

*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

June 3, 2009



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## ABCMC NEWS

### *It Was Fun!!*

May 30 was a beautiful day for a picnic on the campus of Judson University in Elgin. The ABCMC Disciples' Event took place in an ideal late spring setting. About 175 people representing a couple dozen ABCMC congregations attended. At least 30 children came to the event.



The program featured good family entertainment. Adults of all ages played simultaneous games of softball, basketball and soccer. In one four-on-four basketball game, our Executive Minister Larry Greenfield shot some impressive baskets. (His team won.) Children played a variety of games, including ball games, a piñata, and a Bozo bucket game. There was an enthusiastic and exciting Cake Walk in which quite a few people won some wonderful desserts.

Those who did not participate in the games spent a lovely day relaxing by the lagoon and enjoying good

fellowship. Those who had not visited the campus previously were impressed with its beauty.

Because our game-playing time ran short, we were not able to have the long-anticipated Bible Jeopardy game. But that game will be part of a future Family Council or Annual Meeting. Keep studying scripture so you can come away as a Bible Jeopardy champion!

The picnic-style meal included hot dogs, hamburgers, and sweet corn on the cob. Thanks to the generosity of church folks, we had more desserts than anyone could ever want. It was a gastronomic delight!

The moving awards ceremony in the chapel featured music by the praise group from the Hispanic congregation. A total of 14 congregation recognized and honored 19 Daily Disciples. ABCMC's region-wide awards were also presented:

**The Elmer Johnson Award for Exemplary Service to the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago** was given to the Reverend Shakespeare Osorio, pastor of Central Spanish Baptist Church.

**The William A. Johnson Award In Educational Ministries** went to the Reverend Dr. E. Alfred Jenkins, Professor Emeritus of Christian Education and Dean Emeritus at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**The Esther Davis Award in Ministries of Social Justice** was presented to the Reverend Dr. Alice Burnette Greene, pastor of Irving Park Baptist Church.

**The Jitsuo Morikawa Award for Relating Christian Faith to Contemporary Life** was won by the Reverend Keith R. Cerk, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waukegan.

It was a blessing to be able to honor every one of these faithful servants of God.

Those who were not there missed a wonderful event. Those who were present enjoyed the day immensely. The consensus was that this was something we should do again.

## ***Pentecost Sermon Attached***

Dear Friends,

I encourage you to read the PDF file of the sermon ("To Speak the Same Language") preached last Sunday at Hyde Park Union Church—a report of a contemporary instance of the coming of God's Spirit.

Larry

## ***Ghana Mission Partnership***

The ABC/MC Mission Partnership Committee (MPC) invites you to participate in a Prayer and Commissioning Service on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. The service will be held at the New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church located at 4301 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, where The Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch is the senior pastor.

A series of prayers for the 2009 Mission Team, our Ghana Baptist Convention partners, and friends, families, and church members who are supporting us will be offered to God. Additionally, The Rev. Dr. Alan V. Ragland, Senior Pastor of Third Baptist Church of Chicago, will be preaching.

Please join us for this wonderful occasion. Come and meet the 2009 Mission Team and encourage them with your presence and prayers.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact The Rev. David W. Watkins, MPC Chairperson at 773.412.9656 or [pastordavid@gbmbc-chicago.org](mailto:pastordavid@gbmbc-chicago.org).

## ***Health Care Pulpit Supply***

The summer of 2009 will be a critical period for national health care reform as our representatives and senators in Washington debate legislation that will be voted on by September, 2009. Faith communities can have an important voice during this critical time. Protestants for the Common Good has joined Health Care for America Now in offering guest preachers who can speak from faith perspectives on the need for health care reform. Clergy who are engaged in health care reform issues are available to serve as a guest preacher or vacation pulpit supply. In addition, a volunteer is available to accompany the speaker to collect signatures of support or answer questions from members after the service.

Please welcome a guest preacher or consider preaching on this topic this summer (and be sure to share your sermon with us!) If you would like to join as one of the speaker's bureau for other congregations, a brief orientation is scheduled for June 11 from 10:00am to Noon. We urge you to use this summer to facilitate and moderate a health care discussion in your congregation during this most important period of debate. If you would like to take advantage of these opportunities, either to invite a speaker or to serve as a speaker, please contact Jessica Palys at 312-427-2114 x206.

