

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 19, 2009

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
(Psalm 139:23-24)

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ABCMC NEWS

Don't Miss This

August 19, 2009

TO: The ABCMC Family

FROM: Larry Greenfield

I don't know about you, but I've been giving so much attention to issues of health care reform that I haven't paid much attention to what might be a major health crisis for everyone of us this fall.

I'm referring, of course, to the H1N1 flu pandemic that will probably hit the world – including metropolitan Chicago – in mid-October. That's just two months away.

What I hadn't appreciated until today is that churches and other religious communities are both part of the **ISSUE** and part of **SOLUTION**. (I attended a seminar at which the seriousness of the problem was laid out in a pretty dramatic way.)

We are a part of the *issue* because we are one of the major places where people, young and middle age and elderly, congregate regularly – and thus a hot spot for spreading the devastating virus. So we need to think ahead right now about how we're going to handle that problem in each one of our churches.

We can also be a part of the *solution* not just in that preparation but in a ministry of disseminating information in our communities, of urging people to get the flu shots (two will be needed to be effective) that are being developed right now, and in helping victims and their families when the virus strikes.

I mention all this now because at the Family Council meeting on Saturday, the Rev. John Wilson (on the pastoral care staff at Lutheran General Hospital and a member of The South Church of Mt. Prospect) will be alerting and instructing us on the steps we must take now and from now on as congregations.

John is an expert in this field. He's served in numerous disaster situations across the nation – and, just as importantly, he's been one of the main trainers for emergency preparedness here and elsewhere. He has special expertise in preparing faith-based communities for disaster.

Yes, we've got a very full agenda for Saturday morning (at Garfield Park Baptist Church, 4100 W. Jackson), with our "hearing" on the Region's initiatives for 2010 and other business matters. But I believe it is absolutely critical that we carve out time for this training on the H1N1 pandemic.

Please...please...make this investment for the sake of the health of your own congregation and for the ways we in ABCMC can be a part of the **SOLUTION** and not just the **ISSUE**.



Are You Coming?

Image is from <http://www.clipartguide.com>

Will you be at the Family Council meeting on Saturday? If you are a Family Council representative, that's part of your job. This will be an important meeting.

The Family Council will take a thorough look at the region's finances, and what ministries will be a part of our future work together. After our hard work, we'll be rewarded with a tasty lunch (suggested donation \$5).

The meeting will be at Garfield Park Baptist Church, 4100 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Please call ABCMC's office assistant, Tony Rake, at 773-804-1655 to let him know whether you are coming, and if you'll stay for lunch. Or you can email Tony at tony@abcmc.org

TO CALL TONY RAKE TODAY AT 773-804-1655

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. Here are the directions to the church.

DIRECTIONS TO GARFIELD PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Garfield Park Baptist Church, 4100 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, is a few blocks north of the Eisenhower Expressway, and a block or two west of Pulaski Road.

From the Northwest

Take Route 53 south, and follow it as it become I-290. After about 20 miles, take exit 24B to Cicero Avenue (Illinois Route 50). Go a few blocks (follow Cicero Avenue as it twists) and turn right onto Jackson Boulevard. The church will be on your left.

From the West

Take I-88 east to I-290 (Eisenhower Expressway) east, towards Chicago. Take exit 24B to Cicero Avenue (Illinois Route 50). Go a few blocks (follow Cicero Avenue as it twists) and turn right onto Jackson Boulevard. The church will be on your left.

From the South

Take I-94 north (Dan Ryan Expressway) into Chicago. Exit to the left onto I-290 (Eisenhower Expressway) going west towards the western suburbs. But don't go to the suburbs. Take exit 26A towards Independence Boulevard, and make a left onto Congress Parkway. After a few blocks, turn right onto Pulaski Road, and then go a couple blocks and turn left onto Jackson Boulevard. The church will be on your right.

From the North

Take I-94/90 south (east) to exit 51A to take I-290 (Eisenhower Expressway) going west towards the western suburbs. But don't go to the suburbs. Take exit 26A towards Independence Boulevard, and make a left onto Congress Parkway. After a few blocks, turn right onto Pulaski Road, and then go a couple blocks and turn left onto Jackson Boulevard. The church will be on your right.

A Human Right

This article is from Lynne Kelley, ABCMC's Communication Coordinator and eWind's editor.

