

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



Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14

In this Issue

ABCMC NEWS.....	2
* This weekend! ABC Biennial this Weekend	2
Prayer and Commissioning Service Rescheduled.....	3
Golf Outing	3
NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS	3
* Children in Poverty	3
Sunday! Honoring Francine Stark	4
Special Services at North Shore Baptist Church.....	4
Journey through the Land of Israel	4
Ecumenical Picnic.....	4
Fun at Irving Park Baptist Church	4
ABCUSA NEWS	5
Denton Lotz Receives International Religious Liberty Award.....	5

* Ethicsdaily.com Highlights American Baptist Diversity	5
TECHNOLOGY AND FAITH.....	5
Be a Friend of Missionaries and More.....	5
Use Your Cell Phone for Health Care Reform	6
HEALTH CARE NEWS.....	7
Prayer and Other Action for Health Care Reform	7
PEACE NEWS.....	9
Saturday! Chicago Stands with Gaza!	9
2009 Peace Conference.....	9
PRAYER REQUESTS.....	9
CALENDAR.....	10

ABCMC NEWS

*** *This weekend! ABC Biennial this Weekend***

This coming weekend, June 26-28, American Baptists will hold our Biennial meeting. The event will take place in Pasadena, California. ABC General Secretary Roy Medley describes the upcoming event as a "Multi-Cultural Family Fest." A number of folks from ABCMC congregations, including Executive Minister Larry Greenfield will be in attendance. Several ABCMC folks will have leadership positions at the convention.

Andy Everman, a member of Woodside Church in Flint, Michigan, will present a paper on Children in Poverty, which has been a National Ministries focus in recent years. Francine Stark, staff minister at the Third Baptist Church of Chicago, was among the early supporters of the Children in Poverty initiative for National Ministries when she served on that board, and was its president. David Gregg, a member of Grace Baptist Church of Chicago, prepared a statement of concern regarding the proposed changes in the by-laws of ABCUSA. ABCMC's Family Council heard and supported that document at the May 2009 meeting. David has asked Biennial delegates from ABCMC congregations to sign onto the Statement of Concern. T. J. Litwiler, a member of the First Baptist Church of La Grange, is listed as a "Gold Biennial Booster" among the sponsors of the convention.

Delegates at Biennial will vote on officers for the denomination. The main business of the meeting will be consideration of proposed by-law changes. This presents a significant change in the denomination's structure, in light of current economic realities. These changes seek to enable our denomination to continue to carry out ministries with smaller bodies of leadership. Information about the proposals has been shared at Family Council meetings and in previous issues of *eWind*. A few links to statements (including ABCMC's) about the proposed changes are <http://awab.org/docs/ABCPublicWitness.pdf>, <http://awab.org/docs/CBCRefABCByLaws.pdf>, and <http://awab.org/docs/CBCBiennialStatement.pdf>

A number of organizations and ministries will hold meetings and gatherings at Biennial. Some will feature current and former members of the ABCMC family. Dennis Johnson, pastor of the Baptist Temple in Charleston, West Virginia, and formerly pastor at Geneva Road Baptist Church in Wheaton, as well as a former president of ABCMC, will be speaker at the MMBB luncheon. The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists will have programs and a business meeting at Biennial. Jack LeSage, a member of Woodside Church, will become a member of AWAB's national council.

More information about Biennial is available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/index.htm>

Be sure to read other Biennial-related articles in this issue of *eWind*. Biennial-related articles are marked

with a green asterisk.*

Let's keep everyone at Biennial in our prayers.

The next Biennial meeting is scheduled for June 24-26, 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Let's save our pennies and plan to enjoy that beautiful and temperate location in a couple years.

Prayer and Commissioning Service Rescheduled

The ABCMC Mission Partnership Committee (MPC) invites you to participate in a Prayer and Commissioning Service on Monday, June 29 at 7 p.m. The service will be held at the Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 109 E. 53rd Street, Chicago. David Watkins is pastor of the church.

A series of prayers for the 2009 Mission Team, our Ghana Baptist Convention partners, and friends, families, and church members who are supporting them 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 the MPC 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 David W. Watkins, MPC chairperson, at 773-412-9656 or pastordavid@gbmbc-chicago.org.