## ***Thinking Theologically***

ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield writes a biweekly column, "Thinking Theologically about the Common Good" for Protestants for the Common Good. Larry's latest column is at the end of this issue of *eWind*.

## ***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](mailto: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 coffee table – glass top and metal legs
- 3 computer monitors
- 1 computer printer
- 1 keyboard for a computer
- 1 central processing unit (CPU)
- 1 Adventure in Sharing Wheel for World Mission

## **NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS**

### ***New Play at Woodside Church Sunday***

Quincy Dobbs, who is Minister of Music and Fine Arts at Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan, is excited about the church's children's pageant this season. He wrote the play based on the story of the Old Testament prophetess Deborah. Quincy says that after our nation's historic election of Barak Obama he knew that the timing was perfect for this fascinating story to be written for telling by the children's program.

The story being told this coming Sunday in a church whose senior minister is named Deborah, in a nation

whose president is named Barak, is about a prophetess and judge named Deborah in a country with a military leader named Barak. "While the historical story is very brutal and filled with very detailed descriptions of the battles and the ultimate victory," says Quincy, "I feel that I have found a very modern and germane interpretation for a children's story." The church will be observing Christian Education Sunday on June 7 at their 10 a.m. worship service in which they will present this original play.

Quincy says he will be happy to share his script with other churches who are interested in presenting the play. Contact information for the play may be found on the church's website, [www.Woodsidechurch.net](http://www.Woodsidechurch.net).

### ***Special Services at North Shore Baptist Church***

North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, will observe some special Sunday morning services this summer. Their services are at 10 a.m.

June 7 will be Music Sunday. Worship will feature original anthems by Randall Moore, who is baritone section leader from DePaul University.

July 14 will be Creation Sunday. Worship will be outside in the Centennial Garden. It will be led completely by the church's praise team, Ruach, and it will feature "camp style" songs. Justine Thornburgh, who will begin seminary studies this fall, will bring the message.

### ***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.

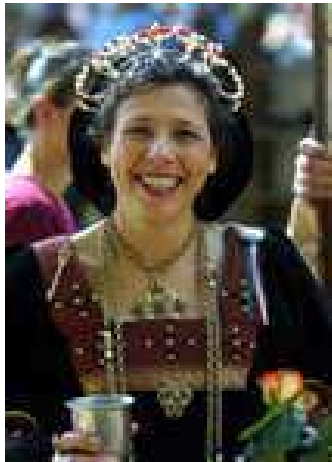
According to its founders, a major objective of the Ensemble is to reach new audiences (especially young listeners) and make them aware of the richness and quality of composers of North and South America who have influenced not only the Americas but the rest of the world, as well as to introduce audiences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

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.

### ***Journey through the Land of Israel***

Alice Greene, pastor of Irving Park Baptist Church, invites us all to join her church family in a trip to the Holy Land as part of the celebration of the church's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The projected dates for the tour are November 3-12, 2010. The expected cost is \$3,500. A \$300 fee will secure your place. For more information, please contact tour coordinator Harvette Grey at 773-517-3651, or call the church office at 773-286-6800.

## **Queen for a Day**



We are all invited to attend a special dinner theater event “Queen for a Day” at Woodside Church on Sunday, June 14. This original mystery--written by Dr. Quincy O. Dobbs, Woodside’s Minister of Music and Fine Arts--is set in the Renaissance period. So, why wait till the Fair returns to the area? Here’s the perfect opportunity to pull out your favorite Renaissance clothing and join in the fun.

During the event, we will enjoy a wonderful meal interspersed with the mystery. The four-course meal, coinciding with the four suspects, will consist of renaissance faire, including smoked turkey legs, pickle barrel, ‘fairy’ drops, and rose water glace.“ Together, we will search for clues about the murder of the heir apparent to the throne,” Dr. Dobbs explained. “I cannot tell you more . . . except to remind you: what happens in the 1560s stays in the 1560s!”

Suggested Donation is \$30.00. Proceeds from the dinner benefit Woodside’s *4 Concerts for a Cause* series.

The “Queen for a Day” dinner theater fundraiser will be held at Woodside Church, located at 1509 East Court Street, next to Mott Community College. The event begins immediately after the church’s annual Music Appreciation service. Service begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at approximately 11:15 a.m. So, please plan for “Queen for a Day” to begin at 11:30 a.m. (Or come at 10:00 a.m. for even more music and fellowship!)

