

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 17, 2009



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ABCMC NEWS

Please Read

Our nation's news media contain reports about the current debates about health care reform. Members of Congress are receiving sundry messages about what needs to happen. They are under a great deal of pressure from the powerful well-funded health insurance industry lobby, which does not want much change or reform, because the current system, which is hard on patients and physicians, is very profitable for insurance companies. Unfortunately, reform is running into roadblocks at every turn.

American Baptist Churches have a long-standing position on the issue of reforming our nation's health care system. Please see <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/resol/healthcre.pdf> The ABCUSA policy statement says, "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 gist of the statement is:

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;

Although this policy was adopted nearly two decades ago, it is very timely now. Please, let's all, each one of us, call our respective congressional representatives and let them know these are the changes we want to see. **If everyone who receives eWind does this, it will make a difference.** It just takes a few minutes to make the calls.

**Right now, the most important thing that each of us can do
for health care reform is**

call Congress.

To contact **Senator Roland Burris**, you may call his Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2854. His Chicago office number is 312-886-3506. To email Senator Burris, go to <http://burris.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

Senator Richard Durbin's Washington office number is 202-224-2152. His Chicago office number is 312-353-4952. To email Senator Durbin, go to <http://durbin.senate.gov/contact.cfm> For an alphabetical listing of Washington phone numbers for all U.S. senators, please visit http://www.senate.gov/general/resources/pdf/senators_phone_list.pdf

If you do not know who your representative in the United States House of Representatives is, you can find out by going to <http://www.house.gov/htbin/zipfind> and type in your home ZIP+4 code (9-digit ZIP code). If you don't know your ZIP+4 code, go to <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp> and type in your home street address to get your ZIP+4 code; then go to <http://www.house.gov/htbin/zipfind>, type in your ZIP+4 code, and you will be able to obtain the name and contact information for your representative.

At the May 2009 meeting of ABCMC's Family Council, we endorsed the position of Health Care for America Now, which is nearly identical to our denominational Position. Health Care for America Now is a grass-roots organization working hard to make sure that Americans have the health care system reforms we need. This group consists primarily of committed volunteers, working with a small staff of community organizers. To learn more about Health Care for America Now, please visit <http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org/>

Here are the principles (from the web site) of Health Care for America Now:

What is Comprehensive Health Care Reform?

Comprehensive health care reform will provide a guarantee of good, affordable health coverage to everyone and make health care more affordable for our families, our businesses, and our nation as a whole. HCAN has 10 principles for reform that have been endorsed by President Obama and more than 190 members of Congress:

- A truly inclusive and accessible health care system in which no one is left out.
- A choice of a private insurance plan, including keeping the insurance you have if you like it, or a public health insurance plan that guarantees affordable coverage without a private insurer middleman.
- A standard for health benefits that covers what people need to keep healthy and to be treated when they are ill. Health care benefits should cover all necessary care including preventative services and treatment needed by those with serious and chronic diseases and conditions.
- Health care coverage with out-of-pocket costs including premiums, co-pays, and deductibles that are based on a family's ability to pay for health care and without limits on payments for covered services.
- Equity in health care access, treatment, research and resources to people and communities of color, resulting in the elimination of racial disparities in health outcomes and real improvement in health and life expectancy for all.
- Health coverage through the largest possible pools in order to achieve affordable, quality coverage for the entire population and to share risk fairly.
- A watchdog role on all plans, to assure that risk is fairly spread among all health care payers and that insurers do not turn people away, raise rates, or drop coverage based on a person's health history or wrongly delay or deny care.
- A choice of doctors, health providers, and private and public health insurance plans, without gaps in coverage or access and a delivery system that meets the needs of at-risk populations.
- Affordable and predictable health costs to businesses and employers. To the extent that employers contribute to the cost of health coverage, those payments should be related to employee wages rather than on a per-employee basis.
- Effective cost controls that promote quality, lower administrative costs, and long term financial sustainability, including: standard claims forms, secure electronic medical records, using the public's purchasing power to instill greater reliance on evidence-based protocols and lower drug and device

prices, better management and treatment of chronic diseases, and a public role in deciding where money is invested in health care.