Wherever you turn for news these days, you will read or hear something about health care reform. Our denomination has long held (since at least 1975) that health care was a right for all Americans—not a commercial commodity, and not a privilege available only to those who can pay. (Please see <http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=8gLU4H3BXuE%3d&tabid=199> , <http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=xx3UUVwubGI%3d&tabid=199> and <http://www.abc-usa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kA7QkBgFPIE%3d&tabid=199>)

Perhaps many Americans do not view it this way, but American Baptists have considered health care a right for many decades. Understanding health care as a human right gives the issue of health care reform a completely different look from understanding it as a commodity for purchase. This does not mean that those who provide health care should not be paid for their skills: far from it. We should all be paid fairly for the work we do.

Making sure that all people have access to affordable, quality health care is a moral issue. Health care for all is a spiritual matter as well as a legal matter. It is a question of justice.

In 1965, in spite much wailing and gnashing of teeth from opponents, President Johnson signed Medicare—a **government-run health insurance program**—into law. That program was put into place because our nation wanted to make sure that all senior citizens had access to health care. Supporters of Medicare faced boisterous opposition from citizens who fretted that Medicare would make us a nation of Socialists. Yet, these days, Medicare is a standard part of the American landscape. We are not a nation of Socialists. We are a nation of compassionate people, are we not? Isn't Medicare a part of that? These days, many senior citizens say something along the lines of, "Change what you need to change, but don't take away my Medicare."

These days, we have a different federal proposal that is coming under much fire, along with many false charges. Now it's our turn to remember that we are a nation of compassionate people. Now it's our turn to state clearly our position that health care for everyone is a right.

God calls us to look out for the rights and well-being of everyone. Jesus did not discriminate against the mentally or physically sick or disabled, and he didn't leave the poor out in the cold. He brought compassion and healing to all. Isn't it about time we worked to have a system as fair as what Jesus lived?

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.

From Ethics Daily

This article by ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield appeared last week on www.ethicsdaily.com.

Can Baptists Learn to Perpetually Adore Jesus?

By: Larry Greenfield

Posted: Friday, August 14, 2009 5:45 am

Section: [Columns on Church and Theology](#)

Roman Catholics in Boston now have the opportunity to participate in the revival of a centuries-old practice, something called the Ritual of Perpetual Adoration.

It's pretty simple and self-explanatory: hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month (that is, perpetually), a few people will always be on hand to worship (that is, adore) a consecrated Eucharistic wafer, which is understood to be the real physical body of Jesus, miraculously transformed from a piece of bread.



Does our disbelief in transubstantiation, Greenfield asks, mean that we are denying ourselves a practice of perpetual adoration of Jesus?

Doesn't it stand to reason that people who truly believe in transubstantiation would do their part to make sure that someone is always thanking, honoring, worshiping, adoring the incarnated and living Jesus?

In this case, the incarnated and living Jesus will find his place, according to the [Boston Globe](#), in a "golden wafer-holder placed in a red velvet niche surrounded by wood carvings of sunrays and angels carrying incense."

The Rev. Peter Grover, director of the St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine where the ongoing ritual will take place, explains how the revival fits in with contemporary life. "To get anything done these days, you have to make an appointment, so let's make an appointment with God." He then asks, "You can get cigarettes 24/7, you can buy milk, and you can't have church open?"

Tim Van Damm is one of the laypersons pushing for the reinstatement of the old ritual. The rationale for his advocacy has a sense of paradox. "God is everywhere, but there is a difference when you are physically in the presence of God." Yet he is inarguably truthful when he asserts, "Any time you come in contact with Christ, you are changed."

Should I, as a Baptist Christian, be envious?

Does our disbelief in transubstantiation – and our contention that when Jesus said, "This is my body" in

that upper room, he wanted us to understand it only symbolically – mean that we are denying ourselves a practice of "perpetual adoration?"

Not according to Matthew's Gospel, which has a different take on the doctrine of the "real presence" of Jesus:

"I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me. ...Truly, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

We lose a great deal, however, if we don't take advantage of what a practice of "perpetual adoration" would mean for Mathew's understanding of the "real presence" of Jesus.

As Van Damm rightfully affirmed, "Any time you come in contact with Christ, you are changed."

We would be changed, that is, even if we signed up for only an hour each week to be in Jesus' presence by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, taking care of the sick, visiting the prisoner.

