

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

May 13, 2009



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ABCMC NEWS

4th Annual ABCMC Disciples' (Picnic) Dinner



ABCMC's 4th Annual Disciples' (Picnic) Dinner will take place on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, May 30 on the campus of Judson University in Elgin. This will be a fun event with games and activities for all ages. The university will serve a cook-out style meal. ABCMC congregations are invited to bring desserts reflecting their community's specialties

This will also be the occasion for recognizing 2009 Daily Disciples from each congregation, as well as the recipients of region-wide discipleship awards.

The cost of this event will be \$5 per adult, and \$2 per child. Children under 3 will eat free. A free-will offering for ABCMC will be taken.

Pastors and moderators, please phone the ABCMC office at 773-804-1655 to let us know about how many folks are coming from your church.

Family Council Meeting

One of the highlights of the Family Council meeting on May 9 at North Shore Baptist Church was the presence of Karen and Chin refugees from Burma. All who are familiar with American Baptist history know that Burma was the country in which Baptists in the United States had their first international missionaries, Ann and Adoniram Judson. The folks who were with us on Saturday are the spiritual descendants of our 19th-Century mission efforts. They have fled their homeland because they were subjected to oppression for their faith by the junta that changed Burma's name to Myanmar and rules the country. A number of refugees have made North Shore Baptist their home church.

As is ABCMC's custom, there was a worship service before the Family Council's business meeting. Danny Bau Thianlun, pastor of the Chin Christian Fellowship of Chicago, was the preacher. The choir for the service was also from that church, and they sang beautifully in their native language. The pastoral prayer was led by Roger Poenyunt, Assistant Pastor of North Shore Baptist's Karen Fellowship. In this service we all experienced Baptist missions coming full circle. Descendants of those with whom the Judsons shared the gospel on behalf of Baptists in our country were sharing the gospel with us.

Following the worship service, Biak Mang, pastor of the Myanmar Christian Church of Greater Chicago,

told some of the history of Burma, and the presence of Christianity there, as well as the challenges that ethnic Christians face in Myanmar today. Poe Clee, Coordinator of Refugee Mission Activities at North Shore Baptist, spoke to us about experiences of Burmese ethnic refugees in the United States.

The Family Council's business meeting included reports from officers and committees. Reports from the Finance and Property Committee and the Treasurer indicated that more funds were needed for day-to-day operations of ABCMC, and also pointed out that designated funds were available for Children in Poverty, Christian Education, and Camping.

Bill Wallin wrote in the Finance and Property Committee's report, "There are possibilities in cutting expenses. Larry has been talking with churches about their housing the files, and having their secretary answer an ABC/MC phone line. There may have to be some staf restructuring... The annual lease for the office space expired at the end of March, and we [are] on a month to month in anticipation of go[i]ng 'officeless.'" He nonetheless was confident that people give when they see needs.

David Gregg's report as ABCMC's representative to the General Board of ABCUSA provided some information and concerns about the proposed changes in the structure of the denomination. Among his concerns was that the new structure would not allow those in the minority to have a voice in decisions. Executive Minister Larry Greenfield said that the new issue of the *American Baptist Quarterly* contained information about the proposed changes, and he encouraged us to read it.

In new business, the Family Council voted on the proposed amendments to the Family Document of ABCMC. Those proposals appeared in a number of earlier issues of *eWind*. The Family Council adopted the changes.

The Family Council endorsed a Statement of Concern to be presented at Biennial. David Gregg asked delegates from ABCMC congregations to sign the statement.

The Family Council endorsed Health Care for America Now, an advocacy organization with principles virtually identical to the denomination's long-held positions on the need for a reform of our nation's health care system. The 1991 American Baptist Resolution on Health Care for All, rooted in Jesus' commitment to health and healing, the resolution states, "Powerful forces seek to preserve the status quo, but we as American Baptists, like many other citizens and public officials, believe that the time has come for significant change," and adds, "In accordance with our 1975 Policy Statement on Health Care, we believe that health care should be viewed as a right, not a privilege, and that the basic goal for health care reform should be universal access to comprehensive benefits."