Pulpit Supply

Pastors, do you need someone to fill your pulpit while you are at Biennial? Do you need a preacher in your pulpit while you are on summer vacation? Would you like something different for your Adult Christian education perspective? Does your congregation need or want more information about health care reform?

Health Care for America Now has brought together a group of well-informed clergy and lay speakers who would love to speak from a Christian perspective about health care reform in our nation. They would be delighted to come to your church any time you would like them to be there. They have printed information to share, as well as educational materials, and their understanding of biblical teachings about health care and wholeness

Please welcome a guest preacher or speaker on this topic this summer. 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. Since President Obama has told Congress that he wants health care reform legislation on his desk by early autumn, now is the time for Christian citizens to become informed and take action by communicating with Congress.

If you would like to take advantage of opportunities to host a guest speaker on the topic at your church, please contact Jessica Palys at 312-427-2114, extension 206.

Golf Outing

This invitation is from Kids Hope United. A flier is attached with this issue of eWind.

Please join us for the Kids Hope United 19th Annual Golf Outing on September 15, 2009 at Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan, IL. Come test your game on the rolling, wooded terrain of this 18-hole, 72-par course. Check out the newly renovated clubhouse at Bonnie Brook, which is consistently ranked as *one of the top courses in the Chicago area.*

We are well aware of the struggling economic conditions our country is facing. Those of us who serve families in need and children in peril know when life is getting harder because we see that pressure bearing down every day on the lives of families we serve. More are living in temporary housing; more are facing unsuccessful hunts for jobs; there is more stress on fragile family peace; more anguish and fear, and less safety.

So when we ask you to support this annual fundraiser through sponsorships, golfing and other donations, we do so with this in mind: your participation and gifts allow us to provide vital services for these stressed families. These services can be transformational in providing strength and independence for these families, who struggle to remain intact.

To register or become a sponsor, please complete the enclosed sponsorship form and return to Kids Hope United along with your donation. For more information, contact Kristy Cechini at 847-245-6505 or at kcechini@kidshopeunited.org.

Our goal this year is to raise \$130,000, and we can only do this with your support.

The children of Kids Hope United have never needed you more.

GOING GREEN IN ABCMC

Green Gram:

This information is from Rudy Gartner of Morgan Park Baptist Church.

We, as the consuming public, can have a lot of say over the quality and sustainability of the products we use by utilizing our voices, knowledge, and purchasing power. When we buy products using wood, for example, we can exercise wise care by looking for the Forest Stewardship Council stamp (FSC) on the product's exterior. This logo means that an independent party has verified that the wood comes from forests managed according to strict environmental, social, and economic standards. It can be found on paper, lumber, and furniture. Looking for it on the computer paper we use would be a nice beginning to wise consumption.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Honoring Francine Stark



Francine Stark is the Staff Minister at the Third Baptist Church of Chicago. “Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant” will be the theme for her retirement celebration at the Third Baptist on June 28. The event will take place from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Bethune Room of Heritage Plaza, 1500-1510 W. 95th Chicago.

Francine had a career in business before she attended and graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary. Before joining the staff of Third Baptist, Francine was a chaplain at Christ Hospital, a pastoral counselor for Midwest Resources, and chaplain at the Baptist Home in Maywood.

Francine is a blessing to all who know her—colleagues, friends and family. She has been a leader in ABCMC and also on the General Board and Board of National Ministries of ABCUSA. She has also shared her many gifts in non-church settings. She is a much-appreciated preacher, teacher and leader.

The entire ABCMC family is invited to join in honoring our dear sister. Parking will be available across 95th Street. Enter Heritage Plaza on Winston.

Special Services at North Shore Baptist Church

July 12 will be Creation Sunday at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. The 10 a.m. worship service 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. Justin Thornburgh, who will begin seminary studies this fall, will bring the message.

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 120th 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.

Ecumenical Picnic

The Federated Church of Wauconda and most of the other churches in the Wauconda area will gather on Sunday, July 19 at Holy Apostles Episcopal Church for an ecumenical picnic from noon to 5 p.m. There will be a bouncy house and games for kids, and entertainment for adults. All food and drink can be bought on site for minimal prices.