Reservations are requested and may be made by calling the church: 810-767-4911. Please contact Dr. Quincy Dobbs at 810-767-4911 or visit [www.woodsidechurch.net](http://www.woodsidechurch.net) for more information.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### ***Sing to Live Concert***

The Sing to Live Community Chorus will present identical concerts on Saturdays June 6 and June 13. The theme for each concert will be “Emeralds: Music from Eastern Europe.” The June 6 concert will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center of Dominican University, 7900 West Division Street, River Forest. The June 13 concert will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Nichols Concert Hall of the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston (near Lake Street Church).

Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is \$20. Seniors (65+) and students with school ID pay \$15.

The Sing to Live Community Chorus provides complimentary tickets to breast cancer survivors, as part of its ministry to provide the gift of music to the breast cancer community. For more information, please email [info@singtolive.org](mailto:info@singtolive.org) or call 773-250-SING.

## ***Provision Theater***

Provision Theater invites us all to an open house June 12 at their new theater on Roosevelt Road.

**We hope you can attend this FUN and LIVELY event!**  
Order your tickets NOW using the link below.

- Location - Our new theater facility at 1001 W. Roosevelt Rd, Chicago.
- Parking - FREE, FREE, FREE, FREE, FREE! We have our own parking lot!!!!
- 6:00 pm - Doors open for refreshments and tours of our new theater home.
- 7:30 pm - See a very special performance including pieces from our previous shows along with performances from some of the top talent in Chicago including company members Susan Moniz, Brad Armacost, and Alaric (Rokko) Jans.
- 8:30 pm - Live auction and full reception

Tickets are \$50.

**[Click Right Here To Order Your Tickets Now!](#)**  
**Or Call 800-838-3006 toll-free any time to make your purchase.**

This season's performances will include Harry Chapin's *Cotton Patch Gospel* ("the greatest story ever retold." The final show of the season will be *The Hiding Place*, based on the autobiography of Corrie Ten Boom.

Tickets for the open house, or for any of this season's performances, may be ordered by phone at 800-838-3006 or online at <http://www.provisiontheater.org/>

## **ABCUSA NEWS**

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

## ***Sundquist Named American Baptist Foundation Representative***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/2/09)**—Rev. John D. Sundquist of Woodridge, IL, has been named the American Baptist Foundation's representative for the Great Plains region. This appointment, effective April 1, 2009, was announced by Lawrence Edw. Wilson, III, Foundation President. In his position Sundquist will work with regional staff and local church pastors and lay leaders to encourage estate planning among members of their congregations. That planning will increase support for American Baptist ministry locally, across the nation and around the world.

Sundquist's dynamic experience spans parish leadership on a number of different levels, all serving widely diverse people and congregations in their personal, professional and spiritual development. Most recently, he was Senior Pastor at the First Baptist Church of La Grange, IL. "I love ministry and I love the Lord. The American Baptist Foundation provides me now with an opportunity to broaden my ministry beyond the walls of any one church in any one community," Sundquist noted. "I'm stimulated by the thought of touching people's lives in multiple ways that allow them to ignite their own personal ministries by supporting the Foundation and the myriad missions we fuel in the Great Plains, and around this nation and this world."

Sundquist and his wife, Karen, have one child. Children have always been a priority for Sundquist, who is well known among young people in and around the churches he has served. He has created programming that stirs their interest to a level that some acknowledge competes with this electronic age.

“What inspires me about John and convinced me he was exactly right for the work the Foundation does,” Wilson points out, “was his significant success in renewing the spirit and growth of several churches, and strengthening their financial positions as well. In a time when the traditional denominations and particularly their inner city churches are struggling for new ideas and relevancy, John brings just the right creativity and abilities to forge the institutional partnerships across denominational lines that are inevitable.”

Sundquist holds a Master of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL. He has also had international experience in Sweden, and he received mediation skills training at the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, IL. A product of the digital age, Sundquist spent more than three years as a personal computer specialist with responsibilities for campus software at North Park College.

