

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

October 7, 2009

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)



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ABCMC NEWS

Power

This information is from ABCMC's communication coordinator, Lynne Kelley.

You have the power. It is yours to use. Do not think otherwise. Jesus used his powers selflessly to bring healing and hope to others. You have the opportunity to do the same. What you will do is up to you.

It will cost you nothing except a very few minutes of your time. It has the potential to bring healing and hope for generations to come. You have power to help make justice and healing happen.

Our nation is closer than ever to reforming our health care system. Efforts at reform have been made off and on for a century now. Never before have so many citizens and elected leaders been willing to make dramatic changes that are needed to benefit everyone by allowing everyone to have the health insurance coverage that we need. Please don't underestimate the power that you have to affect what will happen.

Even if you are on Medicare or have satisfactory health insurance coverage now, please take action to benefit others. This is following Jesus' model of selflessness.

All you need to do is make a toll-free telephone call. Dial 1-877-264-4226. You will be asked for your ZIP code. You will also be asked to specify whether you wish to speak to a Senator (and which one) or your representative in the House. Please make three calls, one to Senator Durbin, one to Senator Burris and one for your representative in the House of Representatives.

When you reach the office of each of your three representatives, tell the staff member who answers the phone your name and where you live. (The person will probably request your ZIP code.) Tell the staffer that you are calling to ask Senator _____ or Congress(wo)man _____ to support health care reform with a strong public option. Thank the staffer, say good-bye, and move on. It's that simple. All three calls will take fewer than 10 minutes total.

Even if you know one of your 3 representatives has made up his or her mind for or against health care reform, please call them anyway. Everyone in congress keeps track of the calls that come in, and what the callers say they want. Congressional supporters of reform need to be able to point to their list of phone messages and say, "My constituents are overwhelmingly in favor of health care reform with a strong public option." Some members of congress who have not made up their minds may be swayed by the number of calls they receive one way or the other.

Let's all spend a little time on the phone. Let's use the power that we have for good.

Can you spare more than a few minutes? If so, please make the calls and then join me on Monday, October 19 for Faith Witness for Health Care. See the article below under "Health Care News."

You might also urge members of your congregation to write letters to members of Congress. A sample letter is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Feel free to make copies to share with others to sign and send.

You might want to join folks who are writing letters to Senator Durbin, and help deliver them in person on October 14. More information is in the article "Why Don't You Write Me a Letter?" in the "Health Care News" section below.

Whatever you do, please don't miss this opportunity to exercise the power that you have as a citizen. Please see other opportunities for working on this issue under "Health Care News."

October Is Pastor Appreciation Month

This information is from Joe Kutter, Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the ABCUSA.

It can be really awkward for pastors to advocate Pastor Appreciation Month. So this paragraph is directed to the rest of us. I want to encourage, even urge, national and regional staff persons to help congregations to do those things that indicate the appreciation that they have for their pastors. Several years ago, the Ministerial Leadership Commission published a brief but excellent paper that offered concrete suggestions for demonstrating appreciation for pastoral leaders. The paper can be found at <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/documents/appreciationmlc08.pdf>

World Mission Offering



Autumn harvest means bountiful crops of fat, orange pumpkins, bushels of crisp, juicy apples and colorful pots of mums heavy with blossoms. Farm stands are overflowing with an abundance of hearty root vegetables and canned goods.

During this season of abundance, we are asked to give to the World Mission Offering. Our gifts make it possible for dozens of long term missionaries to stay on the field. Our gifts enable hundreds of short term volunteers to participate in construction projects, provide disaster relief, and offer hope to those who think nobody knows what it's like to be in their shoes.

Missionaries rely on us to give generously so that their ministries may give abundant blessings in countries around the world. 100% of your gift to the World Mission Offering goes to the missionaries. It provides support for projects that provide clean water, nourishing crops and medical supplies. The WMO makes it possible for pastors and lay leaders to get vital training for their ministries, and provides scholarships so they can afford to attend.

Your gift can bring healing to an abused child and hope to struggling refugees. Through the WMO branches of peace are extended between warring factions and people are rescued from slavery and despair.

Giving to the World Mission Offering says you care about the needs of other. Giving to the World Mission Offerings means you take serious Jesus' charge that we care for the hungry and thirsty, those who are sick or imprisoned. Giving to the World Mission Offering is how you walk in the shoes of others.

