

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

**May 20, 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

I hope you have taken -- or will take -- time to read the letter that a group of us drafted on initiating a conversation on Immigration Reform within the American Baptist family. The statement (in both English and Spanish) is available on our ABCMC website ([www.abcmc.org](http://www.abcmc.org)--on the left column under "Mission Priorities") along with a page that lists "Resources." As you will see, we aren't suggesting that we've got THE answers to this complex issue, but we do believe that our discussions must be informed by the biblical witness and our history as American Baptists (in that order, by the way). Please consider ways in which this document could be used for conversation in congregations and other settings.

The Retirement Research Foundation is again offering grants for making church facilities more accessible in Cook, Lake, and DuPage counties. Grants will be awarded for up to 50% of a project's total cost, for a maximum of \$30,000. If you are considering an accessibility project in your church, be aware that the deadline for applying is June 25, 2010. Complete information is available at <http://www.rrf.org/accessibleFaithGrantProgram.htm> or by contacting the Retirement Research Foundation, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 430, Chicago, IL 60631, or phoning 773-714-8080.

For those attending this year's Hampton University Ministers' Conference (June 6-11), the ABCUSA reception will be held on Wednesday, June 9, beginning at 9:30 PM in Conference Room A of the Embassy Suites at Hampton Roads Conference Center.

As we celebrate Pentecost this Sunday, may we be open to the power of the Spirit in our individual and shared lives, energizing us to work on behalf of the Beloved Community that Jesus-the-Evangel proclaimed and demonstrated.

In the cause of the Evangel,

Larry

## ABCMC NEWS

### ***Reason #7 to Nominate Youth for Camp ABCMC...***

Our region's very own, brand new week of camp, held at Green Lake from June 27-July 3, features a unique opportunity for youth who've completed grades 5-8 to meet and get to know ABCMC pastors, lay leaders, and youth from other ABCMC churches. It's a lot more fun to be involved in our Family Council meetings and gatherings when you get to see friends -- people you know! Camp ABCMC helps our region's churches cultivate transformed and committed youth who might just provide leadership for our region and/or denomination in the future. Are there one or two youth in your congregation you'd like to nominate? There's still room. Contact Rev. Denise Janssen for more information @ 708.955.8913 or [revdlj@att.net](mailto:revdlj@att.net).

### ***Thinking Theologically***

I encourage you to read "Thinking Theologically," which begins on page 9: an important reflection entitled "Misplaying God" by Executive Minister Larry Greenfield.

## ***Illinois State Budget Crisis***

ABCMC is a longtime member of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, now one of the most interfaith councils of its kind in the nation. I serve as a member of the Council's Executive Committee. Recently, the Board of Directors of the Council unanimously passed the statement on the Illinois Budget Crisis found below. I urge you to read it and allow it to inform your actions as a citizen in relation to your elected representatives to the General Assembly.

Larry

May 20, 2010

### COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

#### STATEMENT ON THE FINANCIAL CRISIS IN ILLINOIS

In all of our religious traditions it is never the case that the poor, the young, and the vulnerable should bear the burdens of the non-poor and the rich, whether in good times or in bad.

It is, for all of our traditions, just the opposite: in all times, but especially in times of crisis, it is the moral and religious responsibility of those who have the ability to help those who have not.

We are, therefore, troubled and dismayed when we witness the current efforts to address the severe economic crisis of the State of Illinois by cutting support for exactly those who need help the most.

The widespread silence of the State's citizenry and our religious communities in the face of these unethical actions troubles and dismays us even more.

We call on fellow citizens to reflect on their sacred ethical and religious traditions, and to draw on those traditions in formulating public policies that constructively and responsibly address the State's budget crisis.

And we call on our political leaders to have the courage to advocate for public policies that protect and support the poor, the young, and the vulnerable in these times of our shared economic crisis.

### ***Ministers' Gathering***

Hi Colleagues,

Are you one of our region's ministers who are not currently in pulpit ministry -- either because you are involved in other areas of specialized ministry, are discerning new callings or find yourself taking a break at this time?

I'm extending a personal invitation to gather at my home in Bolingbrook for lunch on Monday, August 16, from 10:30am-1:30pm. The directions will be forthcoming and are very simple. I am going to try and have a pick-up at the Downers Grove Metra Station for those who are dependent on public transportation. (There will be one pick-up and drop off after the meeting, in a vehicle that can accommodate 4 people.)