Sundquist, a lifelong American Baptist, is eager to encourage individuals to design their estate plans and make charitable gifts through the Foundation. He says, “American Baptists have a long and proud history of breaking down barriers and touching people’s lives. The Foundation grants me a unique opportunity to connect people who care with the ministries that matter to them, ensuring that those transforming and life-changing ministries have a future with hope.”

The American Baptist Foundation was established in 1985 to promote estate planning among members of the more than five thousand American Baptist churches nationwide.

The mission of the Foundation is to support and strengthen the Christian witness fulfilled by American Baptist congregations, regions, National Ministries and International Ministries in the areas of education, discipleship, evangelism, new churches, healing and justice. The Foundation encourages individuals to include the ministry and mission of these organizations in their wills and other charitable estate plans. Nearly \$100 million in trusts, endowments, and annuities is presently under the Foundation’s management. During its more than two decades of service, the Foundation has generated over one-quarter of a billion dollars in planned gifts. These have gone to support the ministries of local churches, the mission activities among 33 regional organizations, “home mission” throughout the United States and international mission in more than 70 countries.

## ***TWO AMERICAN BAPTIST-RELATED THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS BEGIN PARTNERSHIP TALKS***

Andover Newton Theological School announced on May 26 that its Board of Trustees has approved initiating discussions with the leadership of [Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School \(CRCDS\)](#) located in Rochester, NY. The discussions will explore the feasibility of combining the resources of these two historic institutions in a manner which will maximize efficiency, sustain their legacies and advance a common educational mission.

Nick Carter, president of Andover Newton and a graduate of CRCDS, acknowledged that although the process to bring these two institutions together will require discussion and negotiations, “Andover Newton and CRCDS are natural partners. What motivates us is the conviction that our respective institutions, students, alumni and communities they serve would be enriched by the combined resources of these two outstanding schools of theology.”

Citing the many benefits of a partnership, President Carter stated, “The distinctive character of both institutions would be preserved and strengthened, expansion of the breadth and depth of the curriculums would yield instructional vitality and excellence, and significant administrative efficiencies would be realized with all students having access to a world class education and preparation for ministry in an ecumenical and denominationally diverse environment.”

In expressing his enthusiasm regarding the possible partnership, President Carter went on to say, “As a result of the rich history and pioneering spirit which has characterized both Andover Newton and CRCDS, this joint venture may usher in a new model for graduate theological education. What is being announced

today places both institutions on the path of discovery and opportunity.”

The CRCDS Board's decision was also driven by a commitment to strengthen and expand the School's educational mission and act in accord with the School's heritage. “Today the landscape of theological education is marked with unprecedented change. In entering these talks, our shared goal is that both of our institutions become more agile, vibrant and better able to prepare transformative leaders for the new horizons of ministry in the 21st century,” stated Eugene C. Bay, president of CRCDS.

If a partnership is established, the schools would have a combined endowment of approximately \$40 million and an enrollment of 450 students. Andover Newton and CRCDS are both accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.

#### **About Andover Newton Theological School**

Established in 1807, Andover Newton Theological School is the oldest graduate theological school in North America and is recognized for having created the model which has become standard in almost every seminary in the US. Andover Newton is served by a distinguished faculty and known for its commitment to pastoral ministry, praxis-oriented theological education and preparing men and women for what it calls “border-crossing” ministries. As one of the premier seminaries in North America, Andover Newton is also a pioneer in field education and interfaith leadership development.

#### **About Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School**

CRCDS is an institution that possesses a deep commitment to progressive and prophetic theological inquiry, authentic scholarship and biblical faith; all in the tradition of the Social Gospel. Founded in 1817 and a presence in Rochester since 1850, CRCDS is a graduate professional school conferring Doctor of Ministry, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees. CRCDS' long and proven commitment to the Social Gospel, Black Church Studies and the Program for the Study of Women and Gender in Society and Church is demonstrated in the lives of former faculty member, Walter Rauschenbusch renowned worldwide as the “Father of the Social Gospel” and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a graduate of Crozer Seminary 1951, Marjorie Matthews, United Methodist Bishop, the first woman to be elected bishop in any denomination and Howard Thurman, theologian, author and civil rights pioneer.

### ***Buttry Receives Doctor of Divinity Degree***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/2/09)**—Rev. Daniel Buttry, an American Baptist International Ministries global consultant for peace and justice, was honored with a Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree by Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, KS, on May 16, 2009.