Fall Dinner

The Cook County Jail Ministry's annual fall dinner will take place on Saturday, November 7 at 6 p.m. The event will be at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park. Valet parking will be available.

All are invited to come and participate in this evening of fellowship, prayer and music, as well as a delicious meal. All tickets are to be purchased at the door. The cost is \$15 per adult or \$5 per child under 12. A table for 8 will cost \$100.

Be sure to attend this event and support this important ministry with inmates at the Cook County Jail.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Lake Street Church to Host Award-Winning Documentary set to

On Sunday, October 18 at 12:00 pm, Lake Street Church of Evanston will host a special screening of the award-winning documentary ***Inlaws & Outlaws***. The film, a collection of true stories about love and marriage, will be shown at the church at 607 Lake Street in Evanston. Suggested donation of \$6.00 may be paid at the door, and includes a light lunch. An opportunity for discussion will follow the film.

The film's director and producer, Drew Emery, made ***Inlaws & Outlaws*** as a way of bridging what he calls the "false divide" between gay and straight people around the contentious topic of love and marriage. "We've shown this film with great success in red states and blue states, urban centers and rural communities," says Emery. "It's played in churches in Oklahoma, small college towns and to sell-out houses from Cleveland to Seattle — and everywhere we go, we find audiences embrace the idea that love is absolutely the thing that connects us as human beings — and not at all the thing that divides us."

Funeral for No Health Care Victims

This article is from Woodside World, the electronic newsletter of Woodside Church.



Rev. Deborah Kohler has spoken at many memorial services, but this service in McFarlan Park in downtown Flint was for 45,000 people — those who died within the last year because they did not have health insurance. A casket in front of Deborah set the tone for the event.

Woodside joined UAW Local 599 as sponsor for this service. Other rallies are held each Thursday; in all, there are 21 sponsors.

Quincy Dobbs played the electronic keyboard for the service.

In leading the service, Deborah said, "We gather today in honor of their lives and the mourning of deaths of those who have died needlessly. This must stop. Now. Not next year. Not five years from now. Every religion calls on believers to love your neighbor as yourself," she said. "The business of health care has become more important than the care of people. The number of deaths is growing rapidly. In 2002 the number of deaths without health care was 18,000."

She prayed that God would fill us with the grace to transform the United States on health care.

The 122 people present then sang *Amazing Grace*. A banner on the stage read "Woodside Church supports health care for all."

Sophia Bacon, a Woodsider who sat in the front row, said she was there because "Universal health care should be for all."

The service followed a walk by about 65 people from Windmill Place. All carried banners calling for added health care. After the service, many went to offices of Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Congressman Dale Kildee to seek support of added health care. Plumb-Smith Funeral Home provided the casket. Other rallies will be held at 11 a.m. each Thursday until action is taken on the issue.



NSBC's First Worship Service in Sgaw Karen

This article is from Steeple Stories, the newsletter of North Shore Baptist Church.

On September 13 North Shore Baptist Church launched a new language worship service in Kraft Chapel under the leadership of Rev. Roger Poenyunt. Rev. Douglas Harris highlighted the historic significance of the event, and told of three missionaries sent from North Shore to Burma years ago. Now Baptist sisters and brothers from Burma are bringing new life and enthusiasm for the gospel back to North Shore. Karen language worship is held each Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Community Festival Day

Woodside Church is holding its annual Woodside Community Festival Day on Sunday, October 18, beginning at the 10 a.m. worship service. This year the event will celebrate "The Magic, Music and Mystery of Worship." It all begins with a special worship service complete with special music including brass, timpani and all of Woodside's choirs—chancel, women's folk and chime. Then, immediately following the service, everyone is invited to dinner, catered by Golden Moon, a long-time Flint favorite for outstanding Chinese food.

During the afternoon, magician Brett Beaudry will perform—continuing the theme. Brett Beaudry has performed professional magic since he was twelve years old. He has amazed, delighted and entertained audiences from 4 - 99 years old and for as many as 600 people in live performances.

Woodside Church is located at 1509 E. Court Street, next to Mott Community College. Everyone is welcome. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of dinner. However, Woodside hopes no one will stay away due to financial difficulties. Please call 810-767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net for more information.

