trailblazer, and a shining example of Christian witness. Her very presence exemplified the spirit of Jesus. She was loved, honored, and respected by all those whose lives she touched. She preached one of the most powerful sermons I ever heard in my life, on the woman with the issue of blood...it brought tears to my eyes. Dr. Mitchell exemplified the power that women bring to the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We share in Henry's grief at her passing, but take comfort in the knowledge that she now rests in the arms of the Lord she served so well. When she is remembered, it will be with a smile."

Commenting on her passing, American Baptist General Secretary Dr. A. Roy Medley said, "The contribution that Ella Mitchell has made to the Christian ministry is immeasurable. As a pioneer for women in ministry she has been a mentor, an encourager, an example. But her influence has touched the lives of countless others through her teaching, her writing, her conference speaking, and her presence. She will be greatly missed, but we rejoice that she has now entered into the fullness of Christ's presence, whom she served without measure or reserve. We send our heartfelt condolences to Henry and all her family."

Dr. Mitchell is survived by her husband, three adult children—Muriel, Elizabeth and Kenneth—and six grandchildren, and is predeceased by Henry IV, who died of leukemia at age 26.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will hold an Omega Omega wake service on Monday, December 1, at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, at 6 p.m., with a family visitation to follow. The funeral service will be held in the same location on Tuesday, December 2, at 11 a.m., with repast immediately following at Morehouse College.

Condolences may be sent to the family at the Mitchell home at 11 Angier Court NE, Atlanta, GA 30312. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that those wishing to send a memorial do so by making a financial contribution to the Rev. Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell Memorial Scholarship Fund (The Office of Institutional Advancement, Talladega College, 627 Battle Street West, Talladega, AL 35160), or to the Ella & Henry Mitchell Doctoral Fellowship (The Fund for Theological Education, 825 Houston Mill Rd, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30329).

2009 National Women's Conference

ABC's 2009 National Women's Conference, "Women...Destined for God's Purpose," will take place July 25-31, 2009 at Lake Williamson Christian Center, Carlinville, Illinois.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins. Betty is a regional representative fore the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB). Prior to holding this position, she served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, Vermont. Her ministry includes preaching, teaching, and leading Bible studies, as well as conducting workshops and seminars on a variety of topics.

One all-inclusive price includes program fee, housing and meals for 6 days. The cost will be \$500 per person for a room with 4 or more occupants; \$550 per person for triple occupancy; or \$600 per person for double occupancy. Some scholarships will be available.

For more information, and/or for a downloadable registration form, please visit the ABW web site at www.abwministries.org/upcoming_events, or phone 800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2288.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Meeting about Health Care Legislation December 6

This invitation is from Jessica Palys, Federal Issues Organizer for Citizen Action/Illinois.

Please join Citizen Action-Illinois and [Health Care for America Now](http://HealthCareForAmericaNow.org) (HCAN) on December 6th as we bring together leaders from the 8th and 10th Congressional District to shape the direction for passing meaningful health care legislation in 2009.

Last October, President-elect Obama stated "Ensuring that Americans in Illinois and across the country have access to affordable, comprehensive healthcare coverage is one of my top priorities. I am proud to join **Health Care for America Now's** efforts to tackle the tough challenges we face in reforming our nation's healthcare system."

On December 6th, we will host a meeting to discuss the agenda and strategy for health care legislation in Congress, lay out the components of the Obama/HCAN health care plan, and determine the best strategy for passing federal legislation on health care in 2009. We will meet at St. John United Church of Christ in Arlington Heights (308 North Evergreen Avenue), from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (agenda below). Lunch will be provided if you RSVP. Please respond to Jessica Palys (Jessica@citizenaction-il.org) or by calling 312-427-2114 x 206.

Our goal on December 6th is to make sure HCAN-IL can influence the Illinois Congressional delegation and the White House through a number of tools, including meeting with members of Congress, utilizing media to increase pressure on members, and increasing our ability to mobilize people to contact members.

