

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

August 5, 2009



The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.
(Isaiah 40:8)

In this Issue

ABCMC NEWS.....	2
Eugene B. Nyman	2
The Influence of Berwyn Creek Church.....	3
H1 N1 Emergency Preparedness	3
God and Lawn Care	4
Hold the Date: Vitalizing Congregational Ministries, October 3, 2009	6
Family Council Meeting	6
ABCMC Sunday in Wilmette	6

Family Council Hearing.....	6
NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS	7
120 th Anniversary Celebration	7
Sacred Dance	7
COMMUNITY NEWS	8
Theological Conversation with Jürgen Moltmann.....	8
Spiritual Wisdom	9
ABCUSA NEWS	9
Bob Campbell	9
Billboards a Blow to U.S. History	10
Why Obama’s Church Choice Matters	11
News from Green Lake.....	13
Summer Collegium – A Lilly Endowment Program	14
Health Care Reform	14
HEALTH CARE NEWS.....	16
The Truth about the Health Care Bill	16
Faith and Health Convergence	21
PEACE NEWS.....	21
Northwest Suburban Meeting	21
Prayer for Peace	21
PRAYER REQUESTS.....	22
CALENDAR.....	22

ABCMC NEWS

Eugene B. Nyman

The Reverend Eugene B. Nyman, who pastored the Community Church of Barrington from 1952 – 1990, passed from this life on Friday July 17, 2009. He was 91 years old. The Community Church of Barrington will celebrate Rev. Nyman's life on Saturday September 12 at 4 pm. The address of the church is 407 South Grove Avenue in Barrington, IL 60010. Cards and letters may be sent to the family at the church. All are welcome.

Rev. Nyman is survived by his wife Marion; two daughters Andra (Paul Fink) and Laura (Michael Montenegro); and two granddaughters, Sonya and Nina Montenegro. Please pray for this family as they both mourn the home going of their husband, father and grandfather and celebrate a life well lived for the Lord.

The Influence of Berwyn Creek Church

This reflection is from Glenn Loafmann, former pastor of the Community Church of Barrington.

Just an observation I'd like to share. I didn't know Phil Yetter well, but the impressions I got from our limited times together are altogether consistent with what I've read of what Larry and others wrote about him. Phil was devoted to ministry and deeply committed to serving this people - his church and community. He had a "heart for ministry" that was a strong part of even a first impression.

I never spoke with Phil, nor heard him speak, of his vision for the Berwyn church. I was a little surprised to see in the current eWind [last week] that he had described it in terms comparable to Willow Creek, but heartened to see that he was clearly working and working successfully in a (sociologically) different mission field.

As I say, I didn't know Phil well, but I would be so bold as to doubt that he might have been "disappointed" by the differences in the numerical measures of Berwyn and WC. He clearly was reaching people in great need of the Gospel, and they clearly responded to the Good News that Phil and his ministry made incarnate. By Christ's measure, "Berwyn Creek" may well be much greater than what's-its-name! Please feel free to pass the word along...

H1 N1 Emergency Preparedness

Pastors and Other Church Leaders:

I received the following communication from my friend and colleague at Chicago Center for Cultural Connections (formerly the National Council of Christians and Jews) about a training session for emergency preparedness related to H1 N1 virus later this month. I've asked our own John Wilson to provide us more counsel on this. But I hope you will take advantage of this training and complete the form provided for registration.

Larry

Dear Larry:

The State of Illinois through the Illinois Department of Public Health has partnered with the Broadcast Ministers Alliance and Health Care Consortium of Illinois to develop the Illinois Faith-Based Emergency Preparedness Initiative. This Initiative's purpose is to design, develop and disseminate emergency preparedness training for faith-based and community-based organizations throughout Illinois. During times of crises, religious institutions have always played a critical role. This initiative provides guidance as to how best prepare before disasters strike using faith-based organizations as the vehicles to enhance outreach of training and education.

Chicago Center for Cultural Connections would like to invite you and others to a training session on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 . This emergency preparedness training will also include information regarding the H1 N1 virus. The session will be from 8:30 a.m to 1:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and training begins at 9:00 a.m. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. The training will be held at Progressive Community Center - The People's Church, 56 E. 48th Street in Chicago where Rev. Dr. B. Herbert Martin, Sr. is Pastor. Parking will be available.

Please fill out the attached form and return it to me as soon as possible. Besides yourself, please recommend others in your faith community who would be appropriate to receive this training. If you have any questions, please contact me at the above email or 312/236-9272. Thank you for your assistance. We do hope you and others will attend on August 19th.

Sincerely,

Barbara

Barbara Abrajano
Executive Director
Chicago Center for Cultural Connections
27 E. Monroe Street, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312/236-9272
Fax: 312/236-0029
Email: babrajano@connections-chicago.org

God and Lawn Care

This story is not intended to be against suburbanites. The critique is for all of us.

GOD:



Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS:

No, Lord, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS:

Yes, Lord.

GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS:

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE:

'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD:

Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

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 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.

ABCMC Sunday in Wilmette

The Community Church of Wilmette recently celebrated ABCMC Sunday. Executive Minister Larry Greenfield was the guest preacher. Larry's sermon, "Family DNA," is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Would you like to have an ABCMC Sunday at your church? Please contact Larry at larry@abcmc.org.

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

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.

Sacred Dance

Tools and Fuels for Sacred Dance - A Choreography Workshop for your BodySpirit

will be presented by The Sacred Dance Guild at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect.