Jazz Vespers at Woodside Church

All are invited to Jazz Vespers on Friday, October 16—beginning at 6:00 p.m. This monthly event is designed to be spiritually uplifting with some of the area's best jazz musicians adding their musical interpretation to a selection of readings—classic to contemporary—creating a unique experience. For October, Woodside welcomes Flint's own Sherry Wisda, soprano, who will bring her jazz and blues stylings to enrich this unique worship service.

Jazz Vespers is presented in a coffee house setting at Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street in Flint, Michigan, right next to Mott Community College. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendars for all of the Jazz Vespers services, all beginning at 6:00 p.m. on November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21 and June 18.

There is no admission fee although donations are welcome. Please call the church at 810-767-4911 or visit www.woodsidechurch.net for more information—which will be updated regularly.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Black Church and Community Health Symposium, October 17, 2009

Black Church and Community Health Symposium: "Community Health, Spirituality, and African American Pastoral Care" will be held on Saturday, October 17, 8 a.m. - 12 noon, at the Third Baptist Church, 1551 West 95th Street, Chicago. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life and the Institute for Advanced Study of Spirituality & Wellness.

The symposium will be led by Dr. Arthur L. Pressley, Associate Professor of Psychology and Religion, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

Workshops are: Domestic Violence; Community Violence; Diabetes, Hypertension and HIV/AIDS.
Registration: \$10.00 (Students \$5.00)

3 hours of CEU credit will be available for licensees in professional counseling or clinical professional counseling.

For more information, contact: Joslyn DiPasalegne at 312.952.1766 (TAMALAR Consulting)

Academy for the Common Good 2010

The Academy for the Common Good is planning its sessions for 2010. The Academy for the Common Good provides educational programs to aid participants in integrating their faith and their understanding of various areas of public policy, contributing to the development of communication and leadership skills. The program focuses on helping participants to:

\$ Explore the place of Christian faith in social, economic and political life

\$ Bring biblical-theological perspectives to bear on evaluating public policy

\$ Exercise leadership in congregational education and public ministry

\$ Develop knowledge and abilities to serve as an advocate

Each session is two hours in length, and includes a presentation by an instructor and group interaction in learning activities appropriate for the session's topic. Presentations can also be viewed on DVD or over the Internet. The program is divided into three core units, each with a different focus and set of learning objectives. Participants move from biblical-theological reflection on our civil democracy, to an engagement with particular areas of public policy, and finally to the development of specific skills and strategies for service on behalf of the well-being of others.

For more information, please contact:

PROTESTANTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

77 W. Washington Street, Suite 1124, Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: (312) 223-9544, ext 223 Fax: (312) 223-9540

www.thecommongood.org

The Third Annual C. Shelby Rooks Lecture

The Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life Presents The Third Annual C. Shelby Rooks Lecture on Thursday, October 15 at Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue in Chicago. This year's lecture topic, "Community Health, Spirituality, and African American Pastoral Care," will be presented by Dr. Arthur L. Pressley, Associate Professor of Psychology and Religion, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. There will also be an art show and a reception.

Schedule of Events:

4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Art Show--Room 133

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Reception-Cloisters

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Lecture-Graham Taylor Hall

The event will be free and open to the public. Valet parking will be available.

For information contact: Joslyn DiPasalegne at 312-952-1766.

Vigil for Financial Justice

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) is organizing a prayer vigil and then participating in a larger coalition march for bank accountability when the American Bankers Association comes to Chicago for their national convention October 27 (more info below, and flier attached). Those of us who are free at 10 a.m. on the 27th are invited to participate.

Information about the rally says,

Banks crashed the economy and then used public bailout money to pay executive bonuses.

What do our faith traditions have to say about that?

- God will bring this charge against the elders and princes of his people: "It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing
- My people, by grinding the face of the poor?" (Isaiah 3:14)
- And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. (Matthew 21:12)

Banks took **\$15,000 for every man, woman and child** in the U.S.

The top six banks **raked in \$30 billion in profits** in the first half of 2009.

*Yet ordinary Americans are **still** struggling to stay afloat...*

Unemployment is at its highest rate in 26 years.

Every thirteen seconds another American home goes into **foreclosure**.

Tell the Big Banks to Fix What They Broke!

Prayer Vigil and Rally

Tuesday, October 27

10:00 a.m.