This distinction was conferred upon Buttry in recognition of his 20 years of faithful service around the world, affirmed the Seminary President, Dr. Molly T. Marshall. He has made a significant contribution in teaching and writing, as a pastor, and through the church's larger mission in Christian peacemaking.

Buttry has traveled globally in the pursuit of peace, justice and reconciliation through ministries of conflict transformation and education. He presented his commencement address based on 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, which talks of reconciliation. Speaking to the graduates and more than 400 guests, Buttry incorporated his much-used passport to cite samples of difficult situations worldwide and described Christian ministry: “You don't have diplomatic immunity as an Ambassador for Christ. You aren't protected from the pains and troubles of the world. Rather you have diplomatic vulnerability.”

The Doctor of Divinity degree awarded to Buttry is the highest honor bestowed by Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Central Seminary also commended Buttry on his planning for the Global Baptist Peace Conference in Italy, which was held last February and co-sponsored by International Ministries.

## ***Bethell Receives Doctor of Humane Letters Degree***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/2/09)**—Lauran Bethell, International Ministries global consultant for ministry with women and children who are, or at risk of, being victims of human trafficking, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA, on May 16, 2009. Bethell presented the commencement address at the seminary's ceremony, held at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Wallace C. Smith, President of the Seminary, praised Lauran for her commitment and contributions to working for more than two decades on behalf of women and children who have been exploited and abused. In her address, entitled "Am I My I.D.?" based on 2 Corinthians 4:7, Bethell reflected on her travels around the world as she collaborates with government agencies, non-government organizations and a broad spectrum of Christian ministries. She explained, "If there's anything I've learned in ministry it's that showing up is most often the best we can do. Showing up, and then having confidence that it will be God's Spirit that speaks more loudly than any words we can say—bringing peace, bringing joy, showing love."

In her battle against human trafficking, Bethell has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate committees encouraging legislation. In 2005, she received the Human Right Awards of the Baptist World Alliance, presented to her by former President Jimmy Carter. Two years later the Whitsitt Society conferred on her its "Courage Award."

Rev. Dr. Reid Trulson, Executive Director of International Ministries, stated: "We give thanks to God for Lauran and for all of the missionaries of International Ministries who are working against human trafficking and the entrapment of people in abusive labor and forced prostitution."

## ***Dieppa-Báez Named Executive Minister of Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/2/09)**—Dr. Roberto Dieppa-Báez has been named the new executive minister of Las Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico (the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico) effective on July 1, 2009.

Las Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico is a regional partner of American Baptist Churches USA.

A pastor for the past 28 years, Dieppa-Báez studied at the Inter American University and the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico, and earned his Doctor of Ministry from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

As the associate executive minister in evangelism and new church planting from 2002-2008, Dieppa-Báez established ten new churches in Puerto Rico, as well as the Institute for Congregational Transformation, the Social Pastoral Institute, and the Institute for New Church Planters. He also designed a denominational profile to study the growth of the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico.

He was the founder and director of Initial Counseling Center for persons battling alcoholism, drugs, and domestic violence.

Dieppa-Báez has coordinated missionary trips to Haiti, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Venezuela, and Colombia.

He and his wife, Abigail Pérez, have one adult son, Axel Dieppa- Pérez, and live in Juncos, Puerto Rico.

## ***AWAB Update***

The organizational management of AWAB is being carried out by David Kushner, CAE, CMP Interim Executive Council Advisor. On board with AWAB since March 1, David's primary role is to assist the Council in furthering the work of development, governance review and capacity building begun in 2008, as well as overseeing the operations of AWAB. David is uniquely gifted to fill this need with AWAB, as he

has a lifetime of experience in organizational management and development, with a special emphasis on nonprofits. His impact has been felt already as AWAB continues to move and grow into an organization that is capable of being the national voice for LGBT Baptists.

Chris Boisvert of Pittsburg, California is joining the AWAB staff as Acting Director of Community Outreach. Chris has served on the AWAB Council since 2003 and brings nearly 20 years of experience with the welcoming movement among Baptist churches. Prior to his service with AWAB, Chris worked for many years with American Baptists Concerned, the parent organization of AWAB, and was instrumental in the merger of AWAB and ABCConcerned in 2003.