Fun at Irving Park Baptist Church

Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, is celebrating its 120th Anniversary this year! As a part of their year-long celebration, they invite us to join them on Saturday, July 11 from noon until 3 p.m. for a family-oriented Community Fair. There is no admission fee for this celebration, which will be held in the church's parking lot. Please bring your family and friends to have fun with our sisters and brothers at Irving Park. They'll have music, food, games, and all kinds of fun activities for kids and adults.

The church is also bringing back their Vacation Bible School, from August 3 through August 14, from 9 am until 1 pm, with free lunch provided each day. Children ages 4 through 12 are invited to explore "Son Rock Kids Camp" where kids build their lives on the Rock: Jesus. There is a \$5.00 registration fee for each family, and you can register children at the Community Fair.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The 2009 Ministry In Hard Times Event

Sponsored by Net Results and 21st Century Strategies



Make plans now to join *Net Results* and a few of their friends in Fishers, IN (just 20 miles north of Indy) the day before and morning of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly as they share their commitments to reach and serve congregations across northern North America. This event is for congregational leaders and pastors who want to make a difference. To help you, we will feature keynotes and workshops with some of the country's most respected leaders, teachers, and pastors who have been engaging evangelism

and leadership development with people like you.

Tuesday, July 28, 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. (lunch available, dinner on your own)

Wednesday, July 29, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Hosted at the new North Campus of the Geist Christian Church, 12756 Promise Road, Fishers, Indiana.

Register at

https://21stcenturystrategiesinc.com/cart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=33&products_id=381&zenid=af0c4a158b8b285942b5e05e8e642f84

\$85 in advance; \$95 at the Door

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at

<http://www.abc-usa.org/whoweare/newsservice/newsservice.aspx>

Sad Day for ABC Women in Ministry

The Office of General Secretary regretfully announces that the current economic situation has required the elimination of the position of Director of Women in Ministry effective June 30, 2009. The restricted endowment funds which support the position have declined in this economic climate to the point that they are no longer sufficient to fund the position as it is currently configured.

"This has been a very difficult decision," said Dr. Medley, General Secretary. "Like so many of our covenanting partners in the ABC family, this economy has forced us to take difficult but necessary steps in maintaining the financial integrity of every part of ABCUSA."

The office, which began under the auspices of MMBB and was lodged with ABCUSA after the close of Educational Ministries, has been staffed for the past 15 years by the Rev. Valentine Royal-Thomas. "Valentine has been the recognized face of Women in Ministry for many years as she has served as an advocate and support for women in ministerial positions in the ABC," remarked Medley. "I know that many women in the denomination will feel a great loss in her leaving."

During the next several months, Dr. Medley has asked the Rev. Mary Armacost Hulst, president of the denomination and one of its foremost pastoral leaders, to engage women ministerial leaders in the reconfiguration of this vital ministry. Rev. Hulst has responded, "I am grateful for Valentine's leadership and appreciate her advocacy on behalf of women in ministry. American Baptists have a long history of ordaining women to Christian ministry. During this time of transition we will continue to develop strategies that will help us to be ever more effective in placing and supporting women who are prepared to faithfully share the gospel and God's love in professional positions."

ABC will recognize the Rev. Valentine Royal-Thomas for her many years of service during the Ministerial Conference in Orlando, January 2010.

National Ministries Names Liaison for Burmese Refugees

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/15/09)—National Ministries Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III announced the appointment of Rev. Rothangliani R. Chhangte, an ordained American Baptist minister, as liaison for Burmese refugees. Chhangte assumes her new post on June 22.

Chhangte will address needs of the growing influx of Burmese refugees by building successful relationships and fostering meaningful partnerships among this population and American Baptist churches and regions. She will remain abreast of arrivals, conduct needs assessments, identify English as a Second Language and other social service resources, and assist local church ministries serving this population.

Chhangte comes to National Ministries from the New York City office of Church World Service where she served as program analysis coordinator and interim associate director for the Mission Relationships and Witness Program. Previously, she was director of ecumenical formation for American Baptist Churches USA, executive director and founder of the Asian American Youth Association in Philadelphia, adjunct professor at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, PA, and administrator for the Oxford (United Kingdom) Conference on Christian Faith and Economics.