A workshop for those interested in exploring and developing material for sacred and liturgical dance. Sessions will generate ideas (FUELS) and vocabulary and structure (TOOLS) through various approaches. Choreographic possibilities will be realized through technique, improvisation, imagery, sacred text and ritual. Participants will be offered time to develop their ideas for solo and group possibilities. "Crafting" opportunities will allow feedback from the presenters in a non-threatening collaborative environment.

No dance experience is necessary to participate in this workshop. Registration is \$30.00. Checks should be made out to "The Sacred Dance Guild" and can be mailed to:
The South Church, att: Angela Nicolosi, 501 South Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

For additional information or registration contact Rick Kesler at rkesler@thesouthchurch.com or call 847-253-0501

About Indi Dieckgrafe

Indi Dieckgrafe is Professor of Dance at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana and she directs the Saint Mary's College Liturgical Dancers. She is a certified leader of the InterPlay improvisational technique and philosophy. As a sacred dancer and choreographer, she has worked with many congregations in the upper Midwest. The Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis has commissioned several works and she has performed with Kast and Company Liturgical Dancers and Add Water -n- Stir. She serves on the board of the United Religious Community in South Bend. Indi received her MFA in Performance and Choreography from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Her choreography workshop at the Lakeshore Mini-Festival at St. Mary's in 2004 received rave reviews.

About Angela Nicolosi

After receiving her BFA in modern dance performance from The Ohio State University, Angela Nicolosi taught, choreographed and performed jazz and modern dance and began studying yoga. She returned to OSU to earn an MA in Movement Arts by developing a program for chronic pain based in dance movement. Though she worked in clinical settings to provide pain and stress management, and even became independently licensed as a clinical counselor, Angela decided that yoga better suited her holistic approach to wellness and has completed her advanced certificate in yoga therapy. In 1999 she "discovered" sacred dance and began to dance again. She is past president of the OH-Penn Chapter of the Sacred Dance Guild, a 2005 presenter at the National SDG festival and recently moved to Chicagoland.

About The Sacred Dance Guild

Founded in 1958, the Sacred Dance Guild is an international, multicultural, interfaith, non-profit organization which, through a full spectrum of activities and information, enriches the lives of its members of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The Sacred Dance Guild promotes sacred dance as prayer, and as a means of spiritual growth, connection to the Divine, and integration of mind, body, and spirit. The local chapter of the SDG is known as the Lakeshore Chapter, and comprised of dancers from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana

COMMUNITY NEWS

Theological Conversation with Jürgen Moltmann

Emergent Village will host a conversation with prominent theologian Jürgen Moltmann September 9-11 at the First Presbyterian Church, 219 W. Maple Avenue, Libertyville. For more information and registration, please visit <http://moltmannconversation.com/>

Spiritual Wisdom

Hidden Treasures: Spiritual Wisdom Through the Voices of Women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

An Interreligious Conference in Chicago

SAVE THE DATE!

November 8-9, 2009 – CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION

5416 S. Cornell, Chicago, IL 60615

MORE INFO: The Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union, 773.371.5432 www.ctu.edu

A flier is attached with this issue of *eWind*.

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

Bob Campbell

This article is from ABCUSA General Secretary Roy Medley, and appears on the denomination's web site.

Our office has just been informed of the death of former American Baptist General Secretary, Dr. Robert Campbell.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

Useful, honorable, compassionate – those were qualities of Bob Campbell's life.

I first met Dr. Campbell and his wife Lotus when Bob took a gamble on me. I was young, an associate pastor at FBC Trenton, NJ, new to ABC, but one who was interested in ecumenism. My name was suggested as an ABC representative to the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) of the BWA. Bob agreed to my nomination which was the beginning of my involvement with ABC nationally.

Afterward, at the first meeting of the NABF, I met him and Lotus for the first time. How gracious they both were and how genuinely interested they were in a newly-minted pastor and his pastor-wife. I made a few gaffs learning the ropes of the NABF and how inter-Baptist life worked (there were unwritten rules!), but Bob was always the compassionate teacher willing to take a novice pupil under his wing to tutor him.

It almost sounds old-fashioned to call someone honorable. But it fits Bob perfectly. As a New Testament professor, Bob understood the power of the Word to transform life and the importance that the spoken word and the lived word of the Christian life conform to the revealed Word, Jesus the Christ. It was a matter of honor and of honoring the promises one made at one's baptism. The integration of the profession of faith and practice of faith were important elements of honor to Bob.

And Bob was more than useful. He led the denomination through the implementation of the radical structural changes in ABC life in the 1970s that has helped define us as the diverse body we are today.

While happiness was not Bob's chief goal in life—service to Christ was—Bob loved to tell jokes and stories filled with irony and humor. Happiness and joy came to Bob not because they were his first goals in life, but because he gave himself fully to Christ, his family and the church – and joy flowed into him and from him like a river because of these choices.

Proverbs 10:7 records, "The upright is remembered with blessings." Thank you, Bob for your leadership and your gifts to us. Enter now into the joy of your Lord.

To read a reflection by Phil Jenks on Bob, written in 1987 for *The American Baptist*, [click here](http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=M9FVjMcWNCA%3d&tabid=36). (<http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=M9FVjMcWNCA%3d&tabid=36>)

Billboards a Blow to U.S. History

This article is from the op-ed section of the Tampa Bay Tribune.

By J. BRENT WALKER
Special to the Tribune
Published: August 2, 2009

For the next six months, people on the roads of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties will rumble past billboard ads making false claims and misleading assertions about our country's history and commitment to religious freedom. One ad even fabricates a comment from the first president of the United States.

Recently, local media reported on the billboard advertisements that use quotes from history to "portray a national need for Christian governance."