But given this opportunity for perpetual adoration, only an hour?

[Larry Greenfield](#) is executive minister for the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. He also serves as editor and theologian-in-residence at [The Common Good Network](#).

Going Green with ABCMC



Green Gram: To change our ways of using and disposing of our everyday products in a manner which minimizes the impact on the environment is, like most anything, best done in small steps. Take the example of batteries, for instance; we all use them but do we all know that batteries leak their acids over time and should not be thrown out with the garbage? Hold on to them when spent and find the nearest public library which accepts old batteries for proper disposal. Walgreen stores also have cubicles for depositing them.

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.

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 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 22..

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.

Peace Day Event

A COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE *A Peace Walk, a Community Celebration and an Interfaith Service*

On September 19th, the South Church will host a community-wide afternoon Peace Walk and an evening Peace Day Celebration to commemorate International Day of Peace. The General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution in 2001 naming September 21st as International Day of Peace ("Peace Day").

"On this International Day, let us promise to make peace not just a priority, but a passion. Let us pledge to do more, wherever we are in whatever way we can, to make every day a day of peace," said U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Civic, community and religious groups will walk together from the South Church to the Mount Prospect Village Hall. On the village green, there will be a short ceremony to reflect on the importance of global and personal peace. Speakers will include Mt. Prospect Mayor Irvana Wilks, and other civic and community leaders. Following the ceremony, the walk will continue back to The South Church for a Peace Day Celebration. The route is handicapped-accessible.

The activities for the evening Peace Day Celebration include a tree planting, peace-related crafts, games, food and live music by Voodoo Cadillac and Friends. The walk and the evening activities are open to the public.

"I'm hoping that many people in our community come together for this Peace Walk and Celebration. There is power in numbers. This weekend we invite our neighbors to participate with the global community in honoring the International Day of Peace. It is my hope that as we walk, we will contemplate the many ways we are called to create a world where true peace becomes possible. May our walk for peace be a first step toward working for justice and equality," says Reverend Rick Kesler in his open invitation to all individuals and organizations in the community.

Additionally, the South Church welcomes all to join an interfaith community worship service on Sunday, September 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Event Details:

2:00 Walk will begin from The South Church, 501 S. Emerson St.

3:00 Ceremony at Mount Prospect Village Hall

4:00 Peace Day Celebration at The South Church, 501 S. Emerson St.

Crafts, games, tree planting, food and live music

About International Day of Peace: The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. Website: <http://internationaldayofpeace.org>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Walter Wink to Give Public Lecture at Chicago Theological Seminary



On Thursday, September 24, at 7 p.m., Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago, will host Walter Wink, a noted author, theologian and Bible scholar for a lecture and book signing with the theme “Non Violence for the Violent.” Wink will address the question, “Is there a way between absolute pacifism and just war theory, a position committed to non-violence that is able to address the thorny issues of armed aggression, terrorism and civil strife responsibly?” In this presentation we will attempt to find a nonviolent path for people who are opposed to war and the mindless addiction to violence in our society, yet who are unsure of their capacity to respond with love in every situation.

Tickets will be sold at the door only. The cost will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Space is limited, and tickets will be available on a first come first served basis.

Some of the books the speaker has written will be available for purchase and signing. These three books are *Engaging the Powers*, *Jesus and Nonviolence* and *Powers that Be*. Don't miss this opportunity to hear an outstanding speaker who is a gifted interpreter of scripture.

Preparing for Advent

It's August, and preachers and worship leaders know what that means: it's time to get ready for Advent.

Chicago Theological Seminary will host an Advent Lectionary Workshop on Thursday, September 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Covenant United Church of Christ, 1130 E. 154th Street, South Holland. This workshop will focus on studying and preaching the lectionary texts for Advent 2009. Timothy Sandoval, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at the seminary, will be the presenter.

The cost will be \$40 prior to September 10 and \$45 thereafter. Breakfast and lunch will be included. All are invited—ministers, church leaders, worship planning committee members, seminarians and persons interested in biblical study and theological conversations.

A registration form is attached with this issue of *eWind*.

Soldier's Heart

What we know as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, a condition that afflicts many military persons after their experiences at war, was known as “Soldier's Heart” in the time during and after the American Civil War. Today “Soldier's Heart” is the name of an organization committed to helping returning veterans and their families. You can learn more about this caring ministry by visiting www.soldiersheart.net

Next month the organization will host a workshop for returning veterans and their families, as well as those who wish to help them.

