



EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 7, Issue 4

J. Alfred Smith, Sr./Raymond J. Bakke EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE:

Empowering the Ministry of the Local Church

Where can you go to get three days of input from national leaders for a registration fee of only \$100? Right here in Seattle! This Conference is worth the trip for our out of town churches (and we'll help to find places for you to stay if you want to come!). The days are fast approaching, April 28-

30 (with a kick off on Sunday morning April 27).

Three days of symposium by Walter Fluker (Monday), Thomas Bandy (Tuesday) and Leonard Sweet (Wednesday). Preaching morning and evening by Ray Bakke and J. Alfred Smith (Monday), Delia Olver and Brenda Little

(Tuesday) and Marvin McMickle and Leslie Braxton (Wednesday).

You can see a list of workshops and leaders and register at the web site: www.empowermentconference.org. It really is worthwhile, and I cannot encourage you enough to come!

Marcia

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Thank you for your prayers:

- *Mount Zion has called Aaron Williams as pastor. He begins in May.*
- *Panther Lake has called Stan Smith who begins April 1.*
- *New Beginnings called David Ankorn as Executive Minister, and he began in March.*

Continue to pray for Grace, San Jose; Seattle First and Pullman who are in various stages of the search process.

Also your continued prayers for First Baptist Church, Salt Lake City are appreciated.

Curtis Comments: 'What's this World Coming to?'

Recently, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released a report entitled *U. S. Religious Landscape Survey Report* that shows a highly diverse and fluid national religious life. I won't recount the statistics of the survey, but what

it tells us is that people in America are switching churches or leaving churches at a faster rate than they ever have before. The biggest loser in this trend has been the Catholic Church and the one who seems to be less affected are Non-



Curtis Price, Chair
Evergreen Association

denominational Evangelical churches. However, the fourth

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Events & Happenings Around the Association

 **Annual Reports 2007** will be due by April 30, 2008. **Pastors, Treasurers, Church Clerks, Moderators:** Please look for the forms in the mail soon, or go online to annualreport.abcis.org, use your church PIN and the leadership ID number of one of your professional leaders to log on. You may contact the Association Office for the Region PIN to use in place of the

Leadership ID.

 **Washington Baptist Convention (WBC) Biennial Breakfast Meeting** will be held in Richland WA on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

 **Seattle First Baptist Labyrinth Walk** continues to be available from 6 PM to 8 PM on the second Sunday each month. Plan for a time of meditation— April 13, May 11 and/or June 8, 2008.

Park on the street and enter the lower Seneca doors.

 **Japanese Baptist Church** invites you to the Annual **Sukiyaki Dinner**, a fundraiser. See details below.

 **Seattle First** hosts **Opening Doors to Spiritual Freedom**, the sharing of journeys to interfaith and hope, May 9, 7—9 PM; May 10, 9 AM to 3 PM. Contact the church office at 206-325-6051.

Evergreen Association: Did God Call Me to This?

Angela Farrar



Ten years ago, a seminary student having sensed God's call to serve in ordained ministry, I questioned my student mentor, Dr.

Paul Aita, who encouraged me to attend region meetings. My first reaction was mixed: meeting people— wonderful; but the business side of things felt lifeless. Firstly, Robert's Rules of Order: Never got it, probably never will! Also nothing we talked about, or how we

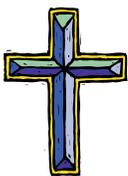
talked about them, reflected the passion for ministry that I heard when talking one-on-one with the lay/clergy people that I met. I often left thinking, "God could not have called me to this."

Since that time I've happily served the region in various roles and committees. What changed? Being free from Robert's Rules of Order helped. Also, seeing how we have learned/grown through genuine cultural inclusion which is the caucus system has been an awaken-

ing! The caucuses give room for more participation from more people. Participation also improves by communication style; introverts get more voice, non-linear thinkers get more voice. *The Body of Christ in all its diverse giftedness has better expression in this new way of being an association of churches.* In short, I see the caucus system and consensus decision-making reflecting God's love and interest in each person and each group, so that true community results. Did God call me to this? Yes! Amen!