Chhangte has nearly a decade of experience working with Southeast Asian refugees. She has visited the Maela Refugee Camp in Thailand and understands the Burmese refugee experience. As pastor of Woodland Baptist Church and assistant pastor of Chestnut Street Baptist Church, both in Philadelphia, she worked with refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

With broad denominational experience, Chhangte has served on the planning committee of several national conferences for Asian American Baptist pastors as well as the executive committees of the national Ministers Council and the Philadelphia Baptist Association.

Chhangte is a recipient of the Human Rights Award from the Human Relations Commission of the City of Philadelphia. In addition, she received the Community Service Award from Philadelphia's Association of Asian American Educators. Her original video about Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee youth received a citation from local public television station WYBE.

Along with a master of divinity degree from Palmer Seminary, Chhangte holds a master of business administration degree in economic development from Eastern University, St. Davids, PA, and a

bachelor's degree in business from Bethel University, St. Paul, MN. Chhangte earned diplomas from the Oxford Graduate Summer School of Theology and the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland.

"American Baptist congregations throughout the nation are being transformed in powerful ways as a result of the internal displacement of ethnic groups in Myanmar [formerly known as Burma], the increasing numbers of Karen refugees along the Thai-Burma border, Chin refugees in India and Malaysia, and the anticipated arrival into the United States of more refugees from Thailand, India, and Malaysia. These, our brothers and sisters, bring with them a passion to connect with their American Baptist family and a desire to share their gifts and perspectives," says Rev. Marilyn Turner, National Ministries' associate executive director for Program Ministries. "Rothangliani Chhangte brings an impressive array of gifts, expertise, and talents that will be invaluable in our efforts to minister alongside our newcomer brothers and sisters."

American Baptists Involved In Passage of Tobacco Legislation

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/12/09)—Landmark legislation approved June 11 by the Senate gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to effectively regulate the manufacture, marketing and sale of tobacco products.

Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, National Ministries' national coordinator of Public and Social Advocacy, was involved in introducing the legislation to Congress earlier this year through his involvement in "Faith United Against Tobacco," a diverse interfaith coalition of religious leaders.

"We believe our nation's leaders have a moral obligation to do all they can to protect Americans, particularly children, from tobacco addiction and the health consequences of smoking," says Ramsey-Lucas. "Passage of this legislation and its implementation by the FDA will, in no small measure, move our nation forward in achieving this goal. Yesterday's action by the Senate is a victory for children today and for those of future generations."

The new legislation will restrict tobacco advertising and promotions, especially to children, stop illegal sales of tobacco products to children and require more prominent health warnings in advertising and on tobacco packages. It will also allow the FDA to require changes in tobacco products, such as the removal or reduction of harmful ingredients and the reduction of nicotine levels. Similar legislation was passed by the House in April. President Obama has indicated he will sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

Tobacco products are the number one cause of preventable death and disease in the United States, killing more than 400,000 people and costing the U.S. more than \$96 billion in health care bills each year. Tobacco products contribute to cancer, heart disease, chronic pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, emphysema, pneumonia and asthma, and harm virtually every one of the human body's organs.

The legislation comes 50 years after the U.S. surgeon general first warned about the health effects of tobacco. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), who worked for years to move the bill forward, said in a statement, "Miracles still happen. The United States Senate has finally said 'no' to Big Tobacco."

Earlier this year, in conjunction with introduction of the legislation, numerous media events around the country featured local faith leaders urging Congressional support for the legislation. Rev. Timothy Bonney, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines and former ABCUSA General Board member, called upon American Baptists to support the legislation at one of these events.

American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary A. Roy Medley said, "God calls us to healthy stewardship of all that has been entrusted to us. This legislation will save countless lives, prevent debilitating disease and protect children who are easily made victims of tobacco products."

J.C. Herrin, American Baptist Civil Rights Activist, Passes Away

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/12/09)—Rev. Julius C. Herrin, former program associate with the American Baptist Home Mission Societies and the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication (currently merged and carrying out ministry as National Ministries), died in his sleep June 5. He was 94.