Michigan and Wacker

For more information or to RSVP contact Will Tanzman at (312) 402-0572 or tanzman@soulinchicago.org

Religion and Violence

2009 McCormick Days will take place at McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 S. University Avenue, Chicago, on the grounds of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. The dates are October 29-30. McCormick Days are not only a reunion for Alumni, but also an excellent opportunity for continuing education for all of us. Featuring excellent speakers such as Rita Nakashima Brock, Thomas Mockaitis and Daniel Little, the conference will explore contemporary impact of Christianity on world-wide violence—as well as the impact of world-violence on contemporary Christianity. To register online with a credit card, and for more information, please go to www.mccormick.edu/mcdays.

Summer Collegium

This announcement is from Virginia Theological Seminary.

Applications are now available for the Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. Clergy (and their spouses or partners) from 25 small churches of all Christian denominations are invited to spend nine days at Virginia Seminary for encouragement, education, rest and renewal. **All expenses, including travel, books, meals, lodging, child care at home and pulpit supply, are paid by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.**

The theme of the Summer Collegium this year is Leadership in the Small Congregation. Our keynote speaker will be Alice Mann, a prolific writer on congregational ministry, and John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland will join our worship team for the conference.

The dates for the Summer Collegium are June 23 - July 1, 2010. Application forms are on our website, www.vts.edu/education/collegium, or will be sent in the mail by emailing SummerCollegium@vts.edu or by calling 703-461-1760. Applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2009, to be considered.

ABCUSA NEWS

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

Presidential Task Force on Bylaws Announced

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/1/09)—President of American Baptist Churches USA Mary Hulst has appointed a task force on bylaws to develop “A way forward,” following the affirmation of the General Board Executive Committee at its August meeting.

The task force will work to assess feedback from the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena, specifically focusing on issues that were brought forth due to constructive evaluations.

It will also recommend moderate adjustments that are aligned with delegate feedback and develop a strategic plan leading up to the 2011 Biennial in Puerto Rico for constituent education and communication.

The task force will not exceed 25 members, and will include pastors and lay representatives from across the denomination. It will also include the president of each of the national boards, one national staff member, the president of the regional executive ministers council, and representation of recognized ethnic caucus groups.

The presidential task force will meet in Denver, Colorado on October 21-22, compiling a report to present to the General Board at its November meeting.

A Call to Prayer: A Call to Greater Works

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/6/09)—National Ministries, sponsor of the upcoming black church conference, “Power Connection: A Call to Greater Works” (November 3-7, Chicago, Ill.), encourages American Baptists to support this vital ministry—before, during and after the event—through “30 Days of Prayer for Greater Works.”

Hundreds of pastors, teachers, preachers and existing and emerging church leaders who minister in the African American context are expected at the conference.

The prayer effort launches Wednesday, October 7, and concludes Saturday, November 7. Prayers for the planning team and leadership, as well as guest speakers and workshop leaders, are encouraged. More specifically, pray:

- For wisdom and diligence for those preparing the event.
- That those who attend will experience the presence of God and answer the Spirit’s call to do even “greater works” when they return home.

At the close of his public ministry, Jesus reminds the disciples that they must continue to believe in him and the one who sent him. He tells them that their impact, as those who will continue to do the work he began and as representatives of the awesomeness of God’s love, will be greater than his (John 14:12). The same reminder is given to us as disciples of Jesus Christ today: You will do even greater works! As disciples ministering in the midst of challenges faced in black communities—violence, educational disparities, poor housing and the health care crisis—the lived experience of our Christian witness through works has never been more critical.

Encourage support of “30 Days of Prayer for Greater Works” in your congregation by visiting www.ABCPowerConnection.org and downloading and posting the prayer flyer.

2009 Black Church Conference

“Power Connection: A Call to Greater Works” will be the theme of this year’s American Baptist Black Church Conference. The conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Chicago Matteson, 500 Holiday Plaza Drive, Chicago November 3-7. The Third Baptist Church of Chicago will be the host church, and ABCMC along with the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, will be the host regions.

A pre-conference event will be a Ministers Summit November 2-3. The Ministers Summit is designed to provide dialogue, networking and resource sharing for those ministering in the African-American Community.

Speakers for the Black Church Conference will include ABCMC’s own Brenda Little, Alan Ragland, Marshall Hatch, Carol Jamieson Brown, Alice Greene and Francine Stark. ABCMC’s own John Sundquist and Rick Barlow will represent the American Baptist Foundation to talk about estate planning.