Those behind the billboards refer to the separation of church and state as a "lie" and say our country's Judeo-Christian foundation is "the reason that this country has prospered for 200-plus years."

The only lies being told are featured on the billboards themselves.

Few would dispute the crucial role of religion in many of our founders' lives. However, they were a mixed lot - some orthodox Christians, some Deists, nearly all scions of the Enlightenment - and more committed to ensuring religious liberty for all than enshrining their own religion in our founding documents. The separation of church and state is one of the reasons that, despite our religious passion and pluralism, we have been able to avoid the religious conflicts that have punctuated history and continue to plague much of the world today. In fact, as our founders wisely understood, the separation of the two is good for both.

When those with an agenda cherry-pick - and completely make up - quotes from our founders, they do a disservice to all. There is a remarkable irony when a group claiming its support for historical accuracy fabricates a statement and attributes it to the nation's first president. For example, one of the billboards quotes President George Washington as saying, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." As reported, the billboard organizers admit there is no proof Washington ever said this.

Undoubtedly, Washington believed that religion has a place in public life, but one must look at his other statements to understand his view of government's role in religious matters. In 1789, then-President Washington wrote a letter saying he would establish "barriers" against "spiritual tyranny" and "every species of religious persecution." He also wrote that everyone should be protected in "worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience." Taken together, Washington's words show his recognition of religion's benefits and his belief that a person's preferences were a matter of individual choice in which the government should not interfere.

Moreover, James Madison - the father of our Constitution and arguably one of our most religious founders - observed that "the number, the industry, and the morality of the Priesthood, and the devotion of the people have been manifestly increased by the total separation of church and state."

The phrase "wall of separation" is not in the Constitution, but the sentiment surely is. It is simply a shorthand metaphor expressing a deeper truth: Religious liberty is best protected when the institutions of church and state are separated and neither tries to perform or interfere with the essential mission of the other.

That separation does not mean an infringement of the right of people of faith to speak forcefully in the public square. From bumper stickers to billboards, religious speech is commonplace. Certainly, our freedoms allow anyone to purchase a billboard and put almost any statement on it. But putting intentional mischaracterizations, half-truths, and outright fabrications on display is patently irresponsible, undermining the very faith the billboard backers claim.

J. Brent Walker, an attorney and ordained Baptist minister, is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington. Formerly, he was a partner at the law firm of Carlton Fields in Tampa.

Why Obama's Church Choice Matters

This op-ed piece is from www.usatoday.com.



(Across from the White House: Barack Obama bids the Rev. Luis Leon goodbye at St. John's Episcopal Church before inauguration festivities./Charles Dharapak, AP)

Why Obama's church choice matters
There are political and spiritual implications
By Henry G. Brinton

Does it really matter whether the president goes to church? The Constitution says there shall be no "religious test," so perhaps Sunday morning should be the one day each week when the president gets to sleep in. He certainly works hard enough. But before he hits the snooze button, President Obama should return to the question of whether he and his family will join a congregation in the Washington area. He recently said that his family had not made a decision about joining a church, and I can respect that. Such a decision takes time. But it is a critical choice, with political and spiritual implications.

Politically, church attendance is a sign of integrity. If the president says he is a Christian, then going to church shows that he doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk. Americans are not interested in the specific doctrinal beliefs of a president, but they consider religion to be a proxy for "personal values." That is why 72% of Americans consider it important that the president have "strong religious beliefs," according to a poll last year by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Could an atheist be elected president? According to the Constitution, of course. But he (or she) would have to win over that 72% by demonstrating personal values such as faithfulness in marriage, honesty in business and service to the community. This would be a long, tough sales job because religion serves a handy shorthand substitute for personal values.

It's no surprise, then, that most successful candidates have found a way to talk about their personal faith on their way to the White House. Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama all spoke convincingly of their Christian faith on the campaign trail. Once elected, however, they had widely different records of church attendance. Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton were regulars, for instance, while Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush rarely attended church in Washington. For most Americans, these attendance records are a non-issue.

Obama's challenge

But expectations are much higher for Barack Obama, for a variety of reasons.

"Obama's ability to talk about his faith helped lead the Democrats out of the political wilderness of being viewed by many voters as hostile to religion," says Eric Sapp, a partner in the consulting firm Eleison Group, which works with Democrats and progressive groups to improve outreach and communication with American faith communities. Since religious talk helped to get Obama elected, people now want to see a

religious walk.

In addition, the black church has historically served as the political and social center of the African-American community, so people are naturally curious about what role the local church will play in the life of our first black president. Will Obama choose an African-American church as he did in Chicago, or a multiracial church that breaks the stereotype of 11 a.m. on Sunday morning being the most racially segregated hour in America? One choice would show respect for the past, while the other would send a message of hope for the future.

Perhaps Obama will pick a congregation in the United Church of Christ, which has nurtured his faith as an adult. This liberal Christian tradition is certainly close to his heart. On the other hand, he may prefer a new denomination in order to keep his distance from the black liberation theology of former pastor Jeremiah Wright. "Obama's allies will be looking for him to make an inspired choice that helps reshape America's faith and racial dialogue," says Sapp, "and his enemies will be looking for a choice they can use to undermine his presidency."

Regardless of his particular church choice, Obama needs to practice his faith to address a more fundamental concern — some Americans still express doubt that he is a Christian. According to a March 2009 poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 11% of Americans say that Obama is a Muslim, a number virtually unchanged from a similar poll taken during the presidential campaign. An even higher number of white evangelicals — one in five — believes that Obama is Muslim instead of Christian. While there would certainly be nothing wrong with a Muslim being elected president, of course, the political reality is that opponents of Obama are using doubts about his faith to undermine his integrity.