Herrin received the Richard Hoiland Award at the American Baptist Churches USA 2001 Biennial for his pioneer work in civil rights, cited for his embodiment of “both the prophetic and pastoral mission of the church” in using educational resources “to address issues affecting the wider community.”

Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of National Ministries, remembers Herrin as “one of the unsung heroes in our denomination. He was a transformative figure who was a vanguard in leading our nation and the Baptist community through many challenging days. We are better because of his life and ministry among us.”

As a special missionary in the South from 1959 through 1970, Herrin raised financial support for student leaders of the civil rights movement and supported southern pastors and congregations isolated by their stands for civil rights. He traveled thousands of miles in support of activist students, pastors and congregations.

Herrin worked with hundreds of students on the campuses of a dozen ABCUSA-related, historically black colleges to encourage and support their quests for education, as well as their commitments to interracial harmony and civil rights.

Funds from the first grant application he wrote, which was awarded \$40,000, were used to encourage interracial dialogue among trustees, faculty and students at the historically black colleges. This grant also supported American Baptist conferences that equipped outstanding students “to lead their student bodies toward realizing a new sense of dignity and freedom.”

Later grants funded more conferences, scholarships, workshops and special work programs for student leaders. More than 40 student leaders received direct assistance, including Stokely Carmichael, Bernice Reagon, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Congressman John Lewis, then a ministerial student in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who nominated many recipients, expressed his gratitude to Herrin for the scholarships from the American Baptist Convention: “This tangible support for the student movement is one of the most forthright experiences of true Christian witness that I can point to in this period of transition. No other denomination or convention has made such a significant step.”

A native of North Carolina, Herrin's commitment to ending segregation and promoting civil rights was first tested when he served as student chaplain at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, from 1946 to 1954. He was fired from that position when he supported student efforts to end racial segregation at both the university and First Baptist Church, adjacent to the campus, by walking and sitting with black students who tried to attend the church.

Herrin served in local church ministry at First Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, and Scarsdale Community Baptist Church, both in New York, along with First Baptist Church, Columbia, MO. He was a founder of the American Baptist Church of the Beatitudes in St. Petersburg, FL.

Ordained in 1942, Herrin graduated from Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, NC, and attended Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut before graduating from Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, in 1943.

He is survived by three daughters, two grandsons, three sisters and a brother.

A public memorial service will be held July 30 at the Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts to the American Baptist Historical Society, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341.

Stan Hasteley and Kathy Stayton Selected as Award Recipients

Honolulu, HI, June 15, 2009 - The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB) announces Stan Hasteley as the recipient of the Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service and Kathy Stayton as the recipient of the Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness.

The Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service is given to an individual whose work has helped to increase the inclusion and affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons within Baptist bodies and society as a whole and through work and ministry has opened doors to others that might otherwise be shutout.

Through his ministry and work with the Alliance of Baptists, Stan Hasteley has help create a place where LGBT Baptists and their families feel welcomed and affirmed. The Alliance has taken progressive and prophetic steps in affirming same-couples wishing to marry at a time when most faith bodies have done the opposite. As he retires from the Alliance, the AWAB Council wishes to acknowledge Stan's ministry and work. Even in retirement, Stan will continue to be a voice to be heard. He plans to work on writing the history of the Baptist Joint Committee and on the founding of the Alliance of Baptists for its' upcoming 25th anniversary.

The Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness is given to an individual whose life has inspired understanding and acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people by opening dialogue that would not otherwise be there and by example, helping to advance the affirmation of everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Kathy Stayton has served on the AWAB Council as both Chairperson and Secretary. She has worked tirelessly for social justice issues around the inclusion of LGBT people within the church and for broader LGBT equal rights. Kathy has worked locally through her long time congregation, Central Baptist Church in Wayne, PA, but also regionally and nationally through groups such as SoulForce. Kathy has represented AWAB in many capacities and continues to do so.

AWAB lifts up and acknowledges the gifts of Stan Hasteley and Kathy Stayton. The efforts and examples set by dedicated straight allies like Kathy and Stan have help broaden the affirmation of LGBT people within faith communities and increase the forward momentum toward equality in society.