The American Baptist Policy Statement on Health Care says:

As American Baptists we affirm and support programs, legislation, research and other formulations which help develop a new comprehensive health care delivery system which provides quality services for all people.

1. Make health care resources, private and public, available in keeping with the total needs of people, rather than on the basis of economic, geographic or racial factors;
3. Provide equitable health care for all residents of the U.S.A. by eliminating financial barriers."

Following the business meeting, attendees adjourned to a Karen-inspired meal prepared for us by Dawn Noldan, a member of North Shore Baptist Church. We thank Dawn and the church for their hospitality, and we thank Danny Thianhlun and the Chin Christian Fellowship for leading a very meaningful time of worship, as well as Roger Poenyunt and Biak Mang for helping us to learn about Burma.

Proposed Changes in ABCUSA Structure

The latest issue of the *American Baptist Quarterly* is devoted to the proposed restructuring of the American Baptist Churches USA, which will be voted on at the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena in late June.

This current issue of the journal is edited by our executive minister, Larry Greenfield, and also includes articles by ABCMCers David Gregg (our region's representative to the General Board) and Alice Greene (pastor of the Irving Park Baptist Church and national president of the Ministers Council), along with nearby ABCer Jerry Cain (president of Judson University in Elgin).

The purpose of this ABQ issue, Larry explained is to provide ABC leaders and congregations with information about, background for, and perspectives on the proposed new structure. In addition to Larry's introductory article, which lays out a theological rationale for restructuring among Baptists, there are sections providing "Interpretative Frameworks," "Baptist History and Identity," "Critical Assessments," and a concluding collection of essays called "From My Position and Perspective," which contains the insights on the restructuring from the denomination's president (Mary Hulst), general secretary (Roy Medley), two executive ministers (Liliana Da Valle and Dwight Stinnett), a member of the General Board (Paul Vick), and the pieces by Alice Greene and Jerry Cain.

If you are not a subscriber to ABQ, individual copies can be purchased for \$15.00 by contacting the American Baptist Historical Society (3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341-4155, or phone 678-547-6680). We can secure copies for \$10.00 per copy if we place an order of 25 or more through ABCMC (call the office if you want to be placed on the list--773-804-1655).

Free Items

The following items are available for use by a church. They are currently in storage. We encourage any church that can use any of them to contact the ABCMC office at 773-804-1655 or office@abcmc.org to arrange to examine the items.

- 1 credenza
- 1 desk
- 1 side extension for a desk
- 1 conference table
- 13 chairs for conference table
- 2 arm chairs – one black and one green
- 3 swivel chairs with cloth upholstery
- 1 bookcase simulated wood with shelving and brackets and screws
- 1 smaller white bookcase with shelving
- 1 coffee table – glass top and metal legs
- 3 computer monitors
- 1 computer printer
- 1 keyboard for a computer
- 1 central processing unit (CPU)
- 1 movie screen
- 1 peg board
- 144 votive candles
- 36 dozen spoon, knives and forks (This is an estimate. We did not count them.)
- 1 Adventure in Sharing Wheel for World Mission

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Nurturing Spirituality in the Family

This invitation is from the Community Church of Wilmette, 1028 Forest Avenue, Wilmette.

Community Church of Wilmette is offering a workshop for parents and caregivers centered on nurturing spirituality in the family. The workshop does not seek to provide answers to specific questions children might ask, but seeks to inform adults how they may respond to their children in age appropriate ways, based on a child's developmental stage. These sessions were developed based on the works of Piaget, developmental theorist, Fowler, spiritual formation theorist, and Kohlberg, moral developmental theorist.

The format of the class will include lecture with small and large group discussion. Materials will be provided for each session.

