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.
## IN THIS ISSUE

### Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOTES FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALL TO MEETING</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKLY LECTIONARY STUDIES</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTERS COUNCIL CORNER</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL EVENTS AND CONFERENCES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC-USA NEWS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABHMS ENCOURAGES REFLECTION, PRAYER ON 'MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY'</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAYER REQUESTS ~ PLEASE PRAY</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THINKING THEOLOGICALLY</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Earlier this week I posted the following comment on Facebook, in light of the tragedy of terrorism in France:

*As a civil libertarian I fully support not just the right but also the need for speakers and publications to engage in satire, even of the persons and symbols and practices that some hold sacred. But that doesn't mean that I lack sympathy for those who are deeply offended and hurt by such satirical expressions. So today I applaud the courageous publication of Charlie Hebdo but also want my Muslim friends who are angered and pained by satirical depictions of their religion to know that I appreciate their feelings and hope they can resist understandable impulses to strike back in ways that are not helpful for themselves and all the rest of us. I'm trying to put myself in their place and know this is a real test of what is at the core of my own faith. It is a continuing test of what is required of us all by living in the contemporary world of freedom and diversity.*

I attributed my stance on these events to being a "civil libertarian." I guess that defines me politically, although not as a partisan.

But I realize I could just as well ascribed my position to being a Baptist -- religiously, that is; which is more inclusive of anything political, social, or cultural.

That's because authentic Baptists prize not just religious liberty and liberty of conscience but also the de-idolization of anything that blocks or inhibits freedom of religion and freedom of conscience.

Satire, as I understand it, is a primary tool of de-idolization, which makes satire Baptist-friendly. And to be truly effective, satire can't be restrained; it has to be free to do the work it is called to do as satire.

But the "sympathy" I mention in the note is something that is also true to our Baptist identity--to feel the pain of those who are suffering, whether that be physical pain, or emotional pain, or spiritual pain. Actually, it's not just a part of Baptist identity, it is a part of Christian identity: to care for those who are suffering whether they are "one of us" or "other than us."

All of this is made much more complicated when we live in a world that has greater immanent diversity than ever before, a time when there are more and more "other than us" than, it seems, "one of us."

So we are called upon to fine-tune our capacity to affirm and make effective both our commitment to freedom and diversity and our capacity to negotiate the demands of liberty and sympathy, compassion, and mutual understanding and care.

My best guess is that this commitment and negotiation has something to do not just with being "free from" the forces of restraint but also "free for" more than ourselves…"free for" others.

It's something we Baptists ought to be in the forefront of forging.

In the cause of the Evangel,

Larry
CALL TO MEETING

ABCMC FAMILY COUNCIL
Saturday, February 7, 2015
8:00 a.m. – Noon

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

Host Pastor:
The Rev. Carol Jamieson-Brown, Senior Pastor

Theme:
“Our ABCMC Camping Future”

8:00 a.m. Breakfast/Registration
(donations appreciated for meal)

8:45 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. “Our ABCMC Camping Future”

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Quarterly Business Meeting

Noon Adjournment
RSVP Instructions:
Please email, mail or fax your RSVP by Monday, February 2, 2015
**Emailed RSVPs are preferred: email to office@abcmc.org.**
ABCNC, P.O. Box 15127, Chicago, IL 60615, Fax: 773-634-1496

Name ____________________________________________

Church __________________________________________

I will attend: ☐ Breakfast  ☐ Worship  ☐ Program/ Business Meeting

Directions to First Baptist Church of Park Forest
80 North Orchard Dr. Park Forest, IL 60466

(Note: Obtain directions from your starting location at www.mapquest.com.)
WEEKLY LECTIONARY STUDIES

If links are not operable, you may copy link into URL to access the “Lectionary Studies” or access on our website: abcmc.org

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**Sunday, January 18, 2015 - 2nd Sunday After Epiphany (Year B)**

- I Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)
- Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
- I Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1: 43-51

God calls servants who are known intimately – in their most secret selves. J. Wilcoxen

To LIFE!!

