

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

EXTRA EDITION

February 19, 2009

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ABCMC NEWS

Congo Sabbath

Dear ABCMC Colleagues,

Below you will find information about Congo Sabbath, an important attempt to address the horrible incidents of rape and sexual violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This initiative, of course, is entirely in keeping with our ABCUSA efforts to combat violence against women and sexual trafficking across the globe.

This initiative among religious leaders and religious communities is being sponsored by the Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing. Many of you know I was one of the founders of the Religious Institute and continue to be active in their programs--all of which are based on the affirmation that sexuality is a gift of God that should be affirmed but that is so often abused.

I ask only that you review the material and, if you find it appropriate, to make use of it and encourage participation.

Larry Greenfield

The Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing has launched the Congo Sabbath Initiative to engage diverse religious leaders and congregations in supporting the United Nation's, V-Day, and UNICEF campaign, "Stop Raping our Greatest Resource, Power to Women and Girls of the DRC." This is a global Campaign to increase pressure at all levels to do more to stop rape in the DRC while highlighting the role of women as activists. Over the past ten years hundreds of thousands of women and girls living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been victims of brutal sexual violence, leaving them with severe physical ailments such as lesions, traumatic fistulae, and HIV/AIDS. Seven in ten of these women go untreated because of inadequate medical facilities. More than five million people have died in the Congo since the wars began. The Religious Institute has developed resources, including an adaptable bulletin insert and responsive reading that can be downloaded [here](http://www.religioustheology.org/documents/CongoSabbath--BulletinInsert.doc) (<http://www.religioustheology.org/documents/CongoSabbath--BulletinInsert.doc>), for congregations to use to raise awareness about violence in the Congo. To learn more about the Congo Sabbath Initiative, visit the [Religious Institute](http://www.religioustheology.org/CongoEndorsers.html) at (<http://www.religioustheology.org/CongoEndorsers.html>). To sign up for Congo Sabbath, click [here](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228MEGRSZBR) (<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228MEGRSZBR>).

An Invitation to Hear and Engage a Radical, Revolutionary, Thoroughly Christian Palestinian Thinker and Church Leader

Are you prepared to hear a different voice, a different perspective, a different call to thought and action on the Palestine-Israel conflict?

Then hear and engage the Rev. Dr. Naim Stifan Ateek, an Arab citizen of Israel, as he discusses his new book,
A PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN CRY FOR RECONCILIATION, at

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 28

University Church
5655 S. University
(57th and University)
Chicago 60637

I very much hope you are able to be present for this very interesting, provocative, and faith-challenging event.

Larry Greenfield

ABCUSA NEWS

Every Christian Is a Priest to Each Other, Walker Writes



Answering this week's "On Faith" question, BJC Executive Director J. Brent Walker wrote that in interpreting sacred texts, "we are all imbued by God with both the freedom and competence to read and understand Scripture and to interpret it without direction from a priest."

"On Faith", a joint blog of Newsweek and *The Washington Post*, asked panelists to describe how they read and study sacred texts and whether a layperson should read sacred texts alone, without the help of clergy or community.

In his post, Walker explained that "for a Baptist Christian, scriptural interpretation should begin and end with the individual reading of the text through the lens of Jesus and with the Holy Spirit's guidance."

"However," he wrote, "this always should be done in the context and the nurture of the *community*."

To read the entire post, please visit the [On Faith](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/) Web site at <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/> .

PEACE NEWS

Peace Camp

When There Is Justice, Then Peace Will Come

A Conference for Peacemakers

Sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America July 20-25, 2009 - Weber State University, Ogden, Utah, USA

This summer, peacemakers from around the world will gather on the beautiful campus of Weber State University located in Ogden, Utah in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains - and we hope you'll be one of them!

We've chosen to be at Weber State because it is easy and affordable to reach, is welcoming of diversity, offers a top-notch facility, is in a gorgeous location, and allows great vacation opportunities before and after conference.

We'll be led by an amazing line-up of speakers, artists, and musicians including:

- BPFNA Founding Director **Ken Sehested** reflecting on the past and future of peacemaking as our keynote speaker
- Long-time activist **Paul Dekar** offering Prayers for Activists each morning
- Noted author **Rita Nakashima Brock** leading Bible studies on the meaning of Paradise here in this world
- Pastor and musician **Greg Ledbetter** leading creative nightly worship services
- Amazing singer-songwriter **Kate Campbell** sharing stories in song
- Dancer and educator **Angela Yarber** leading as artist-in-residence through dance, painting and theater

- Nationally-known trainer **Janet Chisholm** offering an optional intensive workshop track focused on Nonviolence Training for Personal and Social Change

As always, we'll have workshops on a wide variety of topics, programs for children and youth, special gatherings for young adults, fun free-time activities, after-hours events and more!