As the date draws nearer, I will be asking for an RSVP as lunch will be provided. I hope that you are marking your calendars for the date and opportunity to visit, share and have fellowship with others who have been called into ministry, but are engaged in ministerial areas outside of the local church.

Shalom, Rev. Connie Stone

## ***TIM Covenant Group for Specialized Ministry Clergy***

Dear Colleagues,

You may have seen this invite (*italicized* below) in a recent eWind and/or a first follow-up email from me. This potential covenant group will be for those ordained and outside of “regular” pulpit ministry who seek fellowship, space to explore how our callings are unfolding or being re-shaped, and what spiritual practices are nourishing of ourselves and our place in the wider Body. So far, it looks like we’re drawing interest of those in “specialized ministries,” those between recognizable places, and those retired but not retiring☺.

Over the next few days, we’ll make a final determination about whether we have the critical mass of 5 committed members in order to submit a grant proposal for the Ministers Council Together in Ministry program. I will draft that application and covenant – to be approved by you -- with some pretty basic language, if we get sufficient participants enlisting by email by Sunday May 23. (If not, we’ll let it go for now and see if people wish to revisit this for the September grant deadline.)

We’d be potentially funded prorated at a half-year, and could use those funds for any combination of gathering, materials, paid facilitator etc. that we like. The director is assuming this group, just getting underway mid-year, will be committed to meeting through 2011 at full funding.

What is the time/commute commitment you might ask? We would devise that together to be most achievable for all. Covenant signators will need to feel highly comfortable committing to following through on attendance. We would be obligated by the grant to meet a minimum of 6 hours, preferably 12, before December 31. We could make that a monthly commitment or 2-3 longer gatherings. Absolutely, we will find the geographical center. Time commitments beyond physical attendance depend on whether we want to read or do outside things, and how we envision the coordinating/facilitating role to keep us connected and moving. I am open – but by no means attached – to serving as the paid facilitator.

If you’d like to talk further about this, feel free to call me at 773.655.4357.

Peace and love,  
Rev. Jacki Belile

*Original eWind Announcement*

*At the Ministers Council retreat in February, our facilitator Joe Kutter agreed to open up the grant application cycle to consider funding of additional Together in Ministry covenant groups in Metro Chicago. This is truly an outcome of the evident spirit of deepened commitment to one another and desire to extend additional support to ministers through the TIM structure. Several local ministers have indicated interest since August 2009 in a group consisting of those living out their calling in specialized ministries, non-traditional ministry or in a season of ministry transition. Jacki Belile is convening the application process and members' discernment about focus, leadership, schedule etc. for such a group. If you are interested in participating in a group for 2010-2011, you'll need to join the conversation and shape the group's covenant (to be completed before we can apply for funds). Contact Jacki at [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net) or 773.655.4357 BEFORE April 19.*

## NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

### *News from Morgan Park Baptist Church*

The congregation at Morgan Park Baptist Church recently committed itself to saying a psalm a day until all 150 are completed. The pastor will remind the congregation each week what psalm is being said in case people need to "catch up."

Morgan Park Baptist (11024 South Bell Avenue; Chicago, IL 60643) will offer ten free classes in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon Do on Thursday evenings beginning June 3. These classes will run from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the church gymnasium. Pastor Thomas Aldworth is a third degree certified black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has taught it for twenty years. These classes will only be offered during the summer months and are limited to adult beginners. If any ABCMC clergy are interested in participating - please call the church at 773-445-9443 or email the pastor at [draldworth@aol.com](mailto:draldworth@aol.com).

### 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>

### *Denominational Leaders Endorse Letter Addressing Immigration*

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 5/14/10)**—On May 6, 2010, a meeting was held at the Mission Center in Valley Forge to discuss how American Baptists might engage the issue of immigration and immigration reform. A letter was written and endorsed by many denominational leaders, most of whom attended the meeting.

The letter is an open message promoting a view of immigration reform focused on mercy and justice, mirroring God's love for all of humankind. The letter is available on the American Baptist Churches USA website, at: <http://www.abc-usa.org>. Click [here](#) for a direct link.

American Baptists have been in the forefront of welcoming immigrants into our country and churches for over 100 years. There is no one racial or ethnic group holding majority membership in the American Baptist Churches, USA.