As cynical as it may sound, his attendance in a congregation would be a political win, too.

'A communal faith'

The best way for Obama to show that he is a bona fide Christian is to become actively involved in the life of a congregation — although realistically, the participation of an acting president would probably be limited to attending worship and an occasional church event.

"Christianity is a communal faith, not a private spirituality," observes Miroslav Volf, director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale Divinity School. It is a team sport, not an individual activity. But Volf disputes the assertion that Obama should go to church to gain credibility with church-going Americans.

"He should live out his faith by being part of a Christian community," insists Volf, "he shouldn't instrumentalize his church-going for political purposes."

Perhaps. But the president is clearly a politician, so every choice he makes is going to have political implications, helping him or hurting him in the eyes of the American people.

Many people disapproved of the presidency of Jimmy Carter, but few doubted his Christian faith. His Sunday school teaching took care of that. On the other hand, Ronald Reagan might have shed the criticism that he was acting his way through the presidency if he had actually gone to church, and practiced what he preached.

Politics aside, there is a spiritual benefit to active church participation — it can ground the president and his family in a community of shared values and mutual support. Sunday morning worship includes a chance to pray to a higher power and hear a message of moral clarity, and the programs of the local church provide opportunities to develop supportive relationships. Eric Sapp says that it was the youth program of Foundry United Methodist Church that first attracted the Clintons, as they searched for a nurturing community for Chelsea. Sasha and Malia Obama will need the same.

A full Christian life cannot be experienced by anyone in isolation "This goes for Christians who are the U.S. president, too," says J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington. "So, yes, it does matter whether a Christian president is a part of a local church

family." Walker hopes that when the first family is in residence at the White House, it will worship at a church somewhere in the D.C. area. He knows that this can be difficult, and can raise security issues, but Presidents Carter and Clinton were able to pull it off, at First Baptist and Foundry United Methodist.

Walk the walk

For now, Obama says that he enjoys worshipping at Evergreen Chapel, the non-denominational church at Camp David. This is a diverse little congregation, in which the Navy chaplain on duty has to preach simultaneously to both the most powerful man on earth and also to the cook from the Camp David kitchen. Such a congregation can be a community of shared values and support, giving the president and his family the chance to develop personal relationships apart from the politics of Washington. George W. Bush and his family enjoyed the chapel so much that they spent eight straight Christmases there.

It really doesn't matter which church the president walks into. The important thing is that he put some walk behind the talk and practice his faith with integrity.

Henry G. Brinton is pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Virginia and author of *Balancing Acts: Obligation, Liberation, and Contemporary Christian Conflicts*.

News from Green Lake

[Christian Writing Center redecorated in Tudor style of origin](#)



A generous donor provided funds for major redecorating of the Christian Writing Center, a stately English Tudor-style lakefront house built in the early 1930s.

Each of the five upstairs bedrooms were repainted a different jewel tone including red, green, gold, blue and grey. New carpet, beds, mattresses, furniture, drapes and artwork reflecting Tudor symbols and writing were also added. The transformation of these bedrooms is spectacular!

The living room was redecorated with new carpet, artwork and furniture as well. The house accommodates 20 people and is great for family reunions or groups attending a conference. View more pictures: [Christian Writing Center](#).

The Christian Writing Center Apartment is located behind the Christian Writing Center and accommodates four people. Click here for pictures: [CWC Apt](#). To reserve houses call Green Lake at (920) 294-3323.



Come for a family getaway or group retreat at special rates!

Come for a late summer break August 10-14 or August 23-28, 2009: \$92 per room per night in our premium hotels or \$82 per room per night in Lone Tree Lodge. Call (920) 294-3323 to make reservations or to inquire about house, cabin and camping options.

Consider attending one of these conferences at Green Lake:

Second Half Ministry, August 8, 2009 ~ This seminar will help lead pastors, church staffs, leadership teams, teachers, small group leaders and lay people respond to the adult population over age 50 and establish a "Second Half Ministry." Led by Dr. Dave Gallagher.

Wisconsin to the World: A World Impact Pastors' Conference, August 17-21, 2009
This powerful conference for pastors and lay leaders includes keynote sessions with Dr. David Noebel and Dr. John Stonestreet of Summit Ministries (Summit.org), and Stuart and Jill Briscoe (tellingthetruth.org).

Christian PAiRS® Marriage Workshop, September 25-27, 2009 ~ A marriage workshop focusing on developing healthy relationship skills for couples who desire to REFRESH, RENEW & RESTORE their marriage. It is also for any couple who is experiencing marital distress and/or needs help in communication, problem solving, and skills for reconnecting to each other. Led by Certified PAiRS® Instructors David and Phyllis Howie.

Reaching Farther Men's Conference with Mike Yankoski, October 2-4, 2009 ~ If you want to live out your faith with radical intensity and intentionally pursue a lifestyle that reaches others for Christ and glorifies God, this conference is for you! Come for workshops, small group sessions and connection time. Featuring guest speaker Mike Yankoski, author of *Under the Overpass*, a chronicle of his 5-month experience as a homeless man bringing Christ's love to the neediest of God's people.

Summer Collegium – A Lilly Endowment Program

Summer Collegium, a Lilly endowed program in support of smaller congregations and their clergy, and coordinated by the Virginia Theological Seminary of Alexandria, VA, is offering a final year's event in 2010. For information on how to apply, click on this link:

<http://www.vts.edu/podium/default.aspx?t=119377>. The program director is Dr. Marilyn Johns (mjohns@vts.edu).

