

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

April 29, 2010



“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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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Please make sure you have the morning of Saturday, May 8, down in your calendar for our Family Council meeting at the First Baptist Church of LaGrange. After worship at 9:00 a.m. (which will focus on the Haiti crisis) we will discuss the criteria for continuing membership in ABCMC. We need your input.

In the cause of the Evangel,

Larry

Thinking Theologically

Check back next week for “Thinking Theologically.”

ABCMC NEWS



American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
P. O. Box 15127
Chicago, Illinois 60615
Email: office@abcmc.org

CALL TO MEETING

FAMILY COUNCIL
Saturday, May 8, 2010

First Baptist Church of LaGrange
20 N. Ashland Avenue
LaGrange, Illinois 60525

WORSHIP THEME:

The Faithful Challenge to the Haitian Crisis
Samira El-Yasir, Speaker

PROGRAM THEME:

Criteria for Continuing Membership in ABCMC

8:30 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments
9:00 a.m. – Worship
9:45 a.m. – Program
11:00 a.m. – Quarterly Business Meeting
Noon - Luncheon

Please RSVP via email to office@abcmc.org. Include the name and church of each attendee, and whether you will stay for the entire meeting and lunch. Thank you!

Camp ABCMC – A New Camping Experience

April 22, 2010

To: Colleagues and Friends in ABC-MC
From: Rev. Denise Janssen, Camp ABC-MC Director

I am writing to invite you and your congregation to participate in a creative new camping experience, Camp ABC-MC, designed especially for youth who have completed grades 5-8 from congregations of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. Information is provided here that will help you nominate youth from your congregation in this age group who may be interested in attending. Please take some time to read this information carefully and decide if this new camping opportunity is a good fit for youth from your congregation. If you have questions not addressed here, please feel free to contact me (708.955.8913 or revdlj@att.net).

Let me attempt to address any potential confusion that might arise about this camp and the camping ministry of Camp Grow. For many years, our region has supported a camping ministry through Camp Grow – and the programs of Camp Grow will continue this summer as they have in the past, assisting young and old alike from our congregations to “find God’s purpose for (their) lives.” If the programs offered at Camp Grow feel like a good fit for the needs of your congregation’s children and youth, then please continue to encourage your students to attend camp at Camp Grow. And consider applying for camp scholarships through ABC-MC for up to two youth from your congregation who could afford Camp Grow programs with a little help.

The new Camp ABC-MC experience, offered this summer from June 27 to July 3 is an especially exciting opportunity for congregations who have found Camp Grow programming doesn’t quite fit the needs of their congregation and its youth. Camp ABC-MC is focused on offering the profoundly formational experience that Christian camps/conferences/retreats can provide for youth while also ensuring an engaging and question-friendly environment. Camp ABC-MC will create a safe space for youth in the target age-range to build a framework for understanding the realities and possibilities of their lives in light of their faith. Together we will explore a variety of tools for spiritual formation that foster a living faith through creative and critical thinking about who we are in relation to God and our world. In addition, campers will get to know other youth, as well as laypeople and clergy from other ABC-MC congregations!

Although parts are still in formation, I can tell you that the Camp ABC-MC program this year will focus around mirrors and the rich metaphors they offer us in understanding how we reflect God’s image, how we can see ourselves as God sees us, and how we can mirror Jesus’ teachings and actions in our lives. Campers will create several mirror-related items during the week to take home with them as they continue to work with the images we begin to explore at camp. A typical day will include things like Bible study, small group activities, guided personal reflection on MP3 players, coffee house for expressing thoughts and talents, worship with a ritual for the day, campfire, and lots of time for recreation of all sorts.

Camp ABC-MC participants will have a really good time together on the beautiful grounds of the American Baptist Assembly/Green Lake Conference Center. We will be housed in rooms of 2-4 youth with a shared bathroom (adult counselors have separate rooms nearby) in the Christian Writing Center and Robbins House. Meals mostly will be prepared together at one of the houses, with some meals provided buffet style in the Kraft Centre. Special food needs can be accommodated.

The value of Camp ABC-MC is over \$500 per participant! However, we are pleased to have financial resources and donations this year only that keep **the cost of Camp ABC-MC to just \$100 per camper**, to be shared between them and their congregation (we suggest \$50/\$50).

Because Camp ABC-MC is being held this year at the same time as two other large conferences at ABA/GLCC, space is limited. Two youth from each congregation are invited, ***as nominated by their pastor or church council***, but space is limited to a total of 34 youth and adults this year. ***Campers will***

be admitted on a first-come, first served basis. We hope next summer, in 2011, to have our own week exclusively for Camp ABC-MC at Camp Grow, which will allow for many more campers!

I recognize that the time between now and the camp is short, so it is important to act quickly to determine if there are young people from your church who are interested in and able to attend. We are confident that, in future years, we will have information available earlier.

To nominate youth, please send me an email with the name, grade/age, parent/s' name, address, phone, and email of the youth (up to two) nominated from your congregation. **The deadline for nominations is June 1, but space is very limited – please send your nominations as soon as possible!**

P.S. If you are not able to nominate youth for Camp ABC-MC, or if youth from your congregation enjoy Camp Grow programs instead, you and your congregation can still support this effort to broaden the scope of youth who benefit from camping ministry in ABC-MC. Most importantly, please be in prayer for this week of Camp ABC-MC and for all the weeks of Camp Grow programming this summer. If you or members of your congregation feel so led, you can also volunteer to help with Camp ABC-MC or a week of Camp Grow programming. Additionally, you or your congregation can make a gift in support of either Camp ABC-MC (through the ABC-MC office) or Camp Grow Ministries (directly to Camp Grow). For your interest in and support of camping ministry in our region, thank you!