The awards will be presented June 27, 2009, during the AWAB Worship Service which begins at 10:00 a.m.. The presentation and service will be held at the Westin Pasadena at 191 N. Los Robles, adjacent to the Pasadena Convention Center.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Prayer and Other Action for Health Care Reform

This invitation is from the Faith Caucus of the Health Care Justice Campaign.

Health Care Justice Campaign's Faith Caucus Invites to You to

Join Health Care Justice Acton Week

June 22 – 27th, 2009

<http://www.cbhconline.org>

This is a key moment in the history of the health care justice movement. Congressional leaders have set August 1 as the deadline to have major health care reform legislation passed out of both houses. We now have a window of opportunity to achieve health care justice!

But we need you. It is absolutely vital that the moral imperative be in front of this movement.

HCJC's Faith Caucus invites you, and other key faith leaders to an Interfaith Prayer Breakfast and an "Urgent Issue Briefing."

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast and briefing

will be held on:

Date: **Tuesday, June 23rd**

Time: **9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

(Steering Committee Meeting right after the briefing, 11:00 to Noon)

2 Locations:

Chicagoland – AARP, 222 N. LaSalle, Suite 710, Chicago, IL 60601

Downstate – AARP, 300 W. Edwards St, 3rd Flr, Springfield, IL 62704

Audio Conference Bridge will start at (9:45 a.m.)

Dial: 1-877- 237-9944

Enter your conference id number 6208#

Continental Breakfast

Offering welcome (but not necessary)

RSVP Required

Space is limited

This event is part of the largest faith-inspired mobilization *ever* for health care justice. This effort is in conjunction with Faithful Reform for Health Care's Echo events. Come pray, enjoy fellowship and learn the latest developments in health care reform. Receive tools that you can use to mobilize your congregation and members of your community.

There will be other activities during this Health Care Justice Week including:

- ["A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care" sign-on letter,](#)
 - [National Call-in Days \(June 22-24\),](#)
 - [Letters-to-the-Editor Drive, and](#)
- [Local activities as part of the National Day of Service \(June 27\)](#)

ACTION STEPS

Sign today: ["A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care"](http://www.faithfulreform.org/) (<http://www.faithfulreform.org/>)

"A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care" is circulating through our communities of faith for signatures in preparation for the Interfaith Week of Prayer for Health Care (June 19-26). This Vision Statement and the signatures will be delivered to every member of Congress and to key administration officials during that week. In addition, an abridged statement will be presented to government leaders during the June 24th Interfaith Service of Witness and Prayer in Washington, DC.

The Health Care Justice Campaign's Faith Caucus is a co-signer this Statement and urges people of faith across the state to add their names to this important document. Visit the links below to add your name to the list! Deadline: Wednesday, June 17.

Both individual and organizational sign-on can be done at www.faithfulreform.org/

[Health Care Justice Week - Echo Event: Promote June 22-24 call-in days](#)

Let our voices be heard! [Call your Federal Legislator June 22-24, 2009](#)

TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-888-797-8717

If you don't know who your Congressperson is [Click Here](#) or go to <http://capwiz.com/mchc/mail/compose/?mailid=11240211&azip=60639>

The time is NOW! Health care reform is moving quickly:

Faith voices are more important than ever!

Health care reform is going to happen this year. What that reform looks like will depend on who has the ear of our elected leaders. If we want a health care system that reflects our faith-inspired values, it will be up to us to communicate those values.

Let's overwhelm the Capitol Switchboard with calls that promote compassion, the common good, shared responsibility, and concern for those who are vulnerable and faithful stewardship of our abundant healthcare resources!

The toll free number was made possible with support from the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries with cooperation with Faithful Reform in Health Care. Everyone is welcome to participate by using the call in number for those three days.

Contact person: Laura Leon, 312-913-9449, leon@cbhconline.org

National Health Care Reform Service Day

Saturday, June 27th

For more information visit <http://www.chbconline.org/action>

Documentary Film Explores Corrupt Hospital Practices

A recent film by Rebecca Schanberg, "Do No Harm," tells the story of two whistleblowers who struggle to bring attention to hospital corruption in a town in Georgia. This film will be shown on Tuesday, June 23, at **1 p.m. at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette**. At 2 p.m. a panel discussion with the filmmaker and patient advocacy activist, Claudia Lennhoff, will follow the screening.