JBC ANNUAL SUKIYAKI DINNER

すきやき デイナー



Saturday April 26, 2008
Japanese Baptist Church
160 Broadway, Seattle,



Time: 2:00pm – 7:00 pm Take out
4:00pm – 7:00 pm Dine in
Cultural Program 7:00 PM

Donation: \$9.50 Adult / \$5.50 Child <10

Arts, Crafts, Baked Goods and Ikebana Display

Black Caucus News

Frank Lowe, Black Caucus Chair

Evergreen Black Caucus and the Evergreen family welcome **New Walk Christian Church, Kent WA, Rev. Walter Heyman, Pas-**

tor.
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship has called Rev. **David Ankcorn as Executive Minister.**

Please send your news and announcements to fplowe@msn.com, so others may support your church, and your ministry for Christ.

American Baptist Women's News

Terri Simpkins

I am finding that human sex trafficking is a hot button in our society today and we, AB Women's Ministries, are on the cutting edge of developing awareness and support to **break the chains** of slavery in the 21st century. We have received several e-mail messages from women in churches, states and regions describing how they are raising support to meet (and exceed) our two year goal of \$250,000.00. I would like to share snippets of those with you: **Crystal Newton in Northern California:** At our region women's conference, we handed out some paper loops to be sold for \$1 each. The purchaser can write his/her name on it, a favorite Bible verse or even leave it blank. At our region conference next year, we'll link all the churches' chains together to make one long chain. When we

reach our goal, we plan to **BREAK THE CHAIN.**
Margaret Payne in New York: At age 89, [Margaret] covered a Quaker Oat box with pink paper, lace, and a chain necklace with a flyer about Break the Chains on the front. To fill the box, the women keep "baggies" in their purses and as they get pennies in change, they put them in the baggies; then bring them to church for the Break the Chains project.
Barbara Anderson in Massachusetts: decided to Take it to the Streets - to highlight and bring information about the issue of human trafficking and to share the ministry of Break the Chains behind a booth at Town Day.

Besides the goals that regions set, we have also received unexpected money from several regions, such as the

\$4,720 that came in from the women of New Jersey, and \$710 from Oregon AB Women's Ministries.



Terri Simpkins
National President
American Baptist Women

From Virginia Holmstrom: When the First Baptist Church of Maywood, Illinois voted to dissolve, the congregation considering how to distribute the proceeds from the property sale, recognized the importance and urgency of the Break the Chains project, and sent a \$50,000 check for the project.

We are truly on the edge, and I invite each one of you to join in and come to the edge to help break the chains of 21st century slavery.

An Evening with the Snoqualmie: Celebrating the Sacred Mist



You are invited to enjoy an evening of dinner and fellowship with members of the Snoqualmie Tribe.

Tribal members will share stories of the Falls including an update on the Falls legal

status as a Sacred Place.

This will also be a fundraiser to defray legal costs.

**Sunday, May 18, 2008
5-7:00 PM
Seattle First Baptist
Church**

1111 Harvard Ave.

Seattle, WA 98122
(at Seneca St) Parking available

RSVP – Church Council of
Greater Seattle, 206-525-1213

Reservations: \$15.00 a person
or \$25.00 for two

Fremont's Wally Bartlow Recognized by Camps—March 9, 2008



Pastor Judy Gay and Honoree Wally Bartlow



(L-R): Tom Nielsen, Wally, Kathleen Hendrickson, and Randolph Farrar,



(L-R): Tom Nielsen, Randolph Farrar and Wally Bartlow



The cake tells the whole story, sweetly!

Curtis Comments

continues

(Continued from page 1)

biggest religious affiliation in the US is “Unaffiliated”. This, of course, is something that we in the Northwest and North Pacific Coast have known for years.

While there is discouraging information in this report, I think there are also many things that work in our favor. First, this survey tells us that people are searching. There is a longing for God like there has not been at anytime before in the US. People want something that they are not seeing in the churches of the past. This new mission field is wide open, and while it will mean that the church must creatively address the skepticism of our present culture, it is still an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to do “a new

thing”.