Please join us for direction, inspiration, and lively conversation.

Community Church of Wilmette

1020 Forest Avenue

Wilmette, IL 60091

Sunday, May 3, 10, and 17 at noon

Suggested donation \$10 per session

Registration: 847.251.4370 or www.communitychurchofwilmette.org

Childcare provided upon request.

Night of Hope

On May 16 at 5:30 p.m. the Federated Church of Wauconda will host a Night of Hope event. The program will include a Sloppy Joe and Potato Salad Cook-off as well as a Silent Auction and Bake Sale to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society funds cancer research and support services for cancer patients and their families.

On that evening, not only will the church be raising funds for the American Cancer Society; they will also be remembering loved ones they have lost to cancer, honoring survivors, and providing hope for the future. There will be a luminaria service in the church's garden. The service will include music by members of the congregation.

Twentieth Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, May 31, the First Baptist Church of Waukegan will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Keith Cerk as their pastor. The celebration service will be at 11 a.m. Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago, will be the guest preacher. A celebration luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m., following the worship service. We extend our congratulations to Keith and the congregation as they celebrate this milestone in their ministry together.

The South Church of Mount Prospect Presents June 6 Music Recital

The South Church is proud to present the second in its 2009 series of music recitals, as it warmly welcomes The Chicago Pan-American Ensemble on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at 7 p.m.

Formed by husband and wife American cellist Andrew Snow and Mexican pianist Beatriz Helguera, the Pan-American Ensemble performs a standard cello and piano repertoire, but also engages top artists to perform chamber music including trios, quartets and quintets. In addition to Snow and Helguera, the June 6 recital will feature guest violinists Gregory Maytan and Mathias Tacke. The afternoon program will

include the Mozart quartets in G Minor and E flat Major, as well as the Frescobaldi–Cassado Toccata for cello and piano.

According to its founders, a major objective of the Ensemble is to reach new audiences (especially young listeners) and make them aware of the richness and quality of composers of North and South America who have influenced not only the Americas but the rest of the world, as well as to introduce audiences to new works from contemporary composers.

About Andrew Snow, cello — A native of Chicago, Andrew Snow is an active recitalist, chamber musician, orchestra musician, and teacher who has a private cello studio in Arlington Heights, Ill. He holds a bachelor's degree in cello performance from Northern Illinois University, and a masters in cello performance from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. He is a member of the faculty at Trinity International University (Deerfield, Ill.), as well as a member of the Chicago Ensemble, Chicago Sinfonietta, Lake Forest Symphony, and Chicago Philharmonic. He has played with Grant Park Symphony, Ravinia Festival Orchestra, Chicago Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Milwaukee Symphony, Chicago String Ensemble, Ars Viva, Chicago Symphonic Pops, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dallas Lyric Opera, Plano Texas Chamber Orchestra, Filarmonica Ciudad de Mexico and more, and has been in orchestras accompanying names such as Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti, and more. With his wife, pianist Beatriz Helguera, he has performed in Mexico City and Guadalajara at Sala Carlos Chavez, Sala Ponce in the Palace of Fine Arts (Bellas Artes) and Sala Julian Carrillo of UNAM Radio (University of Mexico Radio). As a teacher, he was department head of the cello department at Betty Haag Suzuki School from 1987 to 1997, where he taught dozens of young cellists and prepared them for their annual Orchestra Hall concert.

