

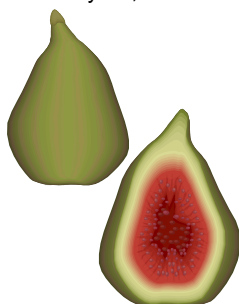
Metro Chicago

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

July 29, 2009



Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits:
who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
(Psalm 103:2, 5)

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ABC MC NEWS

Hold the Date: Vitalizing Congregational Ministries, October 3, 2009

Earlier this year the Ministers Council and ABCMC sponsored a day with Dr. C. Jeff Woods (Associate General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA) to assess "trends in ministry."

Those who attended insisted that we invite Jeff back to Metro Chicago, but this time to involve both clergy and lay leaders, to draw on his expertise on vitalizing the ministries of congregations.

This will be a highly beneficial gathering for churches that want to move ahead with new direction and energy. Location will be announced later, but please mark it on your calendar now.

Family Council Meeting

The next Family Council meeting will take place on Saturday, August 22 at Garfield Park Baptist Church, 4100 W Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. A packet of meeting-related materials t will be mailed in advance to Family Council members. Please contact Tony Rake at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655, or tony@abcmc.org no later than August 14 to let him know of your attendance plans, and whether you will stay for lunch. Check-in will open at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin with worship at 9 a.m., and be followed by lunch at noon. The suggested donation for lunch is \$5.

Appreciating Phil

*This article is "From the Parker Pen," pastor Harry Parker's article in **Tower Tidings**, the newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Oak Park. It is from the August 1, 2009 issue.*

First Baptist [Church of Oak Park] lost a good friend in the recent passing of Phil Yetter who succumbed to liver cancer last month. Phil had been a member of First Baptist for many years before accepting the pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Berwyn. While he was at Ok Park he served as the Chair of the Diaconate and was instrumental in the start of our Stephen Ministry.

At his funeral I learned that he had big dreams for his ministry in Berwyn. He envisioned that the church would become another Willow Creek; the megachurch in Barrington that attrax5w thousands of worshipers each week. He even had a named picked out—"Berwyn Creek"! Alas, this was not to be. Though the congregation grew, it remained a small church. I wonder if Phil was disappointed.

At his visitation and funeral I was struck by the large number of young people in attendance. Many of them sported tattoos and most wore black clothing. There was hardness etched in their faces, a hardness reflecting the lives they had lived. If you saw them congregating on a corner you would be inclined to cross the street. But there was something else I noticed in their faces. Man of them had red swollen eyes and tear-streaked cheeks. They were Phil's kids; the ones he had ministered to every Monday night at the church's Teen Club.

Phil had a special heart for and ministry to wounded people. He loved and accepted them all, but also patiently worked with them to make better choices. He reached out to those that others would be prone to avoid. Through that dogged love, he communicated God's grace to those who needed it most.

In the movie *Schindler's List* there is a quo5e from the Talmud that says, "Whoever saves one life saves an entire world." Phil Yetter might not have realized his dream of "Berwyn Creek." But he did something bigger and better—he saved entire worlds.

Family Council Hearing



**American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102
Chicago, Illinois 60707**

Email: office@abcmc.org

July 22, 2009

TO: Clergy and Representatives to the ABCMC Family Council

FROM: Denise Janssen, President, ABCMC
Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister

RE: Special Hearing at August 22 Family Council Meeting
Garfield Park Baptist Church

The Region is beginning to develop its programs and budget for 2010. Official action will be taken on these matters at the Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 14.

But this year we want to go about this differently: we are going to devote time at the August Family Council meeting to hear and discuss what congregations suggest should be our program and budget priorities, within the resources we have available.

Remember: the Region exists: (1) to help churches do together what they can't do (as well) by themselves (so we are particularly interested in things churches could do in partnerships or as a region-as-a-whole), and (2) to do better what the church can only do by itself (for example, sharing creative ideas that could work effectively in numerous congregational settings).

Also, keep in mind that we have earlier identified the following five areas as priorities (but we are not limited to them):

Worship and Christian Experience
Christian Education and Spiritual Development
Congregational Development: Growth in Mutuality, Strength, and Size
Stewardship
Justice, Peace, and Compassion

Another request: that you also give thought to ways in which more funds could be secured in the coming year for our work together.

We urge you to attend this "hearing" so we can benefit from your counsel and suggestions.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Religions around the World



Explore Religions from Around The World at The South Church, August 3-6, 6-8 p.m.