Veteran Return Retreat and Training

Led by Dr. Edward Tick and Kate Dahlstedt, September 17-20, 2009, Racine, Wisconsin

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual, holistic, community-based, and cross cultural approach to healing from war, as found in Dr. Tick's book, WAR AND THE SOUL. This experience provides an opportunity for veterans, family members, helping professionals and all who care to learn practical ways of integrating essential healing strategies into relationships and practices.

EVENT DETAILS

COST: \$795 includes tuition, room and board

To inquire about veteran scholarships – info@soldiersheart.net

START & END TIMES: Registration begins at 3 PM Thurs. Sept. 17, opening ceremony at 7

Program ends on Sunday after lunch

PLACE: Siena Center, Racine, WI – www.racinedominicans.org

DIRECTIONS: arriving by car – www.racinedominicans.org

Arriving by plane – fly into Milwaukee Airport,

contact lind@merr.com for transportation from airport to retreat.

TO REGISTER: write to info@soldiersheart.net

QUESTIONS? info@soldiersheart.net or 518-274-0501 X10

Capacity is limited to 30 and filling up quickly. We encourage you to register now.

To learn more about Soldier's Heart, please visit www.soldiersheart.net

What We Need to Know

What We Need to Know: two remarkable Muslim woman speak of faith, peace and hope in today's world

Wednesday, October 14th

5:15-5:45 Reception 5:45-7:00 Program

"Let's Talk About It" series

St. James Cathedral

65 East Huron Street, Chicago

RSVP to ron.fox@seabury.edu

Come hear two remarkable Muslim women share their stories and speak together about how we create the space for dialogue, for sharing our own traditions and learning about each others traditions.

Ms. Manar Fawakhry, a Muslim from Mazra'a in northern Israel, is Program Director of Face to Face/Faith to Faith at Auburn Seminary in New York City. In the program, 50 participants at a time, ages 16-18, from communities in the US, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and South Africa are brought to a facility in upstate New York staffed by young adult counselors, religious leaders, educators, and trained facilitators.

The curriculum consists of multi-faith education, dialogue, and communication skills-building workshops, and experiential learning activities that foster interfaith understanding, including arts projects, visits from musicians, storytellers, and off-site excursions.

Dr. Ingrid Mattson a Canadian convert to Islam who was elected in 2006 to lead the Islamic Society of North America, told the Chicago Tribune at that time that women should participate fully in Muslim life, whether that means sitting next to men during mosque lectures, but not at prayers, or contributing to the rules that govern religious observance." I want to make sure women are fully engaged," Mattson told the Tribune. "They should sit on boards and in mosques in space equal to men so they can participate in discussions." She is Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of Islamic Chaplaincy at the MacDonald Center for Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT.

This program is sponsored by Seabury, Bexley, EPF, Cathedral, Peace and Justice Commission/Chicago EPF.

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

ABCUSA NEWS

Other articles from the American Baptist News Service are available at

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

Religious Liberty Day

This article is from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC).

Plan your own Religious Liberty Day with BJC's online resources.

Churches and individuals are spreading the word about the importance of religious liberty with special worship services and small moments of emphasis focused on our first freedom.

Metro Baptist Church in New York City recently had a "Religious Liberty Day" celebration in [their Sunday morning service](#), complete with a religious liberty-related call to worship, a [special dialogue](#) written by two members, hymns, and more. You can [read all about it](#) on our Web site. www.bjconline.org

The BJC wants to help you plan your own religious liberty emphasis by providing you with [resources and ideas online](#). We have [bulletin inserts](#), [litanies and readings](#), [hymns](#), [sermon and teaching ideas](#), and much more!

If you want to plan a religious liberty day event at your church -- or if you have any questions -- just let us know! Please contact Kristin Clifton at kclifton@bjconline.org for more information or to simply share your story!

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Collegial Covenant Groups

The Minister's Council of American Baptist Churches continues to have funds from the Lily Grant to support Collegial Covenant Groups in 2010. Please go to their website at www.ministerscouncil.com to find more detailed information about how to apply for these grants listed under the Together In Ministry section.