As Acting DCO of AWAB, Chris will maintain contacts with AWAB members and nurture new relationships yet in the formative stage with AWAB. He will also oversee AWAB's ecumenical partnerships in the larger welcoming movement with friends across denominational lines. Chris began his work as Acting DCO on May 18.

## ***AWAB Statement on California Prop 8 Ruling***

*This statement is from the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.*

**Washington, DC, May 26, 2009** - The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB) believes that faithful, loving, committed relationships should be treated equally. This is why we are saddened by the California Supreme Court's decision to uphold Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage.

The proposition, passed by California voters on November 4, 2008 imposed a ban on same-sex marriage. The right to marry had initially been granted to same-sex couples on May 6, 2008, when the same state Supreme Court ruled that denying same sex couples the right to marry violated the state constitution's equal protection clause.

The Supreme Court upheld the marriages of 18,000 same-sex couples who had been legally married between May and November 2008. This ruling from the court creates a unique group of same-sex couples who, because of circumstances, are legally married and have a right that is now denied to all other same-sex couples.

In upholding Prop 8, the Supreme Court reaffirmed their earlier decision stating that discrimination based on sexual orientation is a violation of the equal protection clause. Some legal experts believe that except for the right to use the term "marriage", the court is also instructing the state to apply laws equally, including benefits conveyed through marriage. Even if the law is applied equally with a different term, many still see this as unacceptable, since it treats same-sex marriages differently from traditional marriages.

There are currently five states that have marriage equality: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont and Maine. New York and Rhode Island are considering bills to extend marriage equality. In New Hampshire, a similar bill was passed by the legislature but the governor refused to sign it without changes in language to specifically protect religious organizations.

In the decisions by courts and at the ballot around the nation, what is often missed is that they relate to civil marriage. The contract of marriage conveys to couples over 100 rights to things like survivorship, hospital visitation and inheritance. There is no attempt by government or the courts to require churches and bodies of faith to perform ceremonies that congregations and denominations feel are against their religious tenets.

AWAB recognizes that there are many positions on same-sex marriage. As such, we call upon faith bodies to engage in dialogue and study within their congregations. This dialogue should not just be about same-sex couples but should include dialogue with same-sex couples from within the same congregation, when possible.

## PEACE NEWS

### ***“World Week” Calls Churches to Work Together for Peace in Middle East***

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/1/09)** — The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum, convened by the World Council of Churches (WCC), will sponsor a **World Week for Peace** in Palestine, Israel, June 4-10, 2009. Churches and related organizations in more than 20 countries are taking part in this week of action that is dedicated to prayer, education, and advocacy, for an end to a 60-year conflict.

During the action week, peace prayers will be read aloud at local sites of suffering – near settlements, at demolished homes, at checkpoints, in refugee camps, and in parishes and schools in the West Bank and Gaza. Churches on every continent will also make use of these prayers.

Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, which are illegal under international law, are a special focus this year.

American Baptists are invited to join individuals and churches around the world in sending their own prayers for peace to Bethlehem for this "World Week", an invitation that is open to churches well beyond the membership of ABCUSA, or even the WCC.

Said American Baptist General Secretary A. Roy Medley said, “Action and prayers for peace are an important part of our Christian calling. I hope that many ABC churches will take part with the world-wide church in this World Week of Action for Peace in Israel-Palestine.”

Parishes and organizations in some 40 countries responded during last year's action week.

Participating countries report that joint actions during World Week often strengthen or spawn individual church actions for Israel-Palestine peace during the rest of the year.

An ecumenical service sponsored by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem has anchored World Week each of its four years. This year the East Jerusalem event will take place on Sunday, June 7. A prayer from the Jerusalem church leaders is available to nearly 350 WCC member churches in more than 100 countries.

For more information, visit [www.oikoumene.org/en/events-sections/wwppi.html](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/events-sections/wwppi.html). *Portions of this release draws on content from the World Council of Churches Media Office; used with permission.*

### ***Northwest Suburban Meeting***

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will hold a monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect. All who are interested in helping young people consider careers in peace making and social change are welcome to attend.