HCAN has expanded to 42 states, signed-on 465 organizations as members, and signed on 150 members of the 111th Congress to the HCAN statement of principles. In Illinois, eight members of the Congressional delegation have signed on, including: President-Elect Obama, Senator Durbin, and Representatives Gutierrez, Jackson, Emanuel, Davis, Schakowsky, and Halvorson. We are currently contacting the remaining Illinois Congressional delegation to encourage their support of the Obama-HCAN principles.

Community Health Care Discussions

This invitation is from Eric Quamme of the Illinois Health Care Justice Campaign.



What does next year look like for health care reform? What is on the horizon for the federal and state level? At the discussions, we'll talk about some significant health care reform legislation for 2009 on both the federal and state level. 2009 must be the year for health care reform! It is time. Our system is broken, and unsustainable. We have a social and moral responsibility to help each other and take care of one another here in Illinois, and throughout our country. We need unity! We cannot afford to do nothing anymore. We need a sustained effort to push for meaningful health care reform. We must stand united, though.

I am excited to announce that the Illinois Health Care Justice Campaign will be holding a series of upcoming Community Health Care Discussion this month throughout the metro Chicago area. I hope that you are able to attend them. I also hope that you can help spread the word to your contacts, and encourage others in your community to attend these events. Here are the details:

Skokie Community Health Care Discussion

Monday, December 8th

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Temple Beth Israel

3601 Dempster St

Skokie, IL

Rogers Park Community Health Care Discussion

Tuesday, December 9th

7:00 - 8:30 pm

1507 W. Morse Ave

(next to the Common Cup)

Chicago, IL

Waukegan Community Health Care Discussion

Tuesday, December 16th

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Waukegan First Congregational United Church of Christ

320 Grand Ave.

Waukegan, IL

Des Plaines Community Health Care Discussion

Wednesday, December 17th

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Des Plaines Public Library

1501 Ellinwood Ave.

Des Plaines, IL

RSVP to Eric Quamme at equamme@ilmaternal.org or by calling at (312) 491-8161

PEACE NEWS

Northwest Suburban Meeting

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 10 at 7 p.m. at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect. The meeting is open to all who are interested in helping high school students make career decisions for peace. For more information about the project, please visit www.northwestsubpep.org.

Baptists and Burma

Burma is dear to the hearts of Baptists because of our mission history there. The first American Baptist international missionaries, Adoniram Judson and his wife Ann Hasseltine Judson, first brought the good news of Jesus to that nation. Christians in Burma trace their faith back to the ministry of these missionaries in the early nineteenth century.

Burma (now called Myanmar) is struggling under an oppressive regime that especially targets ethnic groups such as the Karen, with whom the Judsons had their greatest success. Baptists today are ministering with Karen and other refugees fleeing Burma for the United States. Read the November-December 2008 issue of *Baptist Peacemaker* to learn about the work of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America is doing with Burmese refugees.

Peace Vigils

Suburban peace vigils will take place on two Saturdays in December:

- Saturday, December 14, 3 p.m-4 p.m., at the intersection of Arlington Heights Road and Northwest Highway, Arlington Heights. Signs will be available, or bring your own.
- Saturday, December 21, 3-4 p.m., at the intersection of Hicks Road and Northwest Highway, Palatine. Signs will be available, or bring your own.

MINISTERS COUNCIL

Minister Magazine to Be Published In January

Theme: Local leadership and the plan to restructure

This newsletter comes on the heels of The General Board Meetings in which the decision was made final to move the plan to restructure the denomination forward to the biennial in Pasadena. In January we will electronically publish the next issue of Minister Magazine and its focus will be, "Will the proposed new structure have any impact on local ministerial leadership and if so, what will it be?"

Pre-Biennial Pasadena, June 25 and 26, 2009 with Dr. Leonard Sweet

The Ministers Council in partnership with Interim Ministries, Women in Ministry, and the Area Ministers Group will host Dr. Leonard Sweet at two pre-biennial events.

