

Metro Chicago

eWind

August 20, 2011



Seeking Justice

Loving Mercy

Walking Humbly

eWind is a weekly electronic newsletter from and for the American Baptists of the Windy City and its environs, covering matters as diverse as our region.

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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER



Maybe it's because three of my five grandchildren are spending time with me this week (before everyone goes back to school).

More likely it's because I'm distraught from the continued killing of young folks on the streets of Chicago. It just seems to never end.

Whatever the reason, I've been preoccupied with the thought of how we (our American society, the American churches, American families) are doing in terms of protecting and nurturing our children.

A passing remark by Pastor Susan Johnson of Hyde Park Union Church made that even more poignant for me when she reported on a comment made to her by epidemiologist and physician Gary Slutkin of the University of Illinois at Chicago and, even more importantly, the founder of CeaseFire, a violence prevention program here in Chicago.

Slutkin told Susan that he had given up trying to work with churches in this effort to stop youth violence. He suggested that the churches were much too concerned about "spiritual" things than to care for the lives and well-being of the kids supposedly entrusted to them.

What a horrible indictment of us!

It isn't the complete story by any means.

We can take some comfort in knowing that American Baptists founded the institutions of care for children and youth that is now One Hope United (OHU). But certainly we can't rest on the shoulders of our forebears in ABCMC. We have a demanding job now of supporting this ministry so that OHU can continue and expand "protecting children, strengthening families."

And certainly the city-wide Urban Dolorosa project initiated by Hyde Park Union is a concrete way we in ABCMC can be involved in causing Dr. Slutkin to change his evaluation of us. (See the notice on p. 5 about the next gathering on Wednesday, August 24.)

I also know a number of churches in the Region have their own as well as cooperative programs focused on youth.

All of our churches have the opportunity to involve their young people in our denomination's national youth gathering, which will take place in Washington, D.C. this time, on July 24-28, 2012. That may seem like a long time in the future, but the truth is we've got to start planning for it now.

ABCMC has budgeted \$12,000 to help youth from our churches financially with the costs. Pastor Carol Jamieson Brown of the First Baptist Church of Park Forest has generously accepted the responsibility of chairing this effort. She will be in communication with you soon about what needs to be done and by when. So be on the lookout for that.

All of these matters are a part of our *Transformation First!* initiative, which will be discussed in more detail next Saturday at our Family Council meeting at North Shore Baptist Church. Please make every effort to be present. Even more, please don't make Dr. Slutkin's indictment apply to our future as God's people in Metro Chicago.

In the cause of the Evangel,

Larry

Thinking Theologically

Check back next week for Thinking Theologically.

WEEKLY LECTIONARY STUDIES

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 21, 2011

- ✚ Exodus 1:8-2:10
- ✚ Psalm 124
- ✚ Romans 12:1-8
- ✚ Matthew 16:13-20



Oppressed Israel hides a Moses, Peter confesses a Messiah, and Paul calls for a spiritual worship.
Jay Wilcoxon

ABCMC NEWS



CALL TO MEETING

FAMILY COUNCIL
Saturday, August 27, 2011

North Shore Baptist Church
5244 N. Lakewood, Chicago, IL 60640

Host Pastors:

*Rev. Carol McVetty, Rev. Doug Harris,
Rev. Rony Reyes, and Rev. Yuki Scroggins*

Theme: Preparation for *Transformation First!*

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:00 a.m. | Gathering of the Fellowship |
| 9:45 a.m. | Program: Preparation for Transformation First |
| 10:45 a.m. | Business Meeting |
| Noon | Adjournment (lunch will not be served) |

To RSVP

Please send an email to office@abcmc.org to indicate your attendance by Wednesday, August 24th.

Save the Date – And Get Involved in the 2011 Children's Sabbath

“CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN”

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream. (Amos 5:24 NIV)



You Are Invited to Participate in The Second Annual Children's Sabbath



**Sunday, October 16, 2011
4:00 p.m.**

(The location will be announced at a later date.)

Please contact Rev. Francine Stark to get involved!
312-952-8998, revfstark@aol.com.