About Beatriz Helguera, piano — Born in Mexico City, Beatriz Helguera holds a Concert Pianist Diploma with honors from the National Conservatory of Music, and a masters in piano performance from the Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts. She has played in numerous master classes and workshops for pianists, and in Mexico, was a soloist with the Fine Arts Chamber Orchestra (Orquesta de Camara de Bellas Artes), State of Mexico Orchestra (Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico), Conservatory Orchestra and others, and played numerous solo and chamber music recitals in all of Mexico City's major recital halls. With more than 25 years of experience, Helguera is an active performer as recitalist and chamber musician and as an accompanist, playing for university recitals, master classes, workshops, auditions, and festivals in venues that include Northwestern University, DePaul University, Northern Illinois University, and many others; for numerous high school orchestras, bands, choirs, and Chicago-area music schools; and for numerous private violin, viola, cello, clarinet, and voice studios. As an active chamber musician, Beatriz Helguera has played extensively the repertoire for cello and piano, violin and piano, and the literature for trios, quartets, and quintets. Helguera was a faculty member at Betty Haag Suzuki School for almost a decade and has a private piano studio for students age four to adult. She is a member of MTNA (Music Teachers National Association) and CAMTA (Chicago Area Music Teachers Association).

About Gregory Maytan, violin — Gregory Maytan is Assistant Professor of Music at Valparaiso University. He earned his doctorate in violin performance from the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, Ind. He performs regularly as a soloist chamber and orchestral musician, and performs extensively in the U.S. and Europe. Maytan's most recent CD, consisting of music from his native Scandinavia, was selected by *The Strad* as the top recital CD of April 2009, highly praised by *Strings Magazine*, and lauded by *Classical Voice of North Carolina*. He has participated in the International Chamber Music Festival in Vienna, Austria, where he was a featured prize winner and has placed and been awarded significant awards in the Swedish Royal Academy's competition for post-graduate violinists during the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Maytan has performed and toured with numerous orchestras, and his concerts have been broadcast on radio and television in the U.S. and Europe. He has participated in master classes with Zakhar Bron, Leonidas Kavakos, and Michela Martin. He performs on a Stefano Scarampella violin from 1896.

About Mathias Tacke, violin — Mathias Tacke, professor of violin and former second violinist of the Vermeer Quartet, is originally from Bremen, Germany. He studied with Ernst Mayer-Schierning in

Detmold, with Emanuel Hurwitz and David Takeno in London, and with Sandor Vegh in Cornwall. He won first prize in the Jugend Musiziert national competition, and graduated with honors from Nordwestdeutsche Musikakademie, where he was later appointed to the faculty. From 1983 to 1992, Tacke was a member of the Ensemble Modern, one of the most important professional groups specializing in 20th century music. In this capacity he gave countless premieres of works by most of today's leading composers, including Frank Zappa. He has made numerous recordings for such labels as Sony, ECM, Harmonia Mundi, and Teldec.

"We are pleased to welcome The Chicago Pan-American Ensemble to The South Church," says Rev. Rick Kesler, pastor of The South Church. "The group's varied repertoire will appeal to a wide variety of backgrounds, ages, nationalities, and musical tastes."

The South Church is located at 501 South Emerson Street in Mount Prospect, Ill., and is wheelchair-accessible for those with physical limitations. A suggested donation is \$10.00 per adult, and \$5.00 for students.

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/whoweare/newsservice/newsservice.aspx>

Longtime National Ministries Staff Member, Richard Jones, Dies

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 5/12/09)—Dr. Richard M. Jones, who retired as deputy executive director in 1991 after 36 years of service to American Baptist National Ministries, died on Friday, May 8, following a fall several days earlier. He was 81.

During his more than three decades of ministry at National Ministries, he also served as director of planning and secretary to the board of directors; he held leadership positions in the Office of Policy Development and the Division of Evangelism as well, where he became engaged with the Baptist Jubilee Advance (1959–1964). This loose collaboration of several Baptist bodies planned evangelism strategies in the context of movements for social justice.

As part of that work, Jones participated in the Civil Rights Movement, walking in the March on Washington in 1963. Jones wrote of that event: "We...gathered at the First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., for a short prayer service and then joined thousands of others to walk toward the Lincoln Memorial for a time of music and the famous 'I Have a Dream' speech by Dr. King. I was fortunate to be close to the platform and hear those words and feel the power of them."