Golf Outing

This invitation is from Kids Hope United.

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.

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.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

*** *Children in Poverty***

As indicated above, at this weekend's Biennial Andy Everman of Woodside Church in Flint, Michigan plans to present a paper on Children in Poverty. Woodside's newsletter tells us:

Andy Everman's efforts on the *Children in Poverty* issue did not end with the ABC Biennial. Earlier this month he and Hector Garcia took part in a discussion at Flint City Hall of the subject attended by representatives of several community organizations. The meeting was called by the city's Human Resource Commission of which Hector is a member. Andy and Hector are members of Woodside's Outreach and Social Action Committee. They are hoping to have a photovoice art show of the issue in October. Andy recently spoke at Ferris State University on the issue.

Sunday! 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 was instrumental in the decision by National Ministries to begin the Children in Poverty initiative. 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.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

Denton Lotz Receives International Religious Liberty Award

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/21/09)—Denton Lotz, American Baptist and former general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), received the International Award for Religious Liberty on Thursday, June 18, in Washington, DC.

Lotz, who was named General Secretary Emeritus upon his retirement from the BWA in 2007, was awarded for making “religious freedom a major focus of his ministry as church leader and church statesman,” at the 7th Annual Religious Liberty Dinner, which was sponsored by Liberty magazine, the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), and the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

In his response, Lotz, who is president of the IRLA, stated that the award was recognition of the role that Baptists have played in the defense of religious liberty since the founding of the Baptist movement 400 years ago, in 1609. Baptists, he said, were often persecuted because of their anti-establishment stance and their defense of the liberty of conscience. “Baptists were a persecuted group,” he told the roughly 300 guests gathered in the ballroom of the Capital Hilton hotel in Washington. “We believe that where religious freedom is denied, all other freedoms are denied,” he explained.

Said American Baptist General Secretary A. Roy Medley, “The contributions Denton Lotz has made to the preservation of religious freedom are incalculable. Baptists have long been at the forefront of the cause of religious liberty, and Denton has carried on a rich tradition of American Baptists, in particular, who have worked toward these ideals. His leadership and work in this area will pay dividends for years to come.”

To read the full Baptist World Alliance article, go to <http://www.bwanet.org/default.aspx?pid=1102>.

*** *Ethicsdaily.com Highlights American Baptist Diversity***

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/21/09)—Robert Parham, of ethicsdaily.com, has posted an article highlighting the rich diversity of American Baptist Churches USA, which is reflected in gatherings such as the Biennial, taking place June 26-28 in Pasadena, CA. To read the full article, go to <http://www.ethicsdaily.com/news.php?viewStory=14383>.

TECHNOLOGY AND FAITH

Be a Friend of Missionaries and More

Are you on Facebook? Many ABCMC folks are. So are ABC folks across the country and around the world. It is a great way to be in touch with other American Baptists, including missionaries.

Joining and using Facebook is free. If you can handle email, you can handle Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com. Follow the instructions to join. You can then make friends on Facebook by searching for people you know at church, etc. (Do not accept friendship requests from strangers!!)

You can also join Facebook interest groups such as “I’m American Baptist” or “American Baptist Ministers Council” or “American Baptist Women in Ministry” or “American Baptist Women’s Ministries.” You can even become a fan of the “Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty” or “Roger Williams Fellowship (American Baptists).”

ABC missionaries Carlos and Ramona Shawver would be delighted for you to join their Facebook group at “Carlos and Ramona Shawver Missionaries.”

Use Your Cell Phone for Health Care Reform

This request is from Health Care for America Now.

Get out your cell phone. Seriously, grab it. Come back when you've got it in your hands.

Ok? **Now, text the word HEALTH to 94553.**

Don't worry, it's free, though your standard text message rates will apply.

After you've texted, you'll be signed up for Health Care for America Now's mobile alerts, which is the best way for you to stay informed on the health reform fight in Washington. We'll make sure you know what can be done to make sure we win quality, affordable health care for all this year as soon as it happens.

Actress Edie Falco is signed up for mobile alerts, too, and she's got a special message for you.