General Secretary Roy Medley has noted, "There is broad agreement among Protestant leaders (including those represented in the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Council of Churches, Sojourners and Church World Service) that immigration reform in our country must reflect mercy and justice rooted in God's love through 'immigration reform legislation that is consistent with humanitarian values, supports families, provides a pathway to citizenship for immigrant workers already in the U.S., expands legal avenues for workers to enter the U.S. with their rights and due process fully protected, and examines solutions to address the root causes of migration.'" (quoted by Evangelicals for Social Action from Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform-Sojourners) This moral framework is shared by Roman Catholic and Orthodox faith leaders as well."

*'And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'* (Matt 25:38-40)

"We do not claim any superior understanding of the issue or what the Gospel demands of us. We know there are differing perspectives in our denominational family," the letter states. "One of our purposes in writing you, in fact, is to encourage brothers and sisters in the faith to share those different perspectives so that our conversation and our responses in word and deed can be richer and more representative."

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." Hebrews 10:24

## NEWS FROM ABC ORGANIZATIONS

### ***Women Word – Spring 2010***

The American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) office is very pleased to announce that the latest issue of *Women Word* is now available online. You can find it in two places:

The ABWIM page of [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org), using this link:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/WhoWeAre/MinistryMission/ABCOrganizations/WomenInMinistry.aspx>

The Resources for Women in Ministry section of the Ministers Council website using this link:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/WIM%20Resources/documents/NewWomenWordSpring2010.pdf>

We are so grateful for all of our contributors and their articles and, especially, for our editor, Karen Pickler.

Happy reading!

*Maureen Morrissey for the Rev. Holly Bean*

### ***William Wallin in Recital – A Benefit for One Hope United***

A BENEFIT FOR

**one hope  
united.**

Protecting children.  
Strengthening families.

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William Wallin in Recital

*Chopin, Debussy, Gershwin*

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SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2010 at 3:00 P.M., Reception to follow

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The Community Church of Wilmette  
1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois

At Forest Ave. and Wilmette Ave., one block north of Lake St.



Free. Donations accepted. All proceeds will benefit One Hope United.

One Hope United provides advocacy, support and treatment for vulnerable children and families in Cook County and northern Illinois. Services include counseling, child development centers, residential services for children at risk, foster care, and adoption. One Hope United was formerly known as Kids Hope United.

# PEACE NEWS



8201 South Dobson Avenue

Chicago, IL 60619

Telephone: 773.371.2448 / Fax: 773.371.2449/ [www.morelikechrist.org](http://www.morelikechrist.org)

Pastor Mitty Collier, Preacher, Teacher

May 18, 2010

Dear Apostles, Bishops, Pastors, Ministers, Evangelists and all God's children,

I have been troubled about what is happening to our youth, as most people are. They seem to have no regard for human life whatsoever. First, God gave me the Word that we are to speak over our children. It is found in Isaiah 54:13, "All thy children SHALL be taught of the LORD and great SHALL be the peace of thy children." Rather than speak negative things about our children, let us begin to speak what God says about them. Put their names into the verse and continually profess God's Word over them.

Then God led me to 2 Chronicles, chapter 20. We are all familiar with the chapter, I am sure. King Jehoshaphat cast himself upon the Lord in a helpless situation and rested upon the promises of God. He was told that in order to win the war he didn't need atom bombs or weapons. All he needed to do was organize a choir to go ahead of the army and sing and praise God by saying, "THE LORD IS GOOD, FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER."

The LORD then revealed to me, from this Scripture, that if we, who are called by His name, would come out of our churches at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and line up down our streets, beginning in front of our own church, and just begin to sing out – say out – pray out, "THE LORD IS GOOD, FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER," that He would act for us. He is the LORD and He changeth not! This same God will move on behalf of our children and communities. We could do this for at least 30 minutes before going back inside our buildings. While we are out there, if we come in contact with any youth, we are to lay hands on them and pray for them. God will move because He is obligated to do so! If we would just humble ourselves and pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways – God will hear from heaven. He will forgive our sins and heal our land. Something must be done! If we do something – God is obligated to do something. We must do what we can – and God will do what we can't. All people who don't go to church (red, yellow, black or white), can come out of their homes, apartments, and rooms at the same 11:00 a.m. hour on Sunday, JUNE 20, 2010 – FATHER'S DAY - and do the same thing. Just say it, sing it, or pray it – "THE LORD IS GOOD, FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER!" We don't need weapons – the youth will have to step back and watch God. As men stand up and be men and women stand up and be women – God will work for us with our children and communities!