DVDs will be available for sale. Learn more about the film at <http://www.donoharmdoc.com/>. Donations to the national outreach campaign will be appreciated but not required.

Seating is limited. RSVP to Anne Wedner at a.wedner@comcast.net or call 847-446-6416.

Action Alert: Protect Consumer Choice!

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

Call US Senators Durbin and Burriss TODAY

We can fix our health care crisis! We do have the best care in the world available in this country, but fewer and fewer people can afford it. We need a uniquely American health care solution that builds on the best of who we are and what works.

It's time to stop playing politics and solve the health care crisis. Health care reform will give you the [freedom of choice](#): you can choose to keep the plan you've already got; choose another private plan, or choose a quality, affordable [public health insurance plan](#). Health care reform will stop the private insurance companies from denying you coverage for an illness you had five years ago, or denying you care because of your age.

American families shouldn't have to prove to insurance companies that we're healthy enough for them to cover. And if you want to see what bureaucracy looks like, try getting through to your insurance company sometime when you get a letter saying they've decided not to pay for the procedure your doctor ordered. We need to end the ability of the insurance companies to get between you and your doctor or nurse, between you and the care you need.



Right now, the insurance industry and other opponents of health care reform are trying to eliminate your right to choose whether a private or public health insurance plan is right for you and your family.

CALL YOUR U.S. SENATORS TODAY!

SENATOR RICHARD DURBIN

Washington DC office: (202) 224-2152

Chicago office: (312) 353-4952

Springfield office: (217) 492-4062

Marion office: (618) 998-8812

SENATOR ROLAND BURRIS

Washington DC office: (202) 224-2854

Chicago office: (312) 886-3506

Springfield office: (217) 492-5089

Moline office: (217) 492-5089

Tell them:

- Protect my right to choose between a private or public health insurance option!
- Oppose all efforts to eliminate my choice, including the insurance industry's "[health insurance co-op](#)" proposal!
- I am your constituent and I demand guaranteed access to quality, affordable health care for all NOW!

PEACE NEWS

2009 Peace Breakfast



The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will host a breakfast on Sunday, June 28 at 7 a.m. at the Biennial in Pasadena. Speakers will include the 2009 Dahlberg Peace Award recipient, Tom Adams, and Andover Newton Theological School president Nick Carter. Mike Stern will lead everyone in singing. You may sign up for this event in the "Meals & Events" section of your Biennial registration form, or add it to your existing registration by emailing biennial.registration@abc-usa.org. The cost will be \$22.

Life in Palestine

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

On June 23, 7 to 9 p.m. there will be a showing of a film by Philip Rizk, *This Palestinian Life: Stories of Palestinian Nonviolent Resistance*. It will be at Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago (in the Lakeview neighborhood). The suggested donation is \$5, but no one will be turned away.

In *This Palestinian Life*, director Philip Rizk uses an oral history approach to highlight the stories and perspectives of Palestinian villagers and Bedouin. This method avoids using "experts" to interpret the broader Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Rather, the film's anthropological and ethnographic method portrays the daily life of Palestinian communities in order to explore, in greater depth, how Palestinian life is being undermined by the pressure of Israeli occupation.

Upon viewing the film, we will hear from the film's director, Philip Rizk (via Skype) and Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Non-Violence, who visited Gaza in January of this year. Questions and comments from the audience will be moderated by Rabbi Brant Rosen, spiritual leader of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston.

Visit <http://www.waucc.org/> for more information and to download a flier. Questions? Contact Pam Richart at: 773.556.3418 or prichart@ecojusticecollaborative.org

Chicago Stands With Gaza!

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

Support Viva Palestina: A Lifeline from the United States to Gaza.

An Afternoon Fundraiser with UK Parliament Member George Galloway, 3 p.m., Saturday, June 27, Alhambra Palace Restaurant, 1240 W. Randolph St., Chicago. Cost will be \$35 for adults, \$25 for students, or \$10 for children.