[Click here to watch the video:](#) or go to <http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org/page/invite/edie>



So please, **grab your cell phone and text HEALTH to 94553.**

Tomorrow, June 25, thousands of people will descend on Washington, DC to talk to their Members of Congress in person for real health reform.

While they're talking to their elected officials, we'll be asking you to make phone calls supporting them through these mobile alerts right on your cell phone.

Text HEALTH to 94553. Be on the front lines of the health care fight.

Thank you for being involved.

P.S. If you're on twitter, you can follow and participate in all the events going on tomorrow using the hashtag **#healthcare09**. And you can follow Health Care for America Now at www.twitter.com/HCAN

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Prayer and Other Action for Health Care Reform

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



**Health Care Justice Action Week
June 22 - 28, 2009**

**Call US Senators Durbin and Burriss TODAY
1-888-797-8717**

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.

Isn't it time that we all had the peace of mind that comes with knowing that no matter what happens, you will always be able to access quality affordable health care?



CALL YOUR U.S. SENATORS TODAY!

Call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-888-797-8717
or call your Senator at their district office:

SENATOR RICHARD DURBIN

Washington DC office: (202) 224-2152

Chicago office: (312) 353-4952

SENATOR ROLAND BURRIS

Washington DC office: (202) 224-2854

Chicago office: (312) 886-3506

Tell them:

- We want better oversight and sensible rules to make sure insurance companies provide fair and affordable coverage and can no longer turn people away for having a pre-existing condition like cancer.
- We want health care reform that will give us the freedom of choice to keep our current plan, choose another plan, or choose a quality affordable public health insurance plan.

- We want peace of mind from knowing that if anything ever happens, there would be an affordable and guaranteed health plan available to us and our families.
- I am your constituent and I demand quality, affordable health care for all NOW!

Call President Obama today!
White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111
White House Switchboard: 202-456-1414
White House Fax Line: 202-456-2461

Yesterday, President Obama said, "For us to be able to say, here's a public option that's not profit-driven, that can keep down administrative costs and provide you with good quality care, I think that makes sense...There is no doubt that we must preserve what is best about our health care system, and that means allowing Americans who like their doctors and their health care plans to keep them. But unless we fix what is broken in our current system, everyone's health care will be in jeopardy."

Call the White House today and let President Obama know you want him to support your freedom of choice! Only you can make the best decision about what's right for you and your family: keeping the private plan you've already got; another private plan, or 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.

Let President Obama know that you stand with him on ensuring all Americans their freedom of choice and that a quality public health insurance option must be a part of meaningful health care reform in 2009.



CALL PRESIDENT OBAMA TODAY!

White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111
White House Switchboard: 202-456-1414
White House Fax Line: 202-456-2461

Tell him:

- I want the choice of either a private plan or an affordable quality public health insurance plan for me and my family.
- I am sick and tired of the insurance industry's abusive practices and threats - enough is enough!
- I urge you to hold firm on including a quality public health insurance plan in any reform proposal.
- I am your constituent and I demand quality, affordable health care for all NOW!

**PRESIDENTIAL
TOWN HALL**

Watch the President's health reform town hall tonight, 9:00 PM CDT.

Saturday!

National Health Care Reform Service Day Saturday, June 27

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

PEACE NEWS

Saturday! 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.” For tickets or for more information, please call 630-328-3858 or email vivapalestina.chicago@gmail.com.

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.

Let’s pray for everyone at Biennial this weekend.

Please pray for God’s blessings upon all who graduated from programs of study this spring.

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

Please pray for wisdom for Illinois state legislators who are dealing with critical fiscal decisions for our state. Please pray for them to find and remove inappropriate expenditures from state revenues.

Please pray for reform of our state's government. Pray for Governor Quinn as he tries to accomplish this with the help of colleagues and voters.

Please pray for Kids Hope United and other organizations working with children in Illinois. These organizations face a **50% cut** in funding from the state if the currently proposed budget is adopted.

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.

CALENDAR

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

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

Saturday! June 27—National Health Care Reform Service Day. For more information, please visit <http://www.chbconline.org/action>

Saturday! 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.

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

Sunday! June 28—Reception honoring Francine Stark at her retirement, Third Baptist Church of Chicago, Bethune Room of Heritage Plaza, 1500-1510 W. 95th Chicago, 1:30-2:30 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