The conference will end with a Super Saturday Extravaganza including a Hip Hop Intergenerational Summit. This will be a great event, and a good investment of a pastor’s time.

For registration and more information, please visit www.ABCPowerConnection.org.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Register Now For Together In the Lord

To all who register for TITL in the next two weeks, Judson Press and National Ministries will give a free copy of one of the following books. You will be able to pick your book up at the conference in Orlando.

Rest in the Storm by Kirk Byron Jones

Tempted to the Leave the Cross (English or Spanish) by Ernest Flores

12 Steps to Congregational Transformation by David Laubach

Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection, edited by Ella P. Mitchell and Valerie B. Davis

Recent research also indicates that airfares are particularly good at this time. Southwest had some particularly good fares. Another careful researcher found that Disney prices are at their lowest at this time of year. The speakers and the workshops are world class. The location is ideal. The fellowship will be enriching. A change of pace following Advent and Christmas will be renewing. Register now for Together in the Lord. <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfoPage.aspx>

Scholarship money will be available. For more information click on the link and follow instructions listed below - <http://www.nationalministries.org/>

On left side bar point to Education - Click on Scholarship and Grants - Scroll down to bottom of page and click on "Tell me more about aid for Ministerial Leaders" and click on "Cultivating New Life Grant Application" then follow instructions given there.

Together in Ministry Application Deadline Approaching

All applications for 2010 covenant group grants are due in the national Ministers Council office by October 31, 2009. If you have not yet submitted your applications to your constituent Ministers Council officers please do so TODAY! Applications to the national office must come from constituent Councils and be postmarked by October 31, 2009. Application forms may be found on www.ministerscouncil.org under the Together in Ministry link. In order to be considered, please complete the form online and print it out. Applications must be received by mail and NOT by email or FAX. For applications click on this link: <http://www.ministerscouncil.com/TogetherInMinistry/TIMApplication.aspx>

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Faith Witness for Health Care

This invitation is from the faith community caucus of Health Care for America Now.

For decades, faith leaders have pressured policy makers to fix our broken health care system and make us a truly healed and whole people. Now, in 2009, we are closer than we have ever been to making that dream a reality.

On Monday, October 19, we will be raising our voices to make sure that this opportunity is not lost.

Join Health Care for America Now as we:

- Remember those who have been victimized by an unjust health care system and call the faith community to action.
- March to deliver letters from people of faith to our Senators and let them know that we will not tolerate this betrayal of human dignity any longer.

When: Monday, October 19 at 12 noon

Where: The Chicago Temple, Dixon Chapel, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago

Contact Angie Colletta at angela@citizenaction-il.org or phone her at 267-474-6065.

Why Don't You Write Me a Letter?

We are invited to join other supporters of health care reform by writing and delivering letters to Senator Durbin. The delivery will be at 12 noon on Wednesday, October 14 at the Federal Building at Dearborn and Jackson downtown Chicago. Your editor will not attend, since she will be busy churning out next week's issue of *eWind*. But won't you please participate in her stead? She will write a letter. If you can't attend, please write a letter anyway so it can be included.

Senator Durbin is a supporter of health care reform that includes a strong public option. We do not need to convince him to support the position of American Baptists because he already does. BUT he needs our letters and our presence on October 14 so that he will know that Chicago's metro Baptists and lots of other folks are behind him, and counting on him to follow through. Here's the scoop:

Senator Durbin, We're Counting on You!

Federal Building, Dearborn and Jackson, Chicago
Wednesday, October 14, 12 noon

**We will meet in Daley Plaza for a rally to gather letters to Senator Durbin.
A delegation will collect the letters and deliver them to his office.**

Write Senator Durbin a letter sharing your health care story and how reform will help you.

Location

230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3892 (across from Federal Plaza), Chicago, IL 60604

Please use public transit as parking is both scarce and expensive!

Here's our suggested template for the letters we're asking folks to write:

1. Keep it short and simple, 1-2 paragraphs
2. Address it to Sen. Durbin and sign your name and address
3. Ask Sen. Durbin to only support health care reform with a strong public health insurance option
4. Use any personal stories about the health care industry to illustrate the need for a public health insurance option.

From Sue Myers: Just a reminder to write your letter about your health insurance experiences ASAP. We want to send a strong message to Senator Durbin by showing him the personal stories of Illinois residents who have suffered at the hands of insurance companies.