Second, the pew survey finds that of the 51% of the U.S. that is protestant, 26% are Evangelical, 18% are Mainline, and 7% are members of historically Black Churches. As I try to place American Baptist Churches in this breakdown I realize that we span them all. Even just within the Evergreen Association I can think of congregations that would describe themselves in one of each of these categories. It tells me that we are equipped to go where the Spirit takes us. Our churches have found meaningful ministry within a variety of cultures and traditions.

Finally, the survey showed that there seems to be an appreciation of diversity and variety. This is a

“There is a longing for God like there has not been at anytime before in the US.”

value we share with post-moderns.

It would be easy to look at this report and become as cynical as the post modern world in which we live. It is also easy to see that there is great opportunity here for the Gospel of Christ to touch the hearts of a new generation.

Grace and Peace,

Share Your “Witness” as a Member of the Evergreen Family

You are invited to write and submit a 150—200 word essay in response to the question, “How have you seen the heart of God through involvement in/with Evergreen?” to be published in future Evergreen Notes.

So if you’ve been a part of events, interactions, formed meaningful relationships, etc.

as a result of being a part of Evergreen, we want to share your “story”, your “witness” with the rest of the Evergreen family and friends.

Send your ‘witness’ to the Evergreen Association—ABC, 409 Third Ave. S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032 or email it to clemeba@comcast.net

Pictures or other accompany-

ing graphics are appreciated.

“How have you seen the heart of God through involvement in/with Evergreen?”

2008 ABW Ministries/PNW Conference

Clarion Hotel, Yakima WA, April 18-20, 2008 For registration info contact Nadine at 253-761-1081 or by email at edandnadine@msn.com or nadineg@uwpc.org

Position Opening: Half-Time Youth Director

Japanese Baptist Church (JBC) is currently seeking a 20 hours per week Youth Director under a one-year contract.

For information, please contact JBC’s Senior Minister by phone at 206-622-7351, by

email at paul.aita@juno.com or by mail at

Dr. Paul D. Aita, Senior Minister, Japanese Baptist Church, 160 Broadway, Seattle WA 98122.

If you wish to apply for the position, please provide your

mailing address so materials can be mailed to you. Applicants will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and agree to a background search.

TAKE YOUR PASTOR OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

It’s time to begin planning to take your pastor, family, or church leader out to the ballgame. Evergreen has reserved seats for a special fellowship time.

Seattle Mariners

vs.

Los Angeles Angels

Mon., June 2, 2008, 7 PM

Tickets are 2 for \$20

To order tickets, call 253-859-2226 or

email: clemeba@comcast.net

Peter Koshi is a great-grampa!

Kimora Koshi was born February 28, 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Evergreen Association of American Baptist

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www.ea-abc.org

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, is published monthly.

Please submit articles by the 25th of the month prior to expected publication.

You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles.

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Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Building Bridges Between Communities

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 5—NPS ABWM Spring Rally, Burien Church
- 18—20 PNW AB Women's Conference, Yakima
- 27—30 J. Alfred Smith, Sr./Raymond Bakke Empowerment Conference, Seattle Airport Hilton

NOTE: Registrations for More Than a Week Youth Conference due BY MAY 1, 2008!

MAY

- 17—WBC Biennial Breakfast Meeting, Richland WA
- 31—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM

JUNE

- 2—Take your pastor to the Mariners' Baseball Game.

JULY



- 5—11 MTW—national youth gathering, Estes Park CO

- 19—Auditions for "Godspell"

AUGUST

- 19—Minister & Spouse Cruise. More info to come.

OCTOBER

- 10—11 6TH Annual Meeting, New Hope Baptist Church, Seattle.

NOVEMBER

- 21 & 22—"Godspell" fundraiser for Tent Cities

MISSION STATEMENT

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will **Build bridges** between communities; Provide resources to **equip member churches** to share Christ, and teach God's word; and **Translate our unity** to the world.