## HEALTH CARE NEWS

### ***Health Care Town Hall***

*This invitation is from Citizen Action Illinois.*

Please Join  
**Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky**

**For a Town Hall Meeting on  
Health Care Reform**

Sunday, June 14, 2009  
2:00 - 3:30pm

Niles Senior Center, Room 127  
999 Civic Center Drive  
Niles, IL

*(In the Niles Civic Center complex on the southeast corner of  
Oakton St. and Waukegan Rd.)*

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Congress is working with President Obama to develop comprehensive health care reform, and Representative Schakowsky wants to hear your thoughts and stories as Congress moves through this process. Congresswoman Schakowsky's goal is to make sure that every man, woman and child has access to quality, affordable health care.

**Please join her at this health care town hall to  
find solutions to the health crisis affecting our communities!**

**Contact Rep. Schakowsky's Chicago District office with any questions:  
773-506-7100**

## Illinois Insurance Programs

### REGISTER TODAY FOR THE 2009 ALL KIDS/ILLINOIS INSURANCE PROGRAMS TRAINING TOUR AND HEALTH REFORM UPDATE

Learn more about All Kids and other state sponsored health care programs and current healthcare reform efforts at one of the programs that the Campaign for Better Health Care is presenting this month in a "training tour." The All Kids/Illinois Insurance Programs training tour is designed for organizations that work with, as well as individuals interested in, the various Illinois health insurance programs. The plan is to give a broad overview of the programs so that groups and individuals who, for example, maybe only work with All Kids at present will learn more about Breast and Cervical Cancer and so on. The second portion is an update on what happened in Springfield this past legislative session that affects children and families, as well as what we hope to do in the state house in the future, and the final section will be an overview of the various federal proposals for healthcare reform. In a nutshell the training is a look at what we have, how it's evolving and what is happening on a larger scale. It would definitely be appropriate for pastors, counselors and volunteers who work with children, or who are interested in what is available in the state of Illinois. While attendees will not leave the training with a skill, per se, they will certainly have learned more about current healthcare programs and reform efforts.

DATE	TIME	PLACE	ADDRESS
6/3/09	9am-12pm	Catholic Charities Second Floor Training Room	671 South Lewis Avenue Waukegan, IL 60085
6/11/09	2pm-5pm	Indian Trails Public Library District* Large Meeting Room	355 Schoenbeck Road Wheeling, IL 60090
6/17/09	9am-12pm	Evanston Public Library* Community Meeting Room	1703 Orrington Avenue Evanston, IL 60201
6/23/09	2pm-5pm	Park Ridge Public Library* Large Meeting Room	20 South Prospect Avenue Park Ridge, IL 60068

#### There are three ways to RSVP

1. E-mail the information below to [showard@ilmaternal.org](mailto:showard@ilmaternal.org)
2. Fill out the form below and fax to 312-491-8171
3. Register online at [ilmaternal.org/allkidstour2009.html](http://ilmaternal.org/allkidstour2009.html)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the training workshop at (Name of Location) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No, I will not be able to attend but would like more information about the programs.  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact Sara Howard at 312-491-8161 or [showard@ilmaternal.org](mailto:showard@ilmaternal.org).

### RESERVE A SPOT TODAY! SPACE IS LIMITED!

\*Except for providing meeting space, the Indian Trails, Evanston and Park Ridge Public Libraries are not in any manner connected with this meeting, and neither the Libraries nor their Board of Trustees endorse any position expressed by the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition.

## **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](mailto:kduffy@cbhconline.org) or 312.913.9449.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

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

Please pray for the homeless street children and youth of Brazil, and for ABC missionaries Corene Garrison and Philip Smith, who minister with these young people.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Barbara and Dwight Bolick, who work with Mapuche churches in southern Chile. The Mapuche are the indigenous people of Chile and Argentina. Most of them live on small farms in isolated rural communities called "reductions." They struggle with severe poverty, lack of sustainable livelihoods, and the debilitating, culture-eroding effects of centuries of domination. Their vision is to see Mapuche churches that are strong in their identity, not ashamed of their culture, much less of the gospel, and so better equipped to do Christ-like ministry in the Mapuche way. Please hold these people and their churches in prayer.

Let's continue to pray for Carol McVetty, pastor of North Shore Baptist Church, while she recovers from surgery.

## CALENDAR

**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 4-10**—World Week for Peace in Palestine, Israel.

**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 6**—Sing to Live Community Choir concert, "Emeralds: Music from Eastern Europe." Performing Arts Center, Dominican University, 7900 West Division Street, River Forest, 7:30 p.m.

