

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

November 24, 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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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

The Apostle Paul wrote the disciples of Jesus in Philippi that they should always -- did you get that? always! -- be rejoicing, whatever the circumstances, out of a sense of thanksgiving for what God had done and is doing as incarnated in God's Anointed. In addition to all the other reasons you have for celebrating Thanksgiving this year, may you find a way and some time to give thanks to God for the love that sustains and saves your life and the life of the world.

In the cause of the Evangel,

Larry

Thinking Theologically

Check back next week for Thinking Theologically.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Invitation to Screening of "The Power of Forgiveness"

Rev. Jacki Belile, CEC invites ABCMC friends to an upcoming screening of the documentary *The Power of Forgiveness* on Thursday, December 9 at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted in Chicago. This screening is part of the ongoing MindfulLive! Movie Nights, a community-building initiative of *Mindful Metropolis* magazine. The reception/networking time begins at 5:30pm, followed by the film at 7pm and a panel discussion from 8:30-9:15pm. Panelists include Jacki (convener and moderator), Dr. Darren Weissman, Hema Pokharna, Ph.D., and Ruth Lipschutz, LCSW, ACSW. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Visit www.mindfulmetropolis.com to buy tickets, and www.thepowerofforgiveness.com for more info about the movie. Jacki is a member of Lake Street Church and the founder and director of Living Well Ministries, where she coaches individuals and non-profits striving to live well. She offers classes, retreats and short-term spiritual coaching on themes of forgiveness, faith transitions, energy leadership and work/life balance.

What's Going On in Your Congregation for the Upcoming Holidays and Holy Days?



**Let us know so we can share your events in
upcoming editions of eWind!**

Email announcements to veronica@abcmc.org.

**Partners for Sacred Places to Hold Workshop at Greater Bethesda
Missionary Baptist Church**



Partners for Sacred Places
Chicago Office
www.sacredplaces.org

AT THE INTERSECTION
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,
& COMMUNITY



**RENAISSANCE
ROOFING, INC**

*Partners For Sacred Places and Renaissance Roofing Inc. are pleased to announce two upcoming workshops in December! All of our workshops are **FREE** and open to the public.*

Tuesday, December 7, 2010 - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Bare Necessities of Life:

Why Development is Fundamental for Congregations

Presented by Gianfranco Grande

National Development Director and

Director, Chicago Regional Office, Partners for Sacred Places

Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church

109 East 53rd Street, Chicago

Thursday, December 16, 2010 - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

No Fiddler on the Roof:

Identifying Typical Roofing Troubles for Sacred Places

Presented by Renaissance Roofing Inc.

St. Matthias Manifesto Parish

2310 W. Ainslie Street, Chicago

To Register: Please email or call Leanne Gehrig at lgehrig@sacredplaces.org or Toll Free: 866.796.0297 x97. **Please mention the workshop you would like to attend, your name, affiliation, phone number and email address.** Thank you!

North Shore Baptist Church Christmas Concert

North Shore
Second Sunday Series
presents a Christmas Concert of

**Brass
&
Carols**



featuring VII Brass
& the North Shore Chancel Choir

2:00pm Sunday, December 12, 2010
The North Shore Baptist Church
5244 North Lakewood Ave Chicago

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>

National Ministries Board—Doing Ministry As American Baptist Home Mission Societies—Prepares To Move Forward

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/23/10)—At its meeting here Nov. 19-20, the Board of National Ministries, which carries out ministry as American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), focused on learning, developing skills and encouraging relationships to build a strong base for moving the organization forward in these challenging times.

Stressing that the meeting belongs to the board, ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III urged board members to ensure that their opinions are both heard and recorded, as ABHMS works to develop a “21st century ministry model.”

“We learned that ABHMS needs to be healthy if the denomination is to move forward,” said Wright-Riggins, referring to feedback gathered as part of a mission alignment process conducted by SchellingPoint, a Malvern, Pa.-based organizational consulting firm.

Highlights of the meeting included a dialoguing model dubbed “Corinthian Conversation Café,” in which board members split into intimate groups several times to discuss provided questions, thereby strengthening relationships among themselves and offering crucial feedback directly to Wright-Riggins and ABHMS staff.

Another highlight was a technology skill building orientation—specifically an introduction to the use of both Microsoft SharePoint and Adobe Connect Pro—by Rev. David Cushman, ABHMS’ research & information services officer. Promising next-business-day support for board members using these software programs, Cushman noted that the executive committee encourages their use to promote more frequent collaboration between meetings.