Fresh from the success of the Viva Palestina: Lifeline from Britain to Gaza aid convoy - which took over 100 vehicles to Gaza from the United Kingdom, UK Parliament member George Galloway has linked up, on his U.S. tour, with Vietnam veteran and peace activist Ron Kovic to launch a similar — but even larger venture from the States.

The effort aims to raise ten million dollars and recruit hundreds of Americans to get desperately needed medical aid to Gaza, which is still reeling in the wake of its brutal bombardment at the beginning of the year. Over 1,400 people were killed in that Israeli assault and invasion, and thousands more lost limbs or were otherwise maimed by phosphorus bombs and other weapons. Pastors for Peace is serving as fiscal sponsor for this effort — the largest grassroots medical relief effort for Gaza in U.S. history. They leave on July 4 for Cairo — and on to Gaza.

“There's a new atmosphere in the U.S. over Palestine,” says George Galloway. “American revulsion at the December 2008 Israeli assault on Gaza proved that, and the tremendous response to my national tour over the last four months shows that Americans want to do more.”

Support this vital cause. Join us. And please give generously. Contributions are tax deductible. Organized by Viva Palestina Chicago www.vivapalestina-us.org <<http://www.vivapalestina-us.org>> Please make checks payable to Viva Palestina USA - IFCO.

To RSVP for tickets or for more info, call 630-328-3858 or email vivapalestina.chicago@gmail.com. To make an online donation to the Convoy, go to the national project's website at www.vivapalestina-us.org <<http://www.vivapalestina-us.org>>

2009 Peace Conference



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 July 20-25, 2009 for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America's annual summer conference. Weber State is affordable, is welcoming of diversity, offers a top-notch facility, is in a gorgeous location, and allows great vacation opportunities before and after the conference.

The theme will be “When There Is Justice, Then Peace Will Come.” Conference leaders will include Ken Sehested, the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America's founding director, who will reflect on the past and future of peacemaking. There will be a variety of workshops and activities for folks of all ages.

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 hold in prayer the people of Iran during this turbulent time in their country.

Please keep in prayer Phil Yetter, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Berwyn. Phil is dealing with cancer. Let's all pray also for Phil's wife Sharon and their family, as well as the church.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Doris and Ricardo Mayol, who are professors at the Mayan Intercultural Seminary in Chiapas, Mexico. Please pray also for the people of Mexico, remembering especially the indigenous peoples, including the Mayans among whom the Mayols are ministering.

Please pray for Steve and Nancy James, jointly appointed as missionaries by ABC and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Steve and Nancy minister in Jesus' name among the needy people of Haiti. Please pray also for their 15 year-old son Micah.

CALENDAR

June 20—End of Life planning, sponsored by Rainbow Hospice and Living Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell Street, Chicago, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Please contact Jacki Belile at jacki@livingwellministries.net for details and registration.

June 22-24—Call your Federal Legislator about health care reform toll-free at **1-888-797-8717**.

June 22-27—Health Care Justice Action Week.

June 23—Showing of *Do No Harm*, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Willmete, 1 p.m., followed by panel discussion at 2 p.m.

June 23—Showing of *This Palestinian Life: Stories of Palestinian Nonviolent Resistance*, Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago, 7-9 p.m.

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

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

June 28—BPFNA breakfast at Biennial, 7 a.m.

June 27—An Afternoon Fundraiser with UK Parliament Member George Galloway, Alhambra Palace Restaurant, 1240 W. Randolph St., Chicago. Cost will be \$35 for adults, \$25 for students, or \$10 for children, 3 p.m..

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 11—Community Fair, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, noon-3 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 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 a.m.

July 28-29—2009 Ministry In Hard Times Event, Geist Christian Church, *12756 Promise Road, Fishers, Indiana*. Register at https://21stcenturystrategiesinc.com/cart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=33&products_id=381&zenid=af0c4a158b8b285942b5e05e8e642f84

July 30—Memorial service for Rev. Julian C. Herrin, Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill, NC.

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.

August 3-14—Vacation Bible School, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

September 15—Kids Hope United 19th Annual Golf Outing, Bonnie Brook Golf Course, Waukegan.

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. 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