A Lenten Day of Refreshment for Faith Leaders

"Exploring the Gift of Being Fully Alive"

Tuesday, March 3
9am–5:30pm
Cabrini Retreat Center
9430 West Golf Road, Des Plaines

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

This quote from Howard Thurman inspires this ecumenical event, which is offered for renewal and reconnection for lay and clergy leaders of all backgrounds.

What kind of Lent could it be if we were disciplined in setting aside time for the project of being fully alive? Take a day away from other projects for a day of Presence. Key texts will include Thurman's insight, Isaiah 55 and the Genesis Creation Story.

Attendees will take away:

- New depths in a creation-grounded spirituality
- Tools like the LifeMap which guide honest and empowering assessment
The restoration that comes through story, movement and music
Time for solitude and optional time outdoors at Big Bend Forest Preserve
The fruit of dedicated time for planning next steps

OUR LEAD FACILITATORS

Keith Cerk has a gift for paying attention. His ministry of guiding souls, with clergy and seminarians, draws on a variety of contemplative, embodied and creation-based practices. Keith is Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waukegan and a certified wilderness guide.

Steve Heaviland has a shepherd’s heart. His expertise is in supporting and guiding people to make deeper connections with God as they seek to embrace their unique gifts in the world. Steve is a spiritual director on the pastoral team of the First Baptist Church of Waukegan.

EVENT HOSTS/STORY STEWARDS

Rev. Jacki Belile, CPC is the President of the local Ministers Council and Founder of Living Well Ministries, Jacki is a spiritual life coach and minister. Rev. Dr. David Sagar is the Vice-President of the local Ministers Council and pastor at Antioch Telegu Baptist Church. Both share a passion for a spirituality of wholeness and embodiment.

This event is an ecumenical event open to members of American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago and our colleagues. Invite your friends! Cost: $65 for Ministers Council members/$75 for general public. Inquire about scholarship availability and/or arranging installments for payment. For more information, contact jacki@livingwellministries.net.


Ministers Council Winter Meeting
Our Ministers Council winter meeting will be held on February 7th over lunch following the Family Council meeting at First Baptist Church, Park Forest. Join us for fellowship, 2014 reports and 2015 program and leadership discussions.
Ministry Opportunities

• Minister With Children and Youth
  North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago

Vibrant urban multilingual and multicultural congregation is looking for a Minister With Children and Youth to work approximately 20-25 hours per week leading teams of committed volunteers in planning and implementing programs for children, birth through high school. Build caring pastoral relationships with children, youth and their families. Educational background in Christian Ed, Youth Ministry or theological studies (B.A., M.Div., or equivalent) and experience in diverse cultural settings are required. Position is available immediately. Will consider May or June start. A complete job description can be found at our web site, www.northshorebaptist.org under the Staff tab, click on Support Staff.

Send resume with cover letter to Rev. Carol McVetty, cmcvetty@northshorebaptist.org by February 20, 2015. Please NO phone calls.

• Bishop Anderson House is looking for a candidate with a proven passion for spiritual care and leadership. We are seeking an ordained person, or a medical professional or educator with spiritual care credentialing. Our next Executive Director must be able to take a stable, strong and passionate ministry and grow it in collaboration with a committed, engaged Board of Trustees. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and credentialing. The position includes pension/ retirement benefits, healthcare including dental and eye care, life insurance, and short- and long-term disability benefits. Submit résumé or curriculum vitae to mailto:search@bishopandersonhouse.org, attention Bill Totsch, Search Committee Chair. The Search Committee encourages qualified candidates, lay and ordained, to apply.
Enhance your pastoral education

Through The Center for Religion & Psychotherapy of Chicago

Ideal for:
* Pastors in the parish
* Pastoral theologians
* Chaplains
* Pastoral psychotherapists
* Licensed counselors, nurses, or social workers, who wish to expand specializations w/ psychodynamic theory and practice.
* Seminary students interested in elective credit.

Program Highlights:
* CRPC is accredited through the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Through the two-year education program, you can become certified as a pastoral counselor with a certificate in Self Psychology and Religion.
* Complete 5 classes (15 credits total) of graduate coursework in psychodynamic theory and practice.
* Supplement your theological education and pastoral skills under the training of skilled clinicians and pastoral psychotherapists.
* Courses can also count toward LCPC licensure in the state of Illinois. To this end, you will:
  * Receive personal, weekly supervision, included in tuition costs.
  * Complete practicum/internship requirements for licensure through CRPC.