This year's event focused on self-care and wholeness in small church clergy life. A written report was provided to the congregation in the form of a Sunday morning sermon. You can read about the Summer Collegium experience via:

<http://www.fbcbennington.org/sermons/jh/2009/7/13/to-live-for-gods-glory-ephesians-13-14.html>

Health Care Reform

This is from the web site of ABCUSA National Ministries.

UPDATE (7/23/2008): A statement titled, "[American Baptists For Health Care Reform](#)," was presented to and affirmed by the ABCUSA General Board in late June of this year. It urges action by organizations, churches and individuals noting that the current major commitment to health care reform expressed by both major political parties "...presents American Baptists an unprecedented—and probably one-time—opportunity to work effectively for the enactment of a public policy consistent with our longstanding biblical, theological, and ministerial mission and principles." [Read the complete statement.](#)

"Health care is an issue that touches every family. Its importance to American Baptists is evidenced by the fact that our General Board has repeatedly spoken to the issue through such formal policy statements and resolutions as the American Baptist Policy Statement on Health Care, the American Baptist Policy

Statement on Health, Healing and Wholeness, the American Baptist Resolution on Health Care for All, and the American Baptist Resolution on Mental Illness. Although the health care issue is dynamic—constantly changing and requiring redefinition—at heart it remains the same: how might we bring healing and wholeness to everyone? And while most agree that everyone should have needed health care, we cannot reach consensus on how to make that happen. When asked to choose the single best option for guaranteeing health insurance for more Americans, no more than 24 percent favored a particular approach. Assuming this lack of consensus is reflected in the church, how might we respond in the face of potential conflict and division?

"Perhaps we would do well to recall, with Paul Ramsey, that the church "should seek to clarify and keep wide open the legitimate options for choice, and thus nurture the moral and political ethos of the nation." The role of nurturing moral and political life requires resisting two common temptations: quickly narrowing choices for how to proceed, and believing that once we have spoken to an issue we have accomplished change. While there is broad agreement that all should have access to needed services, there is little consensus as to how to make that a reality. Our role, then, is not so much in directing the conversation as in encouraging the conversation to continue so that a way forward might be discerned."

With that we introduced the [2005 issue of *The Christian Citizen on the "Church and the Challenge of Health Care,"*](#) a resource that is still relevant to the current political debate over how to reform health care in this country. This issue of *The Christian Citizen* presented broad principles and goals for seeking health care reform, such as transcending political and ideological differences to focus, not on particular models, but on the objective of access to health care services. It also pointed the way toward a variety of specific actions, such as observing a health care sabbath, that allow for the diversity of opinion and conviction within the church, while honoring the church's peculiar orientation toward and crucial role in public life.

The "Church and the Challenge of Health Care" is again available as a downloadable resource. Articles include "A Primer—Key Facts About Americans without Health Insurance" and "Health Care for All: What Does Faith Require of Us." Also included are a children's sermon and a litany based on Psalm 30.

In addition to this issue of *The Christian Citizen*, American Baptists may be interested in reviewing General Board policy statements and resolutions that speak to the issues of health care access and health care reform. See especially:

[American Baptist Policy Statement on Health Care](#) (PDF)

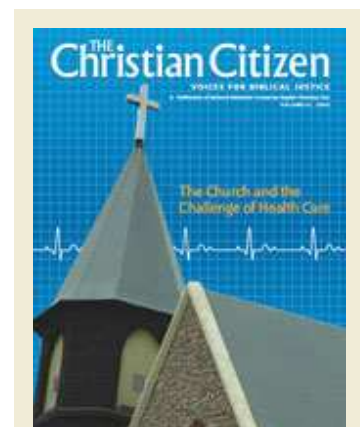
[American Baptist Policy Statement on Health, Healing and Wholeness](#) (PDF)

[American Baptist Resolution on Health Care for All](#) (PDF)

[American Baptist Resolution on Mental Illness](#) (PDF)

For those who want to become further engaged in the health care debate, a variety of study and advocacy resources and opportunities are available through [Faithful Reform in Health Care](#), the [PICO Network](#), and the [Children's Defense Fund](#)

[Faithful Reform in Health Care](#) has developed a variety of resources and opportunities for advocacy including a guide for health care advocates and "Vision and Voice," an adult education series to engage people of faith in dialogue about health care reform.



The 2005 issue of The Christian Citizen is still a valuable resource in the current debate over health care reform.

[PICO](#) is inviting clergy to sign a letter to congressional leaders on health care reform and is making available resources for congregations to host a health care Sabbath.

[The Children's Defense Fund](#) is supporting the [All Health Children Act](#) to provide every child comprehensive health and mental health coverage.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

The Truth about the Health Care Bill

There is a **nasty and misleading** chain email going around. Some of you may have gotten it forwarded to you by family and friends.

The email pretends to go through the "itemized contents of the Health Care Reform Bill," pulling out *outrageous* claims like, "Page 29: Admission: your health care will be rationed!"

The insurance industry is funding these emails through hired skills and, of course, **these claims are universally false**. So we want to arm you with the tools to fight back against these smears.

Below is an email you can copy and paste in response to anyone who forwards you these lies. Just reply to the smear email and make sure everyone knows the truth.

Here are the facts. Anyone can verify them by reading the bill at <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h3200/text>

Actual itemized contents of the Health Care Reform Bill:

"Page 22: Mandates audits of all employers that self-insure!"

TRUTH: This is not an "audit," it's a study. Moreover, the bill states (pp. 22-23) that the report will "include any recommendations the Commissioner deems appropriate to ensure that the law does not provide incentives for small and mid-size employers to self-insure or create adverse selection in the risk pools of large group insurers and self-insured employers." This is almost directly the opposite of the email's claim.