You may write a letter and mail it to me (712 Stonebridge Road, Frankfort, IL 60423) or email a Word attachment which I will print (sgmyers1@att.net). If you mail or send an attachment, please do so before October 12 so I can get them to the meeting delegation on time. If you are going to fax it to his DC office, let me know so we can keep a count.

Sign up on the link below if you can attend the October 14 meeting or can help with distributing fliers that day: http://www.pol.moveon.org/event/events/event.html?event_id=98926

We want to collect hundreds of letters to make a strong statement to Senator Durbin. Please write your letter today.

Oct. 20 National Day of Remembrance and Hope

This information is from Faithful Reform in Health Care, www.faithfulreform.org

It barely made the news. Oh, it appeared in some internet lists of reports and such, but it was largely ignored by the mainstream media. Sadly, the [Harvard report](#) that nearly **45,000 people die each year** in the U.S. because they can not access needed health care was barely noticed. In the midst of historic public discourse about reforming our nation's broken health care system, the persons who are dying are invisible to most of us. What are the names of those who have died? What impact have these deaths had on the lives of their family and friends? What did clergy say to their communities of faith at the time of such tragedy?



As people of faith, it is these folks and the millions of others who cannot get needed health care who call us into our advocacy for health care reform. It is the injustice of unnecessary death in the midst of abundance that calls us to promote a health care future that is shaped by values that are common to our faith teachings.

Faithful Reform in Health Care and its member organizations will sponsor a **National Day of Remembrance and Hope** to tell the stories of the victims of U.S. health care and remember them in prayer on October 20. Set to coincide with activities planned on the same date by many other organizations, this National Day of Remembrance and Hope will be the faith community's effort to say, "**We won't forget!**" It will be our opportunity to commit to continuing our work in hopeful expectation for comprehensive and compassionate health care reform.

Your help is needed TODAY to make this happen!

Offer your building -- your church, synagogue, mosque or temple -- as a place for a Service of Remembrance and Hope or other activity on October 20. We'll help you make it happen with a Tool Kit of resources, including templates for services, media advisories and conference calls in which those planning events can talk to each other. Sign up today, even if you don't have all the details, to demonstrate the depth and breadth of concern for the victims of U.S. health care. [Sign up for an event](#)

Share the stories those who have died. Help us put faces on the tragic statistics. These stories will be collected and shared in Services of Remembrance and Hope throughout the country. [Share a story](#)
Not much time for planning? True. A lot to ask in just three weeks? Yes. But we have no choice. And... we CAN do it! The next few weeks will be critical in the health care debate as the proposals move toward their final language. Legislation that reflects our values will require our voices.

Please join us!

[Join the growing list of sponsors:](#)

Buddhist Peace Fellowship
California Church IMPACT
California Council of Churches
Catholic Healthcare West
Colorado Council of Churches
Faithful Reform in Health Care
Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office
National Episcopal Health Ministries
New Mexico Conference of Churches
People of Faith of Greater Binghamton, Binghamton, NY
Progressive National Baptist Convention
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
Washington Association of Churches
Wisconsin Council of Churches

Please Sign On

This invitation is from our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters at www.networklobby.org

If you believe that healthcare reform cannot wait any longer, please sign on to our message to congressional leaders to let them know.

Go to <http://www.networklobby.org/Oct20sign-on.html> to sign on.

We will deliver the message to congressional leaders on October 20 as part of the national day of action for healthcare reform.

You'll be hearing more from us about other ways to observe the national day of action, but we urge you to take this one action now. We want to get as many (electronic) signatures as we can before October 20. So please sign on now and ask your friends, family, and co-workers to sign on. The more names we have, the more impact we will have.

Click on this link to sign on: <http://www.networklobby.org/Oct20sign-on.html>
(or copy the link and paste it into your browser)

Here is the message:

Dear Congressional Leaders,

Today, on October 20, numerous state and national faith-based organizations are joining together for a national day of remembrance for those who have died due to lack of healthcare. We have gathered our voices together to bring to you this message from the American people: Healthcare reform cannot wait any longer!

*The United States is the only industrialized democracy in the world that has not made the commitment to ensure healthcare coverage for all its people. We find this to be a moral scandal, and we call on Congress to approve a reform plan that guarantees **accessible, affordable, quality** care for everyone in the U.S.*

We have an opportunity now to fix the broken system that has left people ill and dying without basic care. We must pass a reform plan that provides all people with the coverage they need. Do not let this historic moment pass us by!