NEEDED:

- Children's choirs
- Singers or worshipful movement by youth groups
- Church representatives from the October 8th forums to talk about their forums and the decisions/ministries/programs being developed or modified as a result of the forums.
- Fruit/ vegetable trays, or simple desserts for the reception after the worship service.
- Paper plates, napkins, plastic forks, knives, and spoons for the reception
(The host church will provide the tables and disposable table covers)
- Displays regarding children's ministries/activities your church is providing
- Other contributions that may not have been included in this list.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Hyde Park Union Church – Urban Dolorosa/Peace Table

PEACE TABLE

*Faith-Based Leaders Breaking Bread
with High Risk Youth*

Wednesday, August 24, 2011
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Union Star Missionary Baptist Church
3915 W. Chicago Ave.
West Humboldt Park



It's an open invitation. Simply call 773.363.6063
or email office@hpuc.org to reserve a seat.



co-sponsored by
CeaseFire and Urban Dolorosa



African American Spirituals Concert at Woodside Church



Let My People Go! Exodus 7:16

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP

African American Spirituals
Rev. Kendall Brown Narrating
Special Music: Rev. Glen Holcomb
Lay Leader: Bob Agle

1509 E. Court Street Flint, MI 48503

ABCUSA NEWS

2011 Ministers Council Senators Reflect On Christ's Call

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 8/17/11)—The 2011 Ministers Council Senate meeting, held at the American Baptist Assembly at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin, was called to order on Saturday, August 13 by its president, Jeff Savage, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springfield, Oregon. The theme for this year's session was *Called*, with scriptural emphasis on the relationship between the disciples and their Risen Lord and how those who serve in ministry receive life-sustaining nourishment.

Executive Director Joe Kutter reminded the senators of the Ministers Council's purpose, "Community. Spirituality. Leadership. We covenant together to deepen our spirituality and to increase our effectiveness as leaders in Christ's Church. This is the reason we exist."

Business of the Senate included:

The final report of the Women in Ministry Task Force was received. Rev. Patricia Hernandez was introduced as the newly hired Director of ABWIM (American Baptist Women in Ministry). ABWIM seeks to lift up the biblical and theological work supporting women in ministry and to develop strategies for advocacy of women in ministry.

Additional progress was made on the capital fund campaign which sharpens the focus on making "Together in Ministry" an integral part of the Ministers Council identity. The senate approved a motion to empower the executive committee to employ a campaign consultant.

The election of new officers whose terms will begin in January of 2012 include Harry Riggs, pastor of FBC, Lincoln, Nebraska as Vice President of Communications; Holly Bean, recently retired from MMBB as Vice President of Denominational Relationships; Thomas Gilmore, pastor of Fidelity Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio as Secretary/Treasurer; and Lilia Da Valle, interim pastor at FBC, Alameda, California as Senator-at-Large / Representative to the Executive Committee.

Rev. Brian Dixon, pastor of FBC, Medford, Massachusetts was awarded The Ralph Garfield Schell Presidential Award as "a pastoral leader who has been extraordinarily faithful in carrying out the principles of the Ministers Council Code of Ethics, as well as unusually effective in ministry."

The subcommittees of the senate announced several new initiatives that will enhance the practice of ministry including working with MMBB to revise their compensation workbook, working with national leadership in the area of ordination standards, and conducting a formal review of the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for our children, teachers and schools during this Back to School season and beyond!

Please pray for our troops and our local, state, and federal governments.

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

Please pray for those affected by natural disasters such as the recent tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, storms, etc.

Please pray for the people and government of Japan, Libya, and Egypt.

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 all who are bereaved for the loss of loved ones.

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

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

Please pray for world peace.

Please pray for ABCMC staff and all ABCMC churches for effective Christian witness and service in 2011.



ABCMC CALENDAR

- August 21** Montrose Baptist Church Picnic, Methodist Campground, Des Plaines, Grove #3, 1900 E. Algonquin Rd. in Des Plaines, lunch at 2:00 p.m.
- August 21** African American Spirituals Concert, Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street Flint, MI 48503
- August 27** ABCMC Family Council Meeting, 9 a.m., North Shore Baptist Church
- August 29** White Sox Outing to U.S. Cellular Field, with Montrose Baptist Church, (\$12) 7:10 p.m.
- October 16** The Second Annual Children's Sabbath Celebration, 4:00 p.m., location TBD

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 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.