On the occasion of his 80th birthday last year, Jones wrote of a 1963 meeting with Dr. King and other social justice advocates to plan strategies for taking stands against injustice: "There was a sense of emergency, fear and authenticity to the relationship of faith with action. Dr. King...had a sense of what might befall the movement as it took shape."

Jones engagement in the Civil Rights Movement, he wrote, transformed his theological understanding and commitment along with his belief that personal salvation and action for social justice are intertwined. "Dick Jones helped shape the ministry and mission of home mission for more than a quarter of a century," says Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, National Ministries' executive director. "He was particularly adept at planning and making the connection between evangelism and ministries of emancipation. He was an encourager who led National Ministries in its mission of encouraging life in Christ. Dick Jones was a great American Baptist who will be deeply missed."

Out of the Baptist Jubilee Advance experience grew Metropolitan Associates of Philadelphia (MAP), a lay ministry laboratory, of which Jones was a founder. The ecumenical endeavor, an experimental action-research project, explored new forms of mission in and through urban institutions by drawing together

small groups of individuals engaged in sectors of business, medicine, social work, politics, the arts and education to examine what it meant to live out Christian life in the “real life” of the city.

Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary for ABCUSA, said, “Working with Dick, there was no room for sloppy thinking or theology. He pressed us to think our best, to reach deep into our faith and how it challenged and had transformative power for our culture. His prophetic voice will be greatly missed.”

Jones authored several books, including *The Man for All Men*, a lay study book, along with *Witness Through the Arts and Evangelistic Life Style Awareness Manual*, among others. Prior to his work with National Ministries, Jones held pastorates in Sumner, WA, and Medford, OR.

Jones earned his master of divinity degree with honors at Berkeley Divinity School, now American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) in Berkeley, CA, and did graduate work at Union Theological Seminary and the New School for Social Research, both in New York City. He was a cum laude graduate of Linfield College in McMinnville, OR. ABSW awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1988.

Jones is survived by his widow, Shirley; a daughter, Cheryl; a son, Kimball; and seven grandchildren. Shirley Jones served the Board of Educational Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, as executive director of the division of Christian Higher Education, and Colgate Rochester Divinity School as interim president.

A memorial gathering, “A Celebration of Life and Service,” will be held on Saturday, May 23, at 2 p.m. at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, CA, where Jones was a member, Condolences can be sent to Shirley Jones at 1300 Quarry Court #405, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

Ten Commandments Monument

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry should veto legislation that would place a monument honoring the Ten Commandments on the state capitol grounds, says a Baptist organization supporting religious liberty for all people.

The [Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty](#) says that while some Ten Commandments displays may be held constitutional, all Americans should be concerned when government meddles in matters of religion.

On May 11, the Oklahoma state legislature passed a final version of a bill allowing the creation of a Ten Commandments monument paid for with private money to be placed on the state capitol grounds. The final version allows a private group to help the state's attorney general if there is a legal challenge to the monument. Gov. Henry had five days to decide if he will sign or veto the legislation.

K. Hollyn Hollman, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, said that government displays of the Ten Commandments tend to send a message of exclusion to those who do not share the Judeo Christian tradition and a message of favoritism to those who do.

"We should be more concerned with following the Ten Commandments rather than merely posting them on government property," Hollman said. "Religion flourishes best when the separation of church and state is protected."

The Baptist Joint Committee is a 73-year-old, Washington, D.C.-based religious liberty organization that works to defend and extend God-given religious liberty for all, bringing a uniquely Baptist witness to the principle that religion must be freely exercised, neither advanced nor inhibited by government.

PEACE NEWS

Northwest Suburban Meeting May 13

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, at 7 p.m. For more information about the work of this group, please visit www.nwsubpep.org. All who want to help suburban youth consider career opportunities in peace-making and social change are welcome to come to the meeting.