Thursday afternoon, June 25, Dr. Sweet will speak to the topic "What's A Guttenberg Groupie in a Google World Going to Do?" All Members of the Ministers Council, ministers in Interim Ministries, members of the Area Ministers Group, and those participating in the Women in Ministry group are invited to participate. The cost will be \$30.00 per person.

Friday morning, June 26, Dr. Sweet will address all who wish to attend at the Ministers Council meeting. His title is "The Metaphorics of the 21st Century: Seven Metaphors that Can Transform the World." An offering will be received to help offset the costs.

To learn more about Dr. Sweet, go to his home page, www.leonardsweet.com or if you wish to go directly to a biographical sketch, go to www.leonardsweet.com/biocv.asp. He is a leading interpreter of the present age to the church and a teacher of the gospel to the present age.

Sabbatical Grants

2009 National Clergy Renewal Program

Lilly Endowment seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Life-giving experiences – strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving the neighbor in a new way, finding joy are common themes of these renewal times.

In the clergy renewal program, the Endowment anticipates awarding as many as 120 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to Christian congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for congregational expenses associated with the renewal program. The deadline for applying for the 2009 renewal grants is May 14, 2009. For more information and application information visit www.lillyendowment.org and click on Religion.

BOOK NOOK

Judson Press

Hot off the press! ***Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens*** by pastor, professor, and prolific Judson Press author Marvin A. McMickle. In a teen-friendly format with rich illustrations, famous quotes, "Phat Facts" and the "411," *Profiles in Black* highlights the names and events that forged African American experience in the twenty-first century. This is a must-have for the church library and an important resource for Black History Month. Retail price: \$22.00. Web price: \$17.60. To order, visit www.judsonpress.com or call 800-458-3766.

Child Advocacy

POSTPONEMENT

Due to unforeseen circumstances,
A CONVERSATION ON CHILD ADVOCACY
with Diane C. Olson and Laura Dean F. Friedrich
will not be held on **December 6, 2008,**
at First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple.

You are invited to attend another event on
Saturday, December 6th, 2008
9:30-10:30 - Annual Meeting of United Voices for Children
10:30-11:30 - Refreshments and Remarks on Advocacy
with Laura Dean F. Friedrich
Gary United Methodist Church, 224 N. Main, Wheaton
RSVP to Judy Grote at Gary Church at 630-668-3100 x107.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please hold the people of India in prayer.

Please pray for the people of war-torn Somalia.

Please pray for peace in Darfur, and for all the people there who are suffering from violence and starvation. Please pray as well for the aid workers who are endeavoring to help them.

Please pray for Phil Yetter, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Berwyn, and for the congregation, as well as his family, while he is undergoing treatment for cancer.

CALENDAR

December 4—AFSC Event, Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox Avenue, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

December 6—Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon, Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 Barrington Road, Wauconda; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. bazaar, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. luncheon.

December 6—Citizen Action/Illinois and Health Care for America Now (HCAN) meeting with 8th and 10th Congressional District leaders to help shape direction for passing meaningful health care legislation in 2009; St. John United Church of Christ, 308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP to Jessica Palys (Jessica@citizenaction-il.org or 312-427-2114, ext. 206.

December 6—Annual meeting of United Voices for Children, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; and Refreshments and Remarks on Child Advocacy with Laura Dean F. Friedrich, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Gary United Methodist Church, 224 N. Main, Wheaton. *RSVP to Judy Grote at Gary United Methodist Church at 630-668-3100 x107.*

December 13—2nd Annual ABCMC Christmas/Advent Season Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 3 p.m. (Please note time change from original announcement.)

December 20--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

January 18-February 15—"God-Talk 101" course, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, Sundays, noon.

January 18, 2009—9th Annual Chicagoland Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity, St. Paul Chong Ha Sang Korean Catholic Mission, 675 Dursey Lane, Des Plaines, 4 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