Rev. Eddie Cruz, ABHMS’ associate executive director for development, distributed information regarding the 2011 America for Christ (AFC) Offering, “Touching Lives, Transforming People,” and noted that additional materials, including DVDs, will be mailed to churches soon. He also recognized the top 200 AFC-giving churches for 2010. On behalf of First Baptist Church (FBC), Fremont, Neb., Beryl Hornberger accepted a certificate for highest giving among board members’ churches. Accepting a certificate for the highest increase in giving among members’ churches was Susan Pittman on behalf of FBC, Terra Haute, Ind.

The board unanimously approved the 2011 operating budget, a policy regarding the type of gifts that ABHMS can and cannot accept, and the adoption of ABHMS’ mission statement, which reads, in part: “to minister as the caring heart, serving hands, going feet and prophetic voice of Jesus Christ—establishing ministries of discipleship, community and justice by equipping and networking followers of Jesus to transform persons, congregations, neighborhoods and cultures throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.”

Also approved through unanimous vote were recommendations for Biennial award recipients, to be announced in a future press release, submitted by the 2011 Biennial Awards Working Group.

ABWIM Leaders Announce Plan to Move Forward

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/23/10)—At the ABCUSA General Board meeting November 18-21 in King of Prussia, Pa., a new plan for American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) work was announced by ABWIM Steering Committee chair Rev. Mary A. Hulst and ABWIM consultant Rev. Holly Vincent Bean. The plan concludes a year of learning and reassessment by the steering committee, which also includes members Rev. Dr. Alice J. Greene and Rev. Lauren L. Ng.

The ABWIM plan seeks to educate churches towards greater openness to women clergy; advocate for the equal partnership of women and men in ministerial leadership; cultivate the leadership of new women clergy and celebrate the gifts they bring to the church. The plan focuses ABWIM work on a set of strategic priorities for the years 2011 through 2015.

A search for a part-time national director will begin in December of this year. The national director's work to fulfill the strategic priorities will include building new and mutually beneficial partnerships with ABC entities. In addition to the national director, the plan calls for a team of volunteer coordinators to advance the ABWIM work in regional settings and with various groups of women clergy. An ABWIM Advisory Committee will also be created to work with the national director on matters of strategy and support.

Mary Hulst commented, "American Baptist Churches have officially supported the equal partnership of women and men in ministry for many years, but that goal has remained elusive. With this plan, we hope to activate and energize the potential we know is out there."

General Board members showed appreciation for the plan, and General Secretary Roy Medley endorsed it saying, "To thrive, our churches need the leadership gifts of all those called by God. This plan offers real promise." Watch for the job posting and updates on the new ABWIM plan at: <http://www.abwim.org>

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Urban Health Initiative (UHI) Summit

UHI SUMMIT DETAILS AT A GLANCE:

DATE: Tuesday, December 14, 2010

LOCATION: South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive

TIME: 7:30am-1pm

Breakfast and Registration begin at 7:30am

Program begins at 8am

PARKING: Complimentary

To register online visit: <http://uhisummit.eventbrite.com>

To register by phone call: 1-800-378-9675

The University of Chicago Medical Center's Urban Health Initiative (UHI) and South Side Health and Vitality Studies (SSHVS) are forging relationships with community leaders and members to improve health and well-being on Chicago's South Side. The efforts involve a variety of approaches, both medical and social in nature. This year we are combining the annual South Side Health and Vitality Studies Community-University Retreat and the UHI Summit in order to provide our partners with a comprehensive overview of the UHI as a whole. The UHI Summit serves to explore the community's present role in the UHI and the Medical Center and strengthen those community connections. This year's Summit will engage community leaders, university researchers, physicians, and staff to discuss the priorities and next steps of the UHI and its programs including the Center for Community Health and Vitality, the South Side Health and Vitality Studies, and Community-Based Medical Education. We will spend the day updating our guests about UHI's progress, as well as work together to review progress and discuss what is to come. As a leader in our community, your voice and insight is essential to this work. We hope to see you all there.

WEEKLY LECTIONARY STUDIES

Sunday, November 28, 2010, the 1st Sunday of Advent

<http://www.abcmc.org/contents/ePublications/lectionaryStudies.html>

Lectionary readings for **the 1st Sunday of Advent**, November 28, 2010.

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44.

The liturgical year begins with visions that place the world under God's judgment, visions that shape attitudes by which the faithful may live in the present.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for nation of South Korea in light of the recent artillery attack by the North Koreans.

Please pray for the Chicago Public School System.

Please pray for the end of religious hatred in America, particularly as it is currently being displayed against the Islamic faith.

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 peace in the Middle East, and for negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli leaders

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.

ABC CALENDAR

December 7 – Partners for Sacred Places Workshop, Greater Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, 5301 S. Michigan, Chicago, 6:00 p.m.

December 12 – Christmas Concert, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, 2:00 p.m.

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.