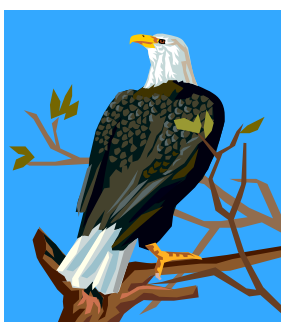


Metro Chicago
eWind

*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

December 31, 2009



“You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off’;
do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Isaiah 41:9-10

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A NEW YEARS NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Resolution to be Resolute

I'm keeping my resolutions to a minimum for the new year, figuring that I may be more successful the fewer there are.

There's one I'd really like to be resolute (determined, firm) about, in an attempt to be a more faithful follower of Jesus in the year that's now just hours away: to have love be the guiding dynamic of my life, the love of God and of neighbor. That seems appropriate since Jesus taught that, for his followers, love trumps and transforms every other commandment and resolution. Everything else falls into the right order (righteousness and justice) if love is always central.

The problem in keeping my primary resolution for the new year, of course, is that a resolution (virtually by definition) is an act of the will, and my will isn't all that strong and sustaining.

It does, however, make a difference, I believe, if I understand that the will and power to love isn't just up to me, but that God, who is essentially love, is already and always operating to help me keep my resolution to love.

And then it also helps to be in a community of lovers, where we help each other keep our resolutions to love.

I hope you will be a part of that resolute community: that we can help each other be agents of God's love not just for ourselves, but also for all the other parts of the world that God loves.

With love,
Larry

ABCMC NEWS

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

A Good-Bye Letter From Mission Support Associate Lowell Young

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end.

And so it is that my employment as Mission Support Associate for the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago (ABCMC) comes to an end on December 31, 2009 after three event-filled, truly gratifying years.

The end of my employment will occur because the funding for my position only covered a three year period, something I understood when I was hired for the position three years ago.

My three year association with ABCMC ends with a sense of gratitude for the opportunity I was given to serve the Chicago Metro Region and for the many friends I have made along the way.

In particular, I want to thank our Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield, for giving me the opportunity to assist him and to serve the Region. I also want to thank my other staff colleagues, Rev. Lynne Kelley, Tony Rake and Jesse Smith, for their cooperation, support and friendship. Also, I want to welcome the newest member of the ABCMC staff, Veronica Johnson, and wish her good luck and God's blessings.

All the other friends and colleagues who have helped me during the past three years are far too numerous to mention here. To each and every one of you I want to express my sincerest appreciation for everything each of you did to help my work and, more importantly, to help the work of the Chicago Metro Region. Blessings, Peace and Love to one and all.

May the Chicago Metro Region continue to help the Region's churches spread God's Word and continue to provide training and opportunities for individuals who want to serve God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Your Brother in Christ,

Lowell Young

Thinking Theologically

Check next week's *eWind* for Executive Minister Larry Greenfield's column, "*Thinking Theologically.*"

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Rev. Jacki Belile presenting "The Power of Forgiveness"



On Saturday January 16th at 4pm, Rev. Jacki Belile will be presenting "The Power of Forgiveness," a documentary film which explores the promises and challenges of experiencing forgiveness, and the relationship of forgiveness to emotional, spiritual, physical and social health. This event includes screening the documentary film plus an active discussion about forgiveness guided by Rev. Jacki.

This event will be held at **Thousand Waves Martial Arts & Self-Defense Center, NFP 1220 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL 60657**, as part of a free public lecture and discussion series, Making Peace: Meditations on Activism. Refreshments will be provided. Donations are welcome.

Central Spanish Baptist Church – Seeking Gently Used Clothing for Homeless and Families in Need

The Central Spanish Baptist Church distributes food to the homeless and persons and families in need every Saturday from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. The church will be distributing clothing as well, and is looking for donations of gently used clothing, coats, shoes, boots, etc. Donations will be picked up. For more information or for pick-up please call Jose Verduzco at (773) 419-8507. The church is located at 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lenten Lectionary Workshop by CTS Professor

On January 21st, Dow Edgerton, Professor of Ministry at Chicago Theological Seminary, will present the Lenten Lectionary Workshop entitled, "Preaching Scandalous Gospel." The workshop will center upon the Lukan gospel texts of the Revised Common Lectionary, and will be a day of reflection, study, and fellowship around the lectionary scriptures for the season of Lent.

This is a great resource for clergy looking for a fresh perspective for their sermons and laity looking to deepen their understanding of the lectionary texts. Register online now!

Where:

First Congregational Church of Western Springs
1106 Chestnut, Western Springs, IL 60558

When:

January 21, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$40 Advanced Registration
\$45 Same Day Registration

[Register Online](#): The pre-registration deadline is January 11, 2010.

<http://www.ctschicago.edu/index.php/mnualumns/lectionary-workshop/139-lectionary-workshop-registration>

ABCUSA NEWS

New IM President and Vice President to Take Office January 1, 2010

Ruth Clark and Manuel ("Manny") Hernandez were recently elected to the positions of president and vice-president respectively to the Board of International Ministries (IM) for the 2010-2011 Biennium. Clark will be succeeding the current Board president, Thom Lacy, who completes his 2-year term. "We deeply appreciate the leadership that Thom has given us as president," said IM executive director, Reid Trulson, "and we look forward to welcoming Ruth and Manny as our new servant-leaders. We look forward to their guidance as we pursue our ongoing mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to all nations."

In addition to the board executive positions, Sandra Hayashida's service as recording secretary for the IM Board and administrative assistant to the executive director will end on December 31, 2009. She will be

joining her husband in full-time ministry at the Zambia International Theological College (ZITC) at Kululushi in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia early in 2010. Sandra will serve there as administrator, her husband Nelson as principal, and both as teachers at ZITC.

The IM Board elected missionary Cathy Holmes to serve as recording secretary, replacing Hayashida. In addition to filling that ministry, Holmes will serve as administrative assistant to the IM executive director.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for our troops and our government.

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

Please pray for all persons facing job loss and job searches in the current economy.

Please pray for all children who are homeless and/or hungry.

Please pray for ABCMC staff and all ABCMC churches for effective Christian witness and service in 2010.



CALENDAR

January 4-7—Together in the Lord Ministry Renewal Conference, Orlando, Florida. Please go to <http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfolpage.aspx> for online registration and more information.

January 16 – “The Power of Forgiveness” film and discussion with Rev. Jacki Belile at Thousand Waves Martial Arts & Self-Defense Center, 1220 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL 60657, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

January 21- Lenten Lectionary Workshop at First Congregational Church of Western Springs, 1106 Chestnut, Western Springs, IL 60558, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

March 1 - Deadline for entries for BJC’s essay contest.

March 7 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Anne and Howard Gottlieb Hall, 38 S. Prairie, Chicago, 4 p.m.

March 13 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Chicago Music Institute, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

April 18 - Kids Hope United Mad Hatters Tea Party, The Lehmann Mansion, 485 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois

May 15 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Chicago Music Institute, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, 7:30 p.m.

May 16 - Sing to Live Community Chorus concert, Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, 4 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 Thursday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please send them to office@abcmc.org. If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know via email at office@abcmc.org.