All applications for new or continuing groups must be sent to Rev. Douglas Harris, President of ABC/MC Minister's Council, 5244 N. Lakewood Ave., Chicago, IL 60640 no later than September 1, 2009. The local Minister's Council officers will meet to approve all applications and send them on to the National Minister's Council, who make the final decisions on who receives the grants for 2010. You must get your applications in on time to have a chance for them to be approved. May we continue to have ongoing ways to strengthen our life together as those called into professional ministries.

Together in the Lord Conference

Come to Orlando January 4-7, 2010 for the *Ministry Renewal Conference!* The conference will be held at the Wyndham Resort and Conference Center, 8001 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. It will be presented by American Baptist Churches, USA -

For registration and conference schedule visit this link -

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfopage.aspx>

HEALTH CARE NEWS

140,000 People Listen to Conference Call with Faith Leaders & President Obama!

This late-breaking news article is from Faithful Reform in Health Care. It tells about a conference call with President Obama this afternoon. So many people participated that many (including your editor) could not get through. But Faithful Reform is giving us all a chance to hear the recorded discussion between the President and faith leaders.

It's no wonder some of you couldn't join the conference call and webcast today with faith leaders and President Obama. There were 140,000 of us listening! We were expecting tens of thousands, not over 100,000! Our friends at Faith in Public Life, who coordinated the call, said that the tech consultants were floored, having never experienced something of this magnitude. Our response today is a powerful witness to the fact that PEOPLE OF FAITH DO CARE and that we will do whatever it takes to raise our voices with a moral vision for our health care future.

So... to all of you who got on -- and all of you who tried and tried unsuccessfully -- thank you for your passion! For those of you who were frustrated by the jammed lines and webcast, please accept my apologies! All of the 30+ co-sponsors hope you understand and celebrate with us that there was an unprecedented level of participation by people of faith -- all of whom were singularly focused on the moral imperative for health care reform in those few moments.

Here is the link to listen to the call again, or for the first time. It will be posted on the Faithful Reform in Health Care website for current and future reference.

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/40mins4health>

Both a streaming recording and an MP3 format are available at this link.

As you listen you will be invited to sign a pledge to stay actively involved in the faith-based part of the health care reform movement.

[Click here](#) to sign the Faithful Reform in Health Care version of the pledge.

And then, stay-tuned for our next major effort -- nationwide Health Care Sabbaths and Candlelight Vigils during the weekend of August 28-30 -- a critical time to make our members of Congress hear us while they are home for their August recess!

Invitation for Tomorrow

Illinois Main Street Alliance, Healthcare For America Now! & Citizen Action Illinois

INVITE ALL METRO CHICAGO AMERICAN BAPTISTS

to

A HEALTH CARE REFORM EVENT IN ELGIN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2009, 7 P.M.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
37 W 040 HIGHLAND AVENUE, ELGIN, IL
(Northwest corner of Highland Avenue and Randall Road)

Featuring

JOHN GAUDETTE

Citizen Action/Illinois State Health Care Director: Health Care for America Now
The state of the health care reform campaign and what needs to be done to win real reform

THE REVEREND DAVID DAUBERT

Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church of Elgin
A Matter of Faith, Responsibility and Justice

DAVID BORRIS

Small Business Owner; Illinois Main Street Alliance Spokesman

Please Call Congress to Support HR 3200

This request is from Health Care for America Now.

Let's Keep the Momentum up!
Demand the Choice of a Public Health Insurance Plan!!

Illinois Call-In for Health Care Bill HR3200

The time to act is now. Congressional members are home for the August recess, and the strength of the public health insurance plan and other critical components of health care legislation are being debated in our communities. The next six weeks will determine whether we have a robust public health insurance plan that everyone can access or an inadequate solution, like regional co-ops, that will do little to improve access to health care.

Right now, anti-reform organizations are making hundreds of calls into district offices, and we need to make sure we outcall them. The more people that call, the harder it will be for them to ignore the need for health coverage that is affordable for every person, family, and business.

Please call your Congressperson to tell them they can't be on the fence when it comes to our health!

Here is a sample script you can use when you call:

My name is _____, and I'm from _____.

I am calling to ask (Senator or Representative _____) to support health care reform that guarantees quality, affordable health care for everyone.

Please ask (Senator or Representative _____) to make sure the upcoming health care bill has a strong public health insurance option that all Americans can join. Thank you.