Eighth Annual Walk for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine Sunday, May 17, 2009, Oak Park, Illinois

Although Gaza has faded from the headlines in the aftermath of Israel's December 2008–January 2009 bombardment and assault, the blockade and siege of Gaza's 1.5 million residents continues. Already an impoverished, isolated zone before the winter war, Gaza now faces a humanitarian disaster of catastrophic proportions, widespread physical devastation, and continued international neglect. The Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine (www.cjpip.org) will host its 8th annual event for peace on May 17.

The program will be at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park. The Walk will begin at 2:30 p.m. and follow a 1-mile route through downtown Oak Park. After the walk there will be an Advocacy Buffet/Potluck at 3:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall, First United Church of Oak Park.

Featured Speakers will be:

BILL AYERS, a Distinguished Professor of Education and Senior University Scholar at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Bill has written extensively about social justice, democracy and education, and the cultural contexts of schooling.

REEM SALAHI, who specializes in national security and civil rights law. She has worked with Palestinian and Israeli lawyers representing Palestinian political prisoners and visited Gaza recently with a National Lawyers Guild delegation.

CECILIE SURASKY, Director of Communications for Jewish Voice for Peace. She is the driving force behind Muzzlewatch, JVP's acclaimed blog documenting efforts to silence open debate about Israel/Palestine/US politics.

REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT, who served 36 years as Senior Pastor of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ. A Marine Corps and Navy veteran, he earned degrees from Howard University and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

For more information, please email info@cjpip.org or phone 312-427-2533, ext. 19.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Health Care Reform?

In the news this week is a meeting that President Obama had with some groups in the health insurance industry. These folks are promising to make health insurance more efficient and more economical. Reforming the health insurance system is a good thing. It is not, however, reform of the health care system. Those proposed changes come from those who are making enormous amounts of money from the existing health care system, and are not necessarily looking for benefits for the rest of us.

Furthermore, there is no clear provision for accountability. Let's all be in communication with the President and our representatives in Congress, and let them know that what the health insurance industry is proposing is not the health care reform that we need.

Summer Celebration

This invitation is from the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.



Monday, June 8, 2009

5:30 - 7:30 PM

La Decima Musa Restaurant

1901 S. Loomis St., Chicago

As we stand on the verge of passing health care for all,
join your friends in the fight for health care justice at
the Campaign for Better Health Care's 2009 Summer Celebration!

EVENT TICKETS: \$50

Help CBHC continue the fight for comprehensive health
care reform in Illinois and health care justice for all!

SPONSORSHIPS: \$500

All sponsors receive listings in event materials, tickets to
the event, special recognition at the event, and recognition
for a year on the CBHC website as a friend to the health
care justice movement.

Tickets include appetizers, soft drinks, and wine.

A cash bar will also be available.

Space is limited - please register early!

[REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!](#)

For more information, contact Kathleen Duffy
kduffy@cbhconline.org or 312.913.9449.

BPFNA Summer Conference

The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will hold its annual summer conference July 20-25 in Ogden, Utah. The theme will be "When There Is Justice, Then Peace Will Come!" Complete details and registration are available online at www.bpfna.org/conference. The Peace Fellowship is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Close-Up Afghanistan May 20; AFSC Benefit June 4

This information is from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

The next in AFSC's War in Focus series, "Close-Up Afghanistan," will be taking place at Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn, Chicago on May 20, 7-9 p.m.. Peter Lems, who was recently in Afghanistan, will be reporting on and providing images from a recent fact-finding mission he participated in there. He will provide some perspective on new ways of thinking about the war in Afghanistan.

Also, AFSC's annual benefit will be taking place on June 4th. This year's benefit is a private preview of our "Recruitment Posters for Peace" exhibition at Roosevelt University's Gage Gallery, 18 S Michigan Avenue, Chicago, a much-appreciated co-sponsor of the event. The exhibition features the talent of local high school and regional college students who were asked to think of positive ways that they can contribute to the peace movement and convince their peers to join them through the creation of posters.