Come explore religions from around the world at Vacation Bible School at The South Church, Mount Prospect. Children pre-school thru fifth grade - four nights of music, dance, art, stories and games. Dinner will be served. For registration info - call 847-253-0501 or visit thesouthchurch.com

120th Anniversary Celebration



Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, is celebrating their 120th anniversary this year. The special day of celebration will be Sunday, September 13. The congregation and pastor Alice Greene invite the ABCMC family to celebrate with them on that special day.

The guest preacher in the 11 a.m. worship service will be former pastor Michael Harvey. The service will also include music and thanksgiving to God for the blessings of the church's many years of ministry.

Following the service there will be a 1 p.m. luncheon at LaVilla Banquets, 3638 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago. Luncheon tickets will be \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Please let the church know of your attendance plans no later than Friday, August 21.

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Important Health Care Rally in Chicago



Chicago area supporters of health care reform will celebrate the birthday of President Barack Obama with a rally downtown on his birthday, August 4, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please gather at Daley Plaza (Adams and Dearborn) for this event. Speakers will include U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky. RSVP to hcan@citizenaction-il.org or 312-427-2114 @ ext. 206 (Jessica) or ext. 208 (John).

Estudio Bíblico y Presentación Sobre la Reforma del Sistema de Salud

¡La reforma del sistema de salud se está llevando a cabo rápidamente!
Health care reform is moving fast!

Únase con nosotros para una
SESIÓN DE ESTUDIO BÍBLICO Y PRESENTACIÓN INFORMATIVA SOBRE LA REFORMA DEL SISTEMA DE SALUD

Join us for a
BIBLE STUDY AND INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM

Miércoles, el **29 de julio de 2009**
Desde las **7:00 p.m. hasta las 9:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, **July 29, 2009**
From **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Central Baptist Church
2417 N. Campbell
Chicago, IL 60647

Si usted está interesado contáctese con:
If interested contact:

Laura León – 312-913-9449
lleon@cbhconline.org

Call for Change

"If people are silent on this, we're going to lose on the issue. If we speak up, we will to win."-- U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)

The opposition has been successful in getting the word out on their position: phone calls to legislators are currently running 3 to 1 against health care reform.

National groups like the AFL-CIO are sponsoring Call In Day and millions of calls are expected to be made across the country. ***We cannot stress enough that, even if your legislator is firmly on the side of reform, they still need to hear from you today that you want your freedom of choice preserved by including a strong, robust public option, and that you want quality, affordable health care for all.***

Call your members of Congress today toll free at 1-866-210-3678 today and join millions of Americans in demanding health care justice.

Let's Get to Work



LET'S GET TO WORK

The shape of health care reform is being determined right now in Washington, DC. Legislators are working around the clock, talking with stakeholders in the health care debate. It is **crucial** that we act together immediately to get our messages out and our voices heard right now.

Can we count on you to speak out?



GET THE WORD OUT

From now through the first week in August, we are working to blanket the Illinois media with letters from health care reform supporters. Try out our new [LTE Builder](#) and share your thoughts with the media and your neighbors today.

We're trying to keep track of where our members get letters get published throughout Illinois, so please send us a copy of your letter as well! Email it to [Kathleen Duffy, CBHC Communications Organizer](#) and let her know to which newspaper you submitted it.



SHARE YOUR STORY

CBHC's [Story Blog](#) documents the health care stories from people across Illinois. Stories from our collection have been requested by newspapers and magazines across the state, NPR Radio, the BBC, and even [retold by Sen. Durbin](#) during debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

We need your story! Tell us about all of it: your struggles with the high cost of health care, your contact with the insurance companies, if you were able to obtain coverage through a government program or anything else you have experienced in negotiating health care. Please visit our Story Blog and [share your health care story](#) today.



HEALTH CARE JUSTICE ACTION WEEK JULY 27 - AUGUST 2, 2009

Join your fellow advocates in a week of coordinated statewide activities and show your support for quality, affordable health care for all! We'll be contacting legislators, holding vigils, and asking our legislators to publicly support health care justice.

For more information, visit the [CBHC Action Center](#), or contact [Susan Hurley](#) for Chicagoland activities at (312) 913-9449 or [Josephine Kalipeni](#) about downstate activities at (217) 352-5600.

Health Care Justice Action Week and Faith

Health Care Justice ACTION Week July 24 - Aug 2, 2009

**Let Your Members of Congress Know:
We Want Lower Costs, More Choices, and Coverage We Can
Count On!**

Right now, it is probable that the U.S. House will be voting on health care reform before their Aug. 1 recess, and the U.S. Senate will do the same before Aug. 8. Let your Congressperson know that you expect them to put their vacation off until this is done! Tell them to support health care reform providing access to quality, affordable care to everyone, and the freedom to choose between a private plan or a quality public plan.