"Page 29: Admission: your health care will be rationed!"

TRUTH: Page 29 continues to define the "essential benefits package" and discusses limits on what Americans will have to spend on health care under this minimum standard. In no way does this section stipulate the rationing of care.

"Page 30: A government committee will decide what treatments and benefits you get (and, unlike an insurer, there will be no appeals process)"

TRUTH: Page 30 begins to describe the Health Benefits Advisory Committee which establishes certain minimum standards for health insurance plans. In no way does this committee deny treatments and benefits to Americans with health insurance.

"Page 42: The 'Health Choices Commissioner' will decide health benefits for you. You will have no choice. None."

TRUTH: Page 42 begins to describe the Health Choices Commissioner's duties. The idea that this person will decide what benefits Americans receive is patently false, given that most Americans will keep their current plans under reform, and Americans within the exchange will have the choice of purchasing many different kinds of health plans. Rather, the Commissioner will establish minimum standards to protect Americans.

"Page 50: All non-US citizens, illegal or not, will be provided with free healthcare services."

TRUTH: Pages 50-51 contain a provision stating that discrimination will not be allowed in the provision of health care services. Nowhere does the bill state that non-US citizens will be provided free health care services. The bill prohibits federal dollars from being used for undocumented immigrants.

"Page 58: Every person will be issued a National ID Healthcard."

TRUTH: Page 58, in the context of a discussion of administrative standards, mentions that "determination of an individual's financial responsibility at the point of service and, to the extent possible, prior to service, including whether the individual is eligible for a specific service with a specific physician at a specific facility...may include utilization of a machine-readable health plan beneficiary identification card." In no way does the bill state that such a card would be national, or that it would be issued to every person, or that it would, in fact, be used at all.

"Page 59: The federal government will have direct, real-time access to all individual bank accounts for electronic funds transfer."

TRUTH: Page 59 continues the discussion of administrative standards, and authorizes electronic transfers of money within the government. In no way does this provision grant the government access to individual bank accounts.

"Page 65: Taxpayers will subsidize all union retiree and community organizer health plans (read: SEIU, UAW and ACORN)"

TRUTH: Here's what page 65 says: "Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish a temporary reinsurance program to provide reimbursement to assist participating employment-based plans with the cost of providing health benefits to retirees and to eligible spouses, surviving spouses and dependents of such retirees." No mention is made of unions or community organizations.

"Page 72: All private healthcare plans must conform to government rules to participate in a Healthcare Exchange."

TRUTH: That's true! Plans have to have a minimum standard of benefits, but can offer other plans as well. But that's fair, isn't it? Private insurers can continue to operate outside the exchange if they wish - should the government establish no standards for the exchange? In that case, how could reform end insurance industry abuses and help to control costs?

"Page 84: All private healthcare plans must participate in the Healthcare Exchange (i.e., total government control of private plans)"

TRUTH: This section says is that if private health care plans want to operate in the Exchange, they must provide a basic benefit package.

"Page 91: Government mandates linguistic infrastructure for services; translation: illegal aliens"

TRUTH: Some American citizens are more comfortable speaking a language other than English, especially in a sensitive situation like a consultation with their doctor. This provision in no way opens the door for coverage of undocumented workers.

"Page 95: The Government will pay ACORN and Americorps to sign up individuals for Government-run Health Care plan."

TRUTH: Page 95 makes no mention of ACORN and Americorps; all it says is that the Commissioner can conduct outreach to vulnerable populations, making them aware of their options.

"Page 102: Those eligible for Medicaid will be automatically enrolled: you have no choice in the matter."

TRUTH: People who are eligible for Medicaid will not have to face the burdens of paperwork and other bureaucratic struggles. Far from depriving people of choice, this measure will ensure coverage.

"Page 124: No company can sue the government for price-fixing. No 'judicial review' is permitted against the government monopoly. Put simply, private insurers will be crushed."

TRUTH: This section describes rate-setting under the public health insurance plan option, which will compete with private insurers, who can set their own rates. Because of inherent advantages like their

established administrative and provider frameworks, private insurance companies will not be "crushed" by government competition.

"Page 127: The AMA sold doctors out: the government will set wages."

TRUTH: The government will negotiate rates with providers under the public health insurance plan option. However, private insurers will continue to pay their own rates.

"Page 145: An employer MUST auto-enroll employees into the government-run public plan. No alternatives."

TRUTH: This is simply not true. Employers with more than 20 employees aren't even eligible to participate in the exchange, let alone the public plan, until several years after the exchange launches in 2013. Moreover, no employer will be forced to participate in the public plan.

"Page 146: Employers MUST pay healthcare bills for part-time employees AND their families."

TRUTH: Employers are required to pay some benefits for part-time employees on a basis proportional to what they pay for full-time employees. No language on this page or the next stipulates coverage for the families of part-time employees.

"Page 149: Any employer with a payroll of \$400K or more, who does not offer the public option, pays an 8% tax on payroll"

TRUTH: The payroll penalty applies to employers with payroll over \$500,000 who do not provide insurance to their employees. The percentage for employers with payroll from \$500,000 - \$750,000 is 6%. Employers do not have to offer the public option to avoid this penalty, they can offer private insurance if they wish.

"Page 150: Any employer with a payroll of \$250K-400K or more, who does not offer the public option, pays a 2 to 6% tax on payroll"

TRUTH: This is false, see above.

"Page 167: Any individual who doesn't have acceptable healthcare (according to the government) will be taxed 2.5% of income."