Regional Scholarships for ABCMC Campers at Camp Grow

Again this year the Region has a limited amount of income from endowment to provide financial assistance for kids from ABCMC churches who want to attend Camp Grow this summer but couldn't without this aid and support from their church. ***(This is different from the camping opportunity described by Denise Janssen in the note above.)*** Scholarships of up to \$100 per child and a limit of two per church are available to the extent that funds are available. Since we want to help kids who need it the most, we want to encourage congregations to at least match these scholarships.

Please let me know by e-mail (larry@abcmc.org) or letter (P.O. Box 15127, Chicago, IL 60615) if your church wants to apply for these scholarships for up to two children from your congregation. Simply indicate whether you will be seeking this scholarship aid for one or two children. The deadline is June 1st, but the earlier the notification to me the better.

Larry

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Annual Mother-Daughter Program and Luncheon at First Baptist Church of Park Forest

Theme: "Woman of God -- Moments of Grace"

Date - Saturday, May 8, 2010

Time - 11:00 a.m. (program immediately followed by luncheon)

Place - First Baptist Church of Park Forest, 80 North Orchard Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466

Key Speaker - Reverend Lori Holmes, Pastor Of Caldwell AME Zion Church, Kankakee IL

RSVP or additional info at (708) 748 - 2566 (First Baptist)

ABCUSA NEWS

Visit the American Baptist News Service for complete articles and current ABC-USA news at <http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

American Baptist Biennial – Save the Date

For more information, go to:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/www.abc-sa.org/EventRegistration/Biennial2011/tabid/465/Default.aspx>



**CELEBRATE!
¡CELEBRAD!
2011**

The Biennial: ABCUSA
San Juan, Puerto Rico • June 24–26, 2011

NEWS FROM ABC ORGANIZATIONS

Judson Mourns the Passing of Dr. Harm A. Weber

(Elgin, Ill. UPDATED April 29, 2010) On Tuesday, April 27, Judson University's chancellor and former president, Dr. Harm A. Weber of Bradenton, Fla., passed away due to complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 83.

A founding member of Judson's Board of Trustees, Dr. Weber served as president of Judson from 1969 through December 1991. When he became president of Judson in 1969, the university was experiencing tight financial conditions, a situation that he turned around. During his tenure as president, he oversaw several new buildings on the campus. When he retired as president in 1991, he was named chancellor of Judson, a title he held until his death. Since his retirement, Dr. Weber and his wife, Arlie, split their time each year between homes in Minnesota and Florida. In 2007, Judson's newest building, the Harm A. Weber Academic Center, was dedicated to the former president.

An article in the April 29 issue of the [Daily Herald](#) reflects on Dr. Weber's life and his relationship to Judson University. In the article, Judson's current President, Dr. Jerry B. Cain, described Dr. Weber as statesman and notes, "He could dream dreams that nobody else saw and make them become a reality. Those earliest years you incur debt to build buildings, yet he saw through all those debts. Kept the faculty paid and students happy."

Dr. Weber is survived by his wife of 61 years, Arlie, and children Harm A. (Lynda) Weber, III of Danbury, Wisc., Matthew Karl Weber of Des Plaines, Ill., and Jan Christine (Steve Buttress) Weber of Kearney, Neb. To read more about Dr. Weber's life, view the [following obituary](#).

Upcoming Memorial Events

A memorial service will be held in Bradenton, Fla., at 2 p.m. Saturday May 1. The service will be held at Bethel Baptist Church, 1805 30th Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205.

At the request of the family, a memorial service will be held at Judson University this fall to honor Dr. Weber's life and service to so many. This service will be open for community members, students, alumni, faculty and church members in Illinois area.

Share Your Remembrances

Many Judson alumni are posting remembrances about Dr. Weber on Judson's Alumni Facebook pages. To view these comments and post your own notes, please visit [Judson's alumni group on Facebook](#).

Please keep Arlie and the entire family in your prayers. Cards for the family may be sent to the following address:

Arlie Weber
3611 100 Street West
Bradenton, FL 34210

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for the family of Dr. Harm A. Weber.

Please pray for family from Montrose Baptist whose baby fell and suffered head trauma.

Please pray for all of those affected by and perpetrating violence in Chicago and cities around the country.

Please pray for our country in the midst of the struggle for immigration reform and financial reform.

Please pray for the people of Haiti, the people of Chile, and people around the world who are suffering.

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for our troops and our government.

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

May 1 – Spring Dinner for Cook County Jail Ministry, First Baptist Church of Oak Park

May 8 – ABCMC Family Council Meeting at First Baptist Church of LaGrange, 20 N. Ashland Avenue LaGrange, Illinois 60525, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

May 8 – “Woman of God -- Moments of Grace” Annual Mother-Daughter Program and Luncheon, First Baptist Church of Park Forest, 80 North Orchard Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466, 11:00 a.m.

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.

May 23 – William Wallin in Recital, a benefit for One Hope United at the Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Ave., Wilmette, IL, 3:00 p.m.

June 21 – July 30 – A Cool Summer Experience, Summer Educational Program, First Baptist Church of Waukegan

August 19 – 20 – *Women Together, Lifting and Encouraging One Another*, Conference for Female Clergy, New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

June 24 – 26, 2011 – American Baptist Biennial, San Juan, Puerto Rico

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.