This is a conference for everyone who longs for the spirituality, inspiration, skills, knowledge, and community to support a life of peace rooted in justice.

"When there is justice, then peace will come."

War in Focus

This invitation is from the American Friends Service Committee.

*Please join us for the first event in our 2009 series **WAR IN FOCUS***

Tuesday, February 24

Grace Place 637 S. Dearborn Chicago

6-7 pm OPEN HOUSE

Network with AFSC Staff, learn about AFSC programs & take part in advocacy opportunities. Refreshments will be served.

7 -9 pm CLOSE-UP IRAN

Eyewitness Accounts + New Perspectives with:

RABBI BRANT ROSEN, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Evanston (rabbibrant.com)

DR. NORMA C. MORUZZI, Professor of Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies, UIC

STAY TUNED: THE "WAR IN FOCUS" SERIES CONTINUES:

MARCH 12: CLOSE-UP: IRAQ — WITH NOAH MERRILL, FOUNDER OF DIRECT AID IRAQ

APRIL 22: CLOSE-UP: WAR + THE ECONOMY

MAY 20: CLOSE-UP: AFGHANISTAN

JUNE 4: CLOSE-UP: YOUTH CHALLENGING MILITARISM

For more information, please call Jennifer at 312 427-2533

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for all the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially the women who are terribly vulnerable there.

Please pray that we may eliminate racism.

Please pray for world peace.

CALENDAR

February 21—Forgiveness program, 6554 N. Rockwell Street, Chicago, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$100. Registration deadline: February 15.

February 21—Peace Vigil, Northwest Highway and Hicks Road, Palatine, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

February 21—Chin National Day celebration, Myanmar Christian Church of Greater Chicago, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mt. Prospect, 4-8 p.m.

February 21—Art against War performance Heartland Cafe, 7000 N. Glenwood Avenue, Chicago, 9 p.m.

February 22—Concert to Save Mothers' Lives, Christ Church Chapel, 470 Maple Street, Winnetka, 4 p.m.

February 24—War in Focus, Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn, Chicago, 6-9 p.m.

February 25—Ash Wednesday. Services at the Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 Barrington Road, Wauconda, 7 p.m.; the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7:30 p.m. and Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago.

February 26—Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Crisis, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 610 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

February 26—Protestants for the Common Good Fund Raising Event, *Living Green*, Victory Gardens Theatre, reception at 6 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. curtain.

March 6—World Day of Prayer, Church Women United. Service at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 421 E. Main Street, Barrington, will have Zina Jacque, pastor of the Community Church or Barrington, as speaker.

March 8—Second Sunday Series, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. Keyboard Combinations featuring Rebecca Barbalace and Randall Fleer.

March 8—Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Dominican University Performing Arts Center, 7900 W. Division Street, River Forest, 7:30 p.m.

March 11—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project monthly meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

March 15—Health Care Sabbath.

March 21—Family Cabinet meeting (retreat)

March 24—Rally and march against war, occupation, and mistreatment of immigrants, assembling at Marshall Boulevard and Cermack Road, Chicago, 12 noon.

April 8—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project monthly meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

April 11—Neighborhood Easter egg hunt, Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago, 9-11 a.m.

April 18—Family Cabinet meeting

April 19—Kids Hope United Spring Fashion Show and fund raising event, The Lehmann Mansion, 485 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Villa, 1-5 p.m.

April 21—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 200 W. Madison, 3 p.m.

April 23—"Building Bridges: Stepping Stones to a Healthier Community," community forum by Family Bridges (Lazos de Familia), Roosevelt University, 1400 N. Roosevelt Boulevard, Schaumburg, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 13—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project monthly meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

June 10—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project monthly meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

June 13—Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Music Institute of Chicago Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

June 25-26—Pre-Biennial Event with Leonard Sweet, Pasadena, California.

July 8—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project monthly meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

July 20-25—Peace Camp; Webster State University; Ogden, Utah. Visit www.bpfna.org for more information and registration.

July 25-31—National AB Women's Conference, Lake Williamson Christian Center, Carlinville, Illinois.

November 3-7—2009 Black Church Conference, Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 500 Holiday Plaza Drive, Matteson, Illinois.

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