* Classes are conveniently held on Fridays from 8am-2pm at our downtown location (see below).
* Courses include: Human Development, Counseling Theories, Case Conference, Approaches to the Study of Religion, Professional Ethics, and Social/Cultural Foundations for Pastoral Counseling.

Applications due on March 20, 2015

For more information, visit: [www.crpchicago.org](http://www.crpchicago.org)
ABHMS Encourages Reflection, Prayer on ‘Martin Luther King Jr. Day’

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 1/15/15)—On Monday, Jan. 19, the nation collectively observes “Martin Luther King Jr. Day” in honor of slain Civil Rights leader and American Baptist the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) asks you to encourage others to view this day as more than a day away from the workplace. Instead, take time to reflect upon how far we’ve come, and pray earnestly regarding the strides we have yet to make.

Share with your congregation about King’s life and legacy. Volunteer in your community. Use Bible fellowship time or Sunday school to examine both historic and recent national and international social movements through the lens of Jesus Christ’s message of love and tolerance.

The following websites can help to spark contemplation, discussion and action:

- Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, including a free downloadable Martin Luther King Jr.-themed Bible lesson aimed at young adults;
- The King Center; and
- Corporation for National & Community Service.

Since its inception, ABHMS has been committed to Justice Ministries.

PRAYER REQUESTS ~ Please pray…

Please pray for Nigeria and everyone impacted by the recent tragic & terrorist acts.

Please pray for the French Church and for those in France, impacted by the recent tragedy and terrorist acts.

Please pray for those who are experiencing grief and loneliness during this Christmas season.

Please pray for the families of Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, the citizens and city of Ferguson, Missouri, Cleveland, Ohio, Staten Island, New York and other areas protesting these recent incidents & the decisions regarding the deaths of these African American Males and others who suffer at the hands of injustice.
Please pray for Officer Darren Wilson and the other officers and family members of the officers involved in these matters.

Please pray for world justice & peace.

Please pray for our country and our government and our newly elected officials.

Please pray for the families affected by the Ebola Virus and for God to send relief and a cure for this and other diseases.

Please pray for Ray and Janay Rice and their daughter during this time of Crisis in their lives. Please also pray for other Domestic violence victims and abusers. Please pray for deliverance and healing.

Please pray for those affected by the tragedies in Malaysia.

Please pray for those on vacation and traveling during the summer season.

Please pray for Christians who are needlessly persecuted both in minority countries and throughout the world.

Please pray for the safe return of the 200 + Nigerian girls abducted from their families and life as they knew it.

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

Please pray for the end of gun violence in Chicago and other areas in our country plagued by violence and for the families of those who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

Please pray for the victims of violence in our city, our country, and their families.

Please pray for our children, teachers and schools throughout Illinois and the nation.

Please pray for ABCMC staff and all ABCMC churches for effective Christian witness and service in 2014.

Please pray for world peace and for those who are suffering.

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

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

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

Please pray for all who are bereaved for the loss of loved ones.

THINKING THEOLOGICALLY

Stay Tuned!
Recently Posted

Feb. 7  Family Council Meeting - First Baptist Church of Park Forest; 80 North Orchard Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466. 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Host Pastor Rev. Carol Jamieson-Brown; Please RSVP by Mon. Feb. 2 @ office@abcmc.org.

Feb. 7  Ministers Council Winter Business Meeting (lunch will be served) Directly following the Family Council Meeting @ First Baptist Church of Park Forest; 80 North Orchard Drive, Park Forest, IL. RSVP @ jacki@livingwellministries.net. 12:00 noon.

Mar. 3  “A Lenten Day of Refreshment for Faith Leaders” at The Cabrini Retreat Center” 9430 West Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois. 9:00am-6:30pm For more information please contact Rev. Jacki Belile @ jacki@livingwellministries.net.

May 22-23  ABCMC Annual Meeting – Stay Tuned for further information.

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 by Wednesday of each week for publishing. We will run your announcements for two consecutive weeks and thereafter on our calendar until expiration of “the event date”. If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in eWind, please feel free to let us know via email at office@abcmc.org.