Please take this seriously. All of you, who are in leadership positions, please gather your people and let's get started on this and step back and watch God do it! He will "work all things together for the good of those who love Him, for those who are called according to His purpose."

I know this is what the LORD told me to do. I don't care who spearheads it, or who wants to be the leader; my name doesn't have to be called. I just want to do it so that God can be glorified, and our children be saved! Please respond to this petition! Pass this email on to all of your pastor, preacher, evangelist, teacher and Christian friends. Thanks so much.

In His service,

Pastor Mitty Collier

## PRAYER REQUESTS



Please pray for the family of Kay Jenkins.

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 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 3** – Beginning of ten free classes in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon Do on Thursday evenings at Morgan Park Baptist, 11024 South Bell Avenue; Chicago, IL 60643

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

**June 27 - July 3** – Camp ABC-MC, Contact Rev. Denise Janssen for more information (708.955.8913 or [revdlj@att.net](mailto:revdlj@att.net)).

**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](mailto:office@abcmc.org). If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know via email at [office@abcmc.org](mailto:office@abcmc.org).

# THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT THE COMMON GOOD

May 20, 2010

“Misplaying God”

I’m going to try hard not to sound like that line from “I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face” in *My Fair Lady* that goes “I’m very grateful she’s a woman/and so easy to forget/ Rather like a habit/One can always break – and yet...”

And I’m going to try very hard not to act like the Pharisee in the parable Jesus told about people who trust too much in themselves and their own righteousness and show contempt for others, saying and praying: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people...”

That effort shouldn’t be hard since, in my own Baptist tradition, so many zealous Christians have resisted – well, no, “fought” is the more accurate verb – the ordination of women and the more comprehensive subordination of girls and women in the family, religious institutions, and society at-large.

But the temptation for Baptist and Protestant self-satisfaction is still there in me and others because there have been small outcroppings in our histories that gave the impression that we actually believed and put into practice something as fundamental as the claim that every human being is created equal before the Creative and Transformative Reality and that women and men equally are called to serve the end of an all-inclusive Beloved Community.

The temptation for self-satisfaction is greater, in fact, now, because some relatively significant steps have taken place in some religious and civic places over the last century to make better, if not actual good, on those claims about the full equality of human females and males, overlooking how far we yet have to go in order to genuinely approach the sacred and secular norm of equality between and among the sexes and the genders.

Yet I find I can’t help myself, it seems, when I thanked God this week that I am a part of religious and civic movements that are, at the very least rhetorically, committed to equality, in distinction from a religious – indeed, Christian – institution in the United States, that resolutely and callously denies equality to women and girls.

I read that the Rev. Janine Denomme died of cancer in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago.

I read that the deceased Rev. Denomme had been denied a Roman Catholic burial at her local parish, and that her funeral mass would instead be held at the First United Methodist Church in adjoining Evanston, Illinois.

Why?

Because Janine Denomme, a person created by and in the image of the Creative and Transformative Reality, courageously embraced her full equality and her call to Christian ministry by being ordained by Roman Catholic Women priests.

That was sufficient grounds for denying her official last rites in her own religious tradition.

WBEZ, the National Public Radio station in Chicago, reported:

The Catholic church never recognized Denomme’s ordination. The Archdiocese of Chicago says Denomme automatically separated herself from the Church when she participated in “the simulation of the sacrament of Holy Orders.” The diocese says she knowingly and willingly participated in the simulation and brought excommunication upon herself. And because of that Denomme is denied a Catholic funeral. The Archdiocese says Denomme could only be allowed a Church burial if she gave “some sign of repentance before death.”

That, despite the fact that she had been a member of the Church her whole earthly life and served as a lay preacher, religious teacher, church musician, spiritual director, parish council member, and leader of youth programs for the Church.

Please don't accuse me of saying and praying: "God, I thank you that I'm not like other people." Or: "God I thank you that I haven't been a part of and am not now in a religious community that isn't like some other religious communities."

I hope God knows those are not my prayers – or that, if they are, God will forgive me for them.

But my prayers are that the Creative and Transformative Reality will find a restless presence in the Church into which Janine Denomme was irregularly ordained, that someday a creative and transformed Roman Catholic Church will ordain women like Janine Denomme, and that, when that day arrives, Janine Denomme, will be given a Catholic burial in her own parish.

For now, however, my prayer is also that: "I'm very grateful she was and is a woman/Not easy to forget/Surely to become, sometime, a habit/the Church should never break/Not now...but yet..."