**Every Day This Week:
CALL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS!
1-866-210-3678**

You can visit the [CBHC Action Center](http://www.cbhconline.org/action.html) (<http://www.cbhconline.org/action.html>) for daily updates.

FRIDAY, JULY 24 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
Faith Inspired Vision of Health Care

The HCJC Faith Caucus is spotlighting the human reality of the health care crisis for thousands of congregants across the state.

Find the bulletin insert at services this weekend or download it [here](http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/bulletins.html).
(<http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/bulletins.html>)

Sign on to the Faith Inspired Vision of Health Care statement [here](http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/faith-vision.html).
(<http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/faith-vision.html>)



MONDAY, JULY 27
Statewide Coordinated ACTION Conference Call

[Register online](#) for our weekly conference call and get the latest legislative updates, timelines, and next steps!

ACTION: Visit the [CBHC Action Center](#) for Monday's message and call your member of Congress at 1-866-210-3678!

TUESDAY, JULY 28
Story Sharing Drop Off and Email ACTION

Share your health care story with the Campaign for Better Health Care and your member of Congress!

Bring your personal story to the office of your Congressperson so they understand exactly why quality, affordable health care for all is important in their district, and [send a copy to CBHC](#) for the Story Blog.

Or, [submit it directly](#) to CBHC for inclusion in the Story Blog and we will make sure your Congressperson gets it.

ACTION: Visit the [CBHC Action Center](#) for Tuesday's message and call your member of Congress at 1-866-210-3678! This is a national call in day, so call early & often!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
Out In Front ACTION

Congressional District Committee groups around the state will be holding Out In Front events, including evening vigils and afternoon gatherings. For more information, please visit the [CBHC Action Center](#).

ACTION: Visit the [CBHC Action Center](#) for Wednesday's message and call your member of Congress at 1-866-210-3678!



THURSDAY, JULY 30

Get Your Voice Into the Media ACTION

Get the message about quality, affordable health care for all into the media today! Advocates across the state will be calling radio talk shows and responding to newspaper articles on health care. For more information, please visit the [CBHC Action Center](#).

ACTION: Visit the [CBHC Action Center](#) for Thursday's message and call your member of Congress at 1-866-210-3678!

PEACE NEWS

Northwest Suburban Meeting

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will host its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 11. This indicates a change of meeting days. The second Tuesday of the month is now the regular meeting day for the organization. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect. For more information, please visit www.nwsubpep.org.

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 and take action for real reform of the health care system in the United States.

Please pray for ABC's volunteers in mission all around the world.

Please hold in prayer ABC missionaries Katherine and Wayne Niles in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Wayne serves as the in-country liaison officer with IMA for financial and accounting matters. Additionally, Wayne has been helping Congolese people through a development project to grow more food. Katherine is working with a group of Congolese Christian professionals in training community leaders, urban and rural, to be promoters of health in their communities.

Please support with your prayers ABC missionary Kim Kushner. Kim was recently commissioned to serve in both regional and local ministry projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Based in El Salvador, she will offer her experience and passion for community development and equipping local leaders as she partners with local grassroots leadership and development projects initiated by the Baptist Federation of El Salvador (FEBES).

Please pray for those traveling during the vacation season.

Please pray for God's guidance for the leaders of our state and nation.

CALENDAR

NOW—Please take action—phone calls, emails, letters to the editor—for health care reform.

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

August 3-6—Vacation Bible School, The South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 6-8 p.m. For registration info - call 847-253-0501 or visit thesouthchurch.com

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 4, 2009—Health Care Reform Support Rally in honor of President Obama's birthday @ Federal Plaza (Adams & Dearborn). Speakers U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky and others. 4: 30-6:00 p.m. RSVP to hcan@citizenaction-il.org or 312-427-2114 @ ext. 206 (Jessica) or ext. 208 (John).

August 11—Faith and Health Convergence: Connecting to Transform Our Communities, UIC Student Center East, Illinois Rooms A and B, 750 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, 1:30-8:30 p.m.

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

August 22—Family Council meeting Garfield Park Baptist Church, 4100 W Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Check-in opens at 8:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 9 a.m. Please register in advance, no later than August 18.

September 6—ABCMC Sunday with Larry Greenfield preaching, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 8301 S. Damen Avenue, Chicago, 11 a.m..

September 12—ABCMC Stewardship Seminar, 10 a.m.

September 13—Celebration of 120 years of ministry, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, with Mike Harvey preaching, 11 a.m. Luncheon follows at La Villa Banquets, 3638 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, 1 p.m.

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

October 3—ABCMC gathering with Jeff Woods. Save the date! More information to come.

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