**June 7**—Music Sunday, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 10 a.m.

**June 7**—Original play about Deborah the Prophet, Christian Education Sunday, Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan, 10 a.m.

**June 7-12**—95<sup>th</sup> Annual Hampton University Ministers' Conference, Hampton, Virginia.

**June 8**—Campaign for Better Health Care Summer Celebration, La Decima Musa Restaurant, 1901 S. Loomis Street, Chicago, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**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 11**—Information and Orientation meeting on preaching about Health Care Reform, 27 E. Monroe, Suite 1100, Chicago, 10 a.m.-noon.

**June 12**—Provision Theater open house and performance, 1001 W Roosevelt Road, Chicago, 6 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 14**—Creation Sunday, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, 10 a.m.

**June 14**—Queen for a Day mystery dinner theater, Woodside Church, 1509 East Court Street, Flint, Michigan, 11:30 a.m.

**June 14**—Health Care Town Hall meeting, Niles Senior Center, Room 127, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, 2-3:30 p.m.

**June 16**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m.

**June 20**—End of Life planning, 6554 N. Rockwell Street, Chicago, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

**June 24**—Ghana Mission Partnership Prayer and Commissioning Service, New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 4301 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

**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 21**—Finance and Property Committee meeting, 3 p.m.

**July 20-25**—Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America conference, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. See [www.bpfna.org](http://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](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

**August 18**—Property and Finance Committee meeting, 3 p.m.

**August 22**—Family Council meeting. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 9 a.m.

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

**November 14**—ABCMC Annual Meeting

**November 3-12, 2010**—Journey through the Land of Israel with Irving Park Baptist Church.

The Metro Chicago *eWind* is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessarily express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. We email the newsletter each Wednesday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to the editor, Lynne Kelley, at [lynne@abcmc.org](mailto:lynne@abcmc.org). If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655. The ABCMC office is at 7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102, Chicago, Illinois 60707

## Thinking Theologically About the Common Good

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

### **"Taking Their Breath Away"**

The Psalmist covers most but not all of the possibilities.

In praise of God's wisdom and power, the Psalmist says that when God chooses to hide God's face the creatures of the earth "are dismayed," and when God chooses to "take away their breath they die and return to their dust." (104:29)

This life-taking by God is the counterpart to God's creative – God's life-giving – activities, which are as wide as the whole creation:

O God, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures. (104: 24)  
And it is the counterpart as well to the life-sustaining and re-creating activities of God, which are worldwide too:  
When you send forth your spirit they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground. (104: 30)

But what the Psalmist doesn't cover is the phenomenon of a relatively few of these creatures (compared with vast number of creatures in the world) who take the place of God by employing their wisdom and power to satisfy only their own individual and collective ends at the expense of the rest of the creation – and even at the expense of many of their own species.

Whenever that happens, then it isn't *God* who is choosing to take the breath of the other creatures away. No, it is that relatively small number of creatures – believing they are the real life-givers and life-sustainers and life-renewers – who are making the choice about whose breath should be taken away, whose breath should be sustained, whose breath should be renewed.

They are, in short, taking it upon themselves to determine who should suffocate.

The Psalmist didn't take these suffocators into account when writing about God's wisdom and power, God's truth and spirit.

But we need to.

It may be a little bold on our part, for which we will need to ask God's forgiveness, whenever we overstep our own limits in trying to stop the suffocation.

But I think it is fair to the Psalmist's text to claim that God welcomes human partners who are intent on and active in allowing the whole creation to have the breath that God provides for its flourishing, allowing all the peoples of the earth the breath God provides for living in their own thriving cultures, allowing every citizen the breath God provides to participate equally in the governance of their society, allowing every individual the breath God provides for living healthy lives, allowing every child the breath God provides to learn and be fully prepared for realizing her or his potential and for contributing to the well-being of others – to the *common* good.

In the season of Pentecost especially, when we acknowledge and receive the presence of God's Spirit in the world, the work of God's partners is to put an end to the suffocation of the earth and its human inhabitants. The work is to return to what the Psalmist asserted: that it is God, not a relatively few self-selected human beings, who should choose when to "take their breath away."

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