Call Representatives in District until September 7:
Congresswoman Melissa Bean (D-8) 1-847-517-2927
Congressman Mark Kirk (R-10) 1-847-940-0202
Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (D-11) 1-815-726-4998
Congressman Bill Foster (D-14) 1-630-406-1114
Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R-13) 1-630-655-2050
Congressman Peter Roskam (R-6) 1-630-893-9670
Congressman Donald Manzullo (R-16) 1-815-394-1231
Congressman Danny Davis (D-7) 1-773-533-7520
Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2) 1-708-798-6000
Congressman Mike Quigley (D-5) 1-773-267-5926
Call Senators in District until September 7:
Illinois Senator Dick Durbin 1-312-353-4952
Illinois Senator Roland Burris 1-312-886-3506

After the August recess, please continue to call your Congressperson at: 1-877-264-4226

Time for Truth-Telling

This invitation is from the Herndon Alliance by way of the Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care.

**Stop the Ugly Lies!
Let the Truth be Told!**

Your Voice is Needed:

**The Herndon Alliance is providing a
Free Messaging Training via a Conference Call**

Sign up by clicking here

(<http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/faith-events-form.html>)

The Training will prepare you to speak out about Health Care Reform.

**Friday, August 21
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

The Herndon Alliance is a nationwide non-partisan coalition of more than 200 minority, faith, labor, advocacy, business, and healthcare provider organizations.

For too long others have divided Americans through fear, instead of uniting them through hope and the unmistakable fact that Americans, when called upon, can do whatever it takes to get the job done.

The Herndon Alliance is expanding the base of people supporting affordable healthcare for all, and increasing the breadth and depth of voices working and speaking out for healthcare reform.

**To RSVP call Laura at 312-913-9449 or
Emily at 217-352-5600 or
email faithcaucus@cbhconline.org**

Your Call Matters!

This information and request are from Health Care for America Now.

The media and some politicians say we "don't have the votes" in the Senate for real health care reform with a strong public health insurance option.¹ But poll after poll shows that three out of four of people want a public health insurance option to keep the insurance companies honest.²

[Click here to call your Senators and ask them to support real reform - reform with a public health insurance option to keep the insurance companies honest.](http://tools.advomatic.com/8/majority) <http://tools.advomatic.com/8/majority>

The President's Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said today, "The President believes that **the public option is the best idea** he has seen for achieving the goals of lowering costs and increasing choice and competition." And Speaker Pelosi has made it clear that **the House of Representatives won't pass a bill without a strong public option.**

Senator Jay Rockefeller said yesterday that, "**I believe the inclusion of a strong public plan option in health reform legislation is a must.**"³

Unfortunately, some Senators are proposing state-based co-ops as an alternative. The non-partisan Government Accountability Office made clear that **co-ops do nothing to lower the cost of insurance.**⁴ And we know that only the government has the clout to force insurance companies to change the way they behave.

We need to get a simple message to Senators: **[Join with the majority of Americans to support a public option to lower costs and keep insurance companies honest. A co-op isn't a public insurance option.](#)**

[At this critical time, can you call your Senators urge them to support reform that the American people want and need? Click here to call.](http://tools.advomatic.com/8/majority) <http://tools.advomatic.com/8/majority>

August a Decisive Month! Call for Health Insurance Reform Now!

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

Tell your Congressperson you want lower costs, more choices, and coverage you can count on.

Anti-reformers are making a big push to defeat health insurance reform this month. We know that the majority of Americans want reform, but we'll have to fight back even harder to make our voices heard.

Congress is home for the August recess, which makes this the perfect time to contact them at their local offices. [Click here](#) for your Congressperson's local contact information.

It's important to talk to your Congressperson regularly during the recess. Tell them to support health care reform that guarantees access to affordable care to everyone, and the freedom to choose between a private plan or a quality public plan.

Messages to share with your Congressperson:

- *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 your Congressperson. **Call toll-free at 1-866-210-3678 to reach the Capitol Switchboard.**
 Equally important: write letters to the editor of your local paper in support of health insurance reform. [Click here try our new Letter to the Editor Builder Tool!](#)

Send an electronic action alert! Join the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the Campaign for Better Health Care in urging legislative leaders to solve the health care crisis.
<http://capwiz.com/mchc/issues/alert/?alertid=12100651&type=ML>

PEACE NEWS

Fund Raising for Peaceful Youth

Do you know what a zine is? We didn't until recently. The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project (NWSPEP) says this is the dictionary definition:

Dictionary: zine 'zine (zēn)

- 1. An inexpensively produced, self-published, underground publication.**
- 2. "Give Peace a Chance" A DIY project to reach and encourage interaction with students.**

The organization has learned that zines are all the rage with high school and college students. Those are just the folks the group wants to reach. Volunteers from this group work with suburban high schools to encourage young people to consider careers in peace-making and social change. So NWSPEP is producing its own zine. The problem is, that takes some money. So they need our help.