TRUTH: Pages 167-173 detail what "acceptable health care" means (basically, insurance coverage) and also allow for many different kinds of exceptions to this rule.

"Page 170: Any NON-RESIDENT alien is exempt from individual taxes (Americans will pay for them)."

TRUTH: Non-resident aliens do not have to pay the penalty for not having health insurance, nor will they receive federal assistance, because they are not required to purchase health insurance. They are not exempted from individual taxes generally.

"Page 195: Officers and employees of Government Healthcare Bureaucracy will have access to ALL American financial and personal records."

TRUTH: This is a gross overstatement. For the purposes of determining affordability credits for Americans who need financial assistance in purchasing health insurance, employees of the Health Choices Administration will have access to tax information that the federal government already keeps. As is clearly stated on page 196, "Return information... may be used by officers and employees of the Health Choices Administration or such State-based health insurance exchange, as the case may be, only for the purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing and verifying the appropriate amount of any affordability credit described in subtitle C of title II of the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 and providing for the repayment of any such credit which was in excess of such appropriate amount."

"Page 203: "The tax imposed under this section shall not be treated as tax." Yes, it really says that."

TRUTH: This quote is taken out of context, and is in fact referring to a calculation used in the bill. Full context of quote: "(4) NOT TREATED AS TAX IMPOSED BY THIS CHAPTER FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.-The tax imposed under this section shall not be treated as tax imposed by this chapter for

purposes of determining the amount of any credit under this chapter or for purposes of section 55."

"Page 239: Bill will reduce physician services for Medicaid. Seniors and the poor most affected."

TRUTH: This section has nothing whatsoever to do with reducing services. It makes much needed changes to the way in which physician reimbursement is recalculated every year. The bill will, in fact, create much more opportunity for seniors and the poor to receive necessary care.

"Page 241: Doctors: no matter what specialty you have, you'll all be paid the same (thanks, AMA!)"

TRUTH: Page 241 does not say this. Nowhere does it say this. It does say that physicians will be grouped into certain categories regardless of specialty. These categories merely determine if the physician is engaged in primarily therapeutic or preventative care.

"Page 253: Government sets value of doctors' time, their professional judgment, etc."

TRUTH: There is no good response to this assertion as it appears to have been made up completely. The section deals with 'misvalued codes' meaning that the government is potentially not paying an acceptable rate for a specific service. This will allow the government to, for example, pay more for services that require more payment, such as high-overhead procedures. The author of these criticisms separately attacks the bill for paying the same rate to all doctors, then attacks again for paying different rates.

"Page 265: Government mandates and controls productivity for private healthcare industries."

TRUTH: This section amends the Social Security Act to include productivity measures. There is no mandate or control of anything. This merely updates the way in which doctors and hospitals are paid through Medicare.

"Page 268: Government regulates rental and purchase of power-driven wheelchairs."

TRUTH: This is simply not true. This slightly amends existing guidelines for payments for medical equipment, in this case power-driven wheelchairs. This section introduces no 'regulations' that are not in the Social Security Act.

"Page 272: Cancer patients: welcome to the wonderful world of rationing!"

TRUTH: Overusage of the hot-button word "rationing" is a way to deflect attention away from the actual language of the bill and incite unjustified fear. This section only compares costs incurred by cancer hospitals to costs incurred by similar hospitals, and adjusts payments to reduce the possibility of fraud and abuse.

"Page 280: Hospitals will be penalized for what the government deems preventable re-admissions."

TRUTH: This is almost correct. The section is one of the first efforts at targeting excessive readmissions. Excessive readmissions are physically and emotionally damaging to patients, while simultaneously putting them, and the health care system, in far more financial risk than is necessary. The American Hospital Association recommended reduced payments for avoidable readmission in testimony to Congress.

"Page 298: Doctors: if you treat a patient during an initial admission that results in a readmission, you will be penalized by the government."

TRUTH: This is patently false. The section is about possible methods that the Secretary of Health and Human services might consider in order to address the growing problem of patient readmission. This section does not, in any way, create a penalty, nor does it even mandate policy. It merely provides examples of recourses that might be considered.

"Page 317: Doctors: you are now prohibited from owning and investing in healthcare companies!"

TRUTH: This provision only limits Doctor's investments in health care facilities that they refer patients to. The effort to limit self-referral has been ongoing for many years as an effort to reduce fraud and abuse. This is, essentially, the medical community equivalent of insider trading. Limiting this incentive works to put the patient's health above all other considerations. Doctors remain free to engage in investment opportunities in areas that don't create a significant conflict of interest.

"Page 318: Prohibition on hospital expansion. Hospitals cannot expand without government approval."

TRUTH: This section regulates physicians' investment in hospitals to make sure that physicians are not unfairly benefiting from their power to refer patients to hospitals they have a stake in. The section does not prohibit hospital expansion.

"Page 321: Hospital expansion hinges on 'community' input: in other words, yet another payoff for ACORN."

TRUTH: In the ongoing effort to demonize community-based groups such as ACORN, every instance of the word "community" has become associated with that group's efforts. In reality, this provision allows for anyone to provide input. This includes homeowners, religious leaders, neighborhood groups, and others. There are no payoffs. There is no money exchanged in any way.

"Page 335: Government mandates establishment of outcome-based measures: i.e., rationing."

TRUTH: This provision is included in order to allow the government to base payments on practices that work. Nowhere does it say health care will be rationed. The attempt to isolate what works and what does not work in Medicare Advantage plans only benefits the health care system in general.

"Page 341: Government has authority to disqualify Medicare Advantage Plans, HMOs, etc."