And here is the link to add your name to this message: <http://www.networklobby.org/Oct20sign-on.html>

Health Care Sabbath

The Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care invites all ABCMC congregations to participate in this year's Health Care Sabbath on October 18. We can join congregations across the state in focusing on justice and health care disparity during the Health Care Sabbath. Resources for the event are available for free download from <http://www.cbhconline.org/issues/hcjc/sabbath.html>

PEACE NEWS

Northwest Suburban Meeting

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education project will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect. All who are interested in helping young people consider careers in peacemaking and social improvement are welcome. For more information, please see the group's web site, www.nwsubpep.org.

Drugs and Death at Bagram

The film *Drugs and Death at Bagram* tells the story of a young American military man in Afghanistan. On July 12, 2004 Army Specialist John Torres was found dead in a latrine at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. He had a single gunshot wound in his head. His death was ruled a suicide, but members of his unit and family believed he was murdered. Initial information received by the family led them to believe that U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan may have killed John for talking openly about heroin use among his fellow soldiers. Shortly before his death he had called his father, Juan Torres, from Afghanistan, and he was overwhelmed with fear. He was distraught because of rampant drug abuse, drug dealing and trafficking inside the army base. Since the day in 2004 when the young man was found dead, his father has been fighting to uncover the truth. This documentary film presents part of the discovery.

John Torres was right to be concerned about the substance abuse he witnessed all around him, even though military officials deny that it is taking place. Soldiers who come home addicted are reluctant to talk about it, even after they have been discharged from their military duties. The effects of using opiates while at war are lasting effects for individuals and their loved ones, and ultimately for American society. For more information about use of heroin by U.S. military personnel serving (or formerly having served) in Afghanistan, you may wish to read some online articles such as http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2007/08/07/afghan_heroin/

John did not use opiates, however. His death was, in all likelihood, related to another matter that the military does not want us to know about. The film will be an eye-opener.

We are invited to attend a showing of the film hosted by the Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project (www.nwsubpep.org). It will be shown on **Friday, December 18 at 7 p.m. at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights**. A discussion will follow the viewing of the film (<http://drugsanddeathatbagram.com/index.html>). Juan Torres, father of John Torres, will be at this event and participate in conversation with us. Juan suggests that we read an article from a recent issue of the *Chicago Reader*. The article, "Lost to Larium," can be viewed at <http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/lost-to-larium/Content?oid=1201006>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

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

CALENDAR

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

October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

October 11—Hadeer Abo El Nagah preaches at Woodside Church, 1409 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan.

October 11— ABCMC Sunday with Larry Greenfield preaching, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 11 a.m.

October 14—Health Care Rally and Delivering Letters to Senator Durbin, Federal Plaza, noon.

October 15— Third Annual C. Shelby Rooks Lecture, Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago. Art show and reception, 4:30 p.m.; lecture, 6:30 p.m.

October 16—Jazz Vespers, Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan, 6 p.m.

October 17— Black Church and Community Health Symposium, Third Baptist Church, 1551 West 95th Street, Chicago, 8 a.m.-noon.

October 18—Health Care Sabbath.

October 18—Community Festival Day, Woodside Church, 1504 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan, beginning with 10 a.m. worship service.

October 18—ABCMC Sunday with Larry Greenfield preaching, Montrose Baptist Church, 4411 N. Melvina, Chicago.

October 18—Showing of documentary film *Inlaws and Outlaws*, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, 12 noon. Luncheon included with suggested donation of \$6.

October 19—Faith Witness for Health Care, The Chicago Temple, Dixon Chapel, 77 W. Washington Street, Chicago, 12 noon.

October 20—National Day of Remembrance and Hope, sponsored by Faithful Reform in Health Care.

October 27—Prayer Vigil and Rally for Financial Justice, Michigan and Wacker, 10 a.m.

October 31—Deadline for Together in Ministry applications to be received in the national office.

November 3-7—2009 Black Church Conference, Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 500 Holiday Plaza Drive, Matteson, Illinois.

November 8—Cook County Jail Ministry fall dinner, First Baptist Church, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park, 6 p.m.

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

December 12—ABCMC's 3rd annual Advent and Christmas Music Festival, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 3 p.m.

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