The group is having a fund raising event in Rolling Meadows on Saturday, September 12. The weather should be great. There will be food and drink and music and fun beginning at 4 p.m. The charge for the event (which will include burgers and veggie-burgers and all the usual sides plus desserts) will be \$20 for adults or \$10 for students—but don't worry if you don't have such riches in your wallet: come anyway, because no one will be turned away.

More information about the event is on the fliers attached with this issue of *eWind*. There is a half-sheet flier just right for trimming down and using as a bulletin insert; the full-sheet flier is perfect for printing and posting—or even mailing.

For more information about this group, please visit their web site at www.nwsupep.org RSVP to this invitation to the event at nwsupep@comcast.net The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project is a 501(c)(3) educational organization, and donations are tax deductible. If you can't make it to the cook-out fund raiser, you can still contribute to the cause. Learn how by emailing nwsupep@comcast.net

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

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

Please pray the First Baptist Church of La Grange, whose music director, Kevin Robbins, died on August 5. Please pray also for Kevin's family and loved ones. Kevin was a tremendous blessing.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Chuck and Ruth Fox, who work with the approximately 75,000 Akha hill tribe people living in Northern Thailand. Let's also join Ruth and Chuck in prayers of thanksgiving for a volunteer team of American Baptists who came from Colorado and did a fantastic job of helping to establish a clean water system in an Akha village.

Please pray for Inés and Lowell Young and their family. Inés' mother passed away recently.

Please lift up in prayer ABC missionary Karen Smith at the New Life Center Foundation in Thailand. This ministry works exclusively with ethnic minority (tribal) women throughout the Mekong sub-region (Thailand and its neighboring countries) who are at risk for, or victims of, labor exploitation which includes forced work in factories, local markets, domestic situations, and prostitution. There are risks involved in this ministry that makes Christ's love known to vulnerable and exploited people. Please pray for Karen as she courageously faces those risks.

CALENDAR

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

August 20—The Secrets to Building a Money-Making Ministry webinar, 2 p.m. For information and registration, please go to <http://www.christianfoundationgrants.com/Home/Webinar/17>

August 20—Health Care Reform: A Community Dialogue, Epworth United Methodist Church, 37 W 040 Highland Avenue, Elgin, 7 p.m. All are welcome!

August 21—Herndon Alliance workshop on telling the truth about health care reform. Please visit <http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcj/faith-events-form.html> to register. Workshop is 10-11 a.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.

August 22—Sacred Dance Workshop, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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 12—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project bar-b-que fund-raiser, 4 p.m. until...

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.

September 21—International Day of Prayer for Peace.

September 24—CTS Advent Lectionary Workshop, Covenant United Church of Christ, 1130 E. 154th Street, South Holland, IL, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Advance registration \$40 until September 10; \$45 thereafter.

September 24—Lecture and book signing by Walter Wink, Grand Taylor Chapel, Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago, 7 p.m.

October 3—ABC MC 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—ABC MC Annual Meeting

POSITION OPENING

Youth Program Assistant

The Youth Program Assistant (YPA) at Lake Street Church provides organizational and programmatic support to our Middle School & High School Youth Programs. This includes coordinating communication with youth participants and their families; maintaining event calendars; sharing information with volunteers; and encouraging youth participation.

Required skills include:

- strong communication skills, utilizing a variety of media;
- experience coordinating, planning and organizing events;
- attention to detail;
- experience and enthusiasm for working with youth.

Salary is \$18 - \$20/hour, commensurate with prior experience and qualifications. Weekly workload varies from 4-8 hours, based on scheduled activities; monthly schedule will range from 20-25 hours.

Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and three references to Rev. Ann-Louise Haak. Materials may be submitted electronically (alhaak@lakestreet.org) or in hard copy (Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, IL 60201). For more information about our congregation, please visit www.lakestreet.org.

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