TRUTH: The government can disqualify some Medicare Advantage Plans from receiving some additional payments, but only if those plans are not meeting necessary requirements.

"Page 354: Government will restrict enrollment of SPECIAL NEEDS individuals."

TRUTH: This section only deals with how to handle special needs individuals who need to enroll outside of the open enrollment period. Almost every type of plan operates with open enrollment periods. This section does not create more restrictions.

"Page 379: More bureaucracy: Telehealth Advisory Committee (healthcare by phone)."

TRUTH: This section merely expands existing Telehealth programs, which supplement but do not replace other health coverage, and provide a vital resource to Americans in rural and remote areas.

"Page 425-430: More bureaucracy: Advance Care Planning Consult: Senior Citizens, assisted suicide, euthanasia?; Government will instruct and consult regarding living wills, durable powers of attorney, etc. Mandatory. Appears to lock in estate taxes ahead of time; Government provides approved list of end-of-life resources, guiding you in death; Government mandates program that orders end-of-life treatment; government dictates how your life ends; Advance Care Planning Consult will be used to dictate treatment as patient's health deteriorates. This can include an ORDER for end-of-life plans. An ORDER from the GOVERNMENT; Government will decide what level of treatments you may have at end-of-life."

TRUTH: All of these hysterical claims have been debunked elsewhere. HR3200 provides for the reimbursement of a *voluntary* session of end-of-life counseling with your physician once every five years. This in no way means the government will make decisions for patients or encourage doctor-assisted suicide. Counseling simply makes patients and their families aware of their options.

"Page 469: Community-based Home Medical Services: more payoffs for ACORN."

TRUTH: ACORN is not a Community-Based Medical Home.

"Page 472: Payments to Community-based organizations: more payoffs for ACORN."

TRUTH: This is clearly still referring to community health groups, not ACORN.

"Page 489: Government will cover marriage and family therapy. Government intervenes in your marriage."

TRUTH: Covering marriage and family therapy, as many private insurance plans do, does not mean that the government "intervenes in your marriage." The types of individuals who are recognized as therapists are clearly defined on page 491; in brief, professionals only, not bureaucrats.

"Page 494: Government will cover mental health services: defining, creating and rationing those services."

TRUTH: This section expands government coverage for mental health services under various government programs, and ensures that all mental health services will be offered by qualified professionals.

Faith and Health Convergence

The Faith and Health Convergence program for Wednesday, August 12 has been cancelled due to low registration. The Faith and Health Convergence event for Tuesday, August 11 will **STILL BE OFFERED** with an expanded program.

The program will take place from 2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the UIC Student Center East, Illinois Rooms A and B, 750 S. Halsted Street, Chicago. The afternoon program will be an interactive workshop. One Round Table will be conducted in Spanish. The evening will include a reception, lecture and jazz quartet.

The fee for this event is \$25 but no one will be turned away. The fee includes the afternoon workshop, reception and lecture. You can pay by credit card if you register on-line. Or pay by check to **Advocate Health Care** if you register by phone, fax, mail or at the door.

Information and a registration form are attached with this issue of *eWind*.

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 for Peace

This is from the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

This year, 2009, as we approach fall, we would like to welcome every one of our Partner Congregations to another season of peacemaking. We call peacebuilders, peacemakers, and those with peace in their heart to renew their commitment to actionable peace across the globe. As peacemaking Baptists and Christians we know that God calls us to be the movers and shakers of our society, just as Jesus dared to craft ripples of change in his own community. But he was not alone in his action; hundreds, then thousands of believers took up the call and began to try to shape a new world. And the call has not ended, there is always work to be done, and as Christian peacemakers we must be a voice for the new generation. "Christian" and "progressive" are not and never have been antonyms. BPFNA Partner Congregations are urged to take part in these actions in unity and fellowship with other groups across the world in order to show solidarity on issues of peace and environmental justice.

The observance of the **International Day of Prayer for Peace**, an interfaith response to the UN established International Day of Peace on September 21 and the celebration of the International Day of Climate Action on October 24 will both serve as reminders of our commitment to peace and justice and provide an opportunity to take direct action. The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for BPFNA Partner Congregations to engage in 24 hour peace vigils, Sunday service prayers, and personal offerings of peace, among others. It will also serve as a day for our Partner Congregations to encourage personal mindfulness of peace action in our every day lives. The **International Day of Climate Action** is intended to be an occasion aimed at increasing awareness of our Partner

Congregations' impact on the environment and the importance of reducing carbon dioxide emissions so as to slow or prevent climate change. Partner Congregations are encouraged to gather on this day to screen relevant videos, discuss options for decreasing our carbon footprints, and make new church-wide energy commitments.

Click on the topic for a number of ideas for these observances:

[International Day of Prayer for Peace](#)

[International Day of Climate Action](#)

Thank you for your continued willingness to be a leader in peace work in your community and in the world. Together we will continue to serve as reminders to our society that being peaceful is not passive, and in fellowship we can make a difference!

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 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.

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 9-11—Theological Conversation with Jurgen Moltmann, First Presbyterian Church, 219 Maple Avenue, Libertyville. Please visit <http://moltmannconversation.com> for information and registration.

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

September 12—Memorial service for Eugene Nyman, 407 South Grove Avenue in Barrington, 4 p.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 on vitalizing congregational ministries. 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 8-9—Hidden Treasures: Spiritual Wisdom Through the Voices of Women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Catholic Theological Union, 5416 S. Cornell, Chicago. For more information and registration, please call the Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union, 773-371-5432, or visit www.ctu.edu

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