It will be a very dynamic collection of work that we are excited to present on June 4. The program will be 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$35, or \$20 for students/persons with low income.

Space is limited, so if you haven't yet done so, RSVP to Karen Light at klight@afsc.org. See <http://www.afsc.org/chicago/ht/d/sp/i/77815/pid/77815> for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for God's guidance to those who are seeking to reform our health care system.

Let's all pray for fairness, honesty and justice in our work places.

May we all join in prayers of thanksgiving and blessing for Keith Cerk and the First Baptist Church of Waukegan. They will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Keith as pastor on May 31.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Ed and Miriam Noyes. Ed and Miriam serve in a region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo where over two-thirds of the population depends on agriculture for a living, and where chronic malnutrition limits the lives of children. Ed supports and advises Congolese Baptist church programs promoting more productive, profitable, and sustainable farming techniques. Miriam has a burden for thousands of illiterate women who provide the foundations of healthy family life, yet are marginalized or impoverished because they cannot read and write. She promotes church-based literacy programs and trains literacy teachers.

Please lift up in prayer ABC missionaries Tim and Patti Long in Mexico. Tim and Patti minister in leadership training by the Baja Baptist Convention, Dios Con Nosotros (God With Us). They help in the acculturation process of the many people who relocate to the Baja Peninsula of Mexico from other areas in Mexico.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Jan and Larry Martin. Jan and Larry have a rural-based ministry in a small town in Northern Thailand. The population of this town is almost 100% Buddhist. There is a small and growing Christian group there that the Martins help to nurture through worship and fellowship.

CALENDAR

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

May 16—Night of Hope program and service, Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, 5:30 p.m.

May 17—Eighth Annual Walk for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine, Oak Park. For more information, please contact www.cjpp.org

May 20—"Close-Up Afghanistan," Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn, Chicago, 7-9 p.m.

May 21—Program on Employee Free Choice Act, Elk Grove Township Hall, 2400 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, 7 p.m.

May 22-23—Metro Chicago Youth Spring Overnight Camping event.

May 30—ABCMC's Fourth Annual Disciples' (Picnic) Dinner, 2 p.m.-6 p.m., Judson University, Elgin.

May 31—Celebration of Keith Cerk's 20th anniversary as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waukegan, 401 N. Genesee Street, Waukegan. Larry Greenfield will be the guest preacher at the 11 a.m. service. A celebration luncheon will take place at 12:30 p.m.

June 4—American Friends Service Committee's annual benefit, Gage Gallery, Roosevelt University, 18 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 6-9 p.m. For more information, please see <http://www.afsc.org/chicago/ht/d/sp/i/77815/pid/77815>

June 4-6—Baptist History and Heritage Society's annual conference, Huntsville, Alabama, "Celebrating 400 Years of Being Baptist," <http://www.baptisthistory.org/annualmeeting2009.pdf>

June 6—Car Wash to raise funds for North Shore Baptist Church's mission trip to New Orleans, Thybony Paint and Wallpaper, 5440 N. Clark, Chicago, 9a.m.-5 p.m. Donation: \$5.

June 7-12—95th Annual Hampton University Ministers' Conference, Hampton, Virginia.

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

June 10—ABCUSA reception at Hampton University Ministers' Conference, Conference Room "A," Embassy Suites at Hampton Roads Conference Center, 9:30 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 13-20—North Shore Baptist Church mission trip to New Orleans.

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

June 26-28—ABCUSA Biennial Meeting, Pasadena, California.

June 28-July 3—Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries conference, Green Lake Conference Center, Wisconsin.

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

July 20-25—Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America conference, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. See www.bpfna.org for more information.

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

July 27—Tony Rake preaches at Federated Church of Wauconda, 200 S. Barrington Road, Wauconda, 9:45 a.m.

August 3-7—Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders, presented by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 22W 415 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn. For information, please visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

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

November 14—ABC MC Annual Meeting

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