



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 1

MLK Day Worship Service January 19

Join with Greater Seattle area churches in a worship service at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th Ave., Seattle 98122 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19, 2009 at 6:00 PM.



Rev. Warren Stewart, pastor of First Institutional Baptist Church, Phoenix Arizona will be preaching. Dr.

Stewart is considered the religious leader responsible for MLK Day being recognized and celebrated in the state of Arizona.

Association Board Planning Meeting—January 10

The Evergreen Association Board meeting on January 10, 2008 will focus on planning the agenda for 2009. It is important that each member church is represented. Pastors are always encouraged to participate.

The meeting will be held at Wedgwood Community Church, 8201 30th NE, Seattle 98115, beginning at 9 AM.

Caucuses will also meet and spend time on their foci and plans for 2009 as well.

Association leaders will refine this work at Camp Burton's new retreat center February 22 -23.

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Your prayers are requested for

- Churches in various stages of the pastoral search process: Grace Baptist—San Jose; First Baptist Church—Salt Lake City; and The United Church of Moscow Idaho.
- The Rev. Tim Phillips candidating at Seattle First Baptist Church on Sunday, January 11, 2009.
- Continued giving through our Churches to United Mission as a support to Evergreen Region and mission world-wide.

Curtis Comments

2009 promises to be an important year for American Baptists. We are revising our structure in order to be more responsive to the postmodern world as well as our own


fiscal limitations. However, this transition brings with it an opportunity. Evergreen was born out of difficult transition, but we saw in the unfortunate circum-


stances an opportunity to really live up to the ideals we as a denomination have always claimed; par-



(Continued on page 3)


Events and Happenings Around the Region

 **Hammond Organ (model #T412)** available to be donated. You pick it up. Call Bruno, spouse of Becky Jurewicz, at 206-242-8020.

 **Euro Caucus Church members** are invited to participate in the **White Racial Awareness Process (WRAP)** Training, Feb. 20, Wedgwood, 9-3PM.

 **Rev. Dr. Paul Aita**, Senior Pastor of Japanese Baptist

Church, Seattle and his wife Gail have been **named Special Assistants for Myanmar, by International Ministries, ABCUSA**, effective December 1, 2008 for a period of three years.

 The Association has opportunity to involve **two young leaders (completing Jr/Sr yr. in H.S. or college Freshman in 2009) as delegates at the Biennial in**

Pasadena, June 26-28, 2009—looking specifically to engage emerging young American Baptist leaders in an experience of the denomination as a larger family of faith gathered for worship, education, fellowship and the conducting of denominational business.

Churches are asked to identify future young leaders and notify the region office by February 1, 2009.

Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism

Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism considers past mistakes and future challenges regarding racial unity and social justice. From the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the current immigration debate, **Beneath the Skin** peels back prejudices and confronts them with biblical mandates. Interviewees come from nearly a dozen states

and represent the best in Baptist life, including: preacher and activist Will Campbell, Aidsand Wright-Riggins of American Baptist Churches USA, and Javier Elizondo of Baptist University of the Americas.

Through Judson Press the **Beneath the Skin DVD** can be purchased for \$15. Go to the

following link for more information:

http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=13105

Marcia's review: *"It is Excellent. One criticism is that the title, Beneath the Skin: Baptists and Racism, is misleading. Though there are Baptists speaking, the truth spoken reaches much more broad than just Baptists."*

Volunteer Paychecks—THANK YOU ALL!!

On Wednesday, December 2, 2008, at the annual volunteer luncheon our 'mailings' volunteers were extended the only "paycheck" each one receives for his/her "Servant's Heart" - our sincere appreciation for all the work they do to further the ministry of the Association through the gift of their time and services. Thanks, Again!!

L-R: Betty Bates, Cathy Swan, Chellie Rowland, Virginia Thompson, Shirley Moffitt, Phyllis Hasselblad, Ruth Hunter, Gay Hasselblad, Al Hunter and Bill Thompson.

Not pictured: Marge Barnett, Cora Lea Doty, Georgene Haley and Charlotte Scherer.



Clergy Christmas Party

Thanks to Ron Kirstein for hosting a great holiday party at his home for Evergreen ministers. Only a few were able to attend, but it was a good time.

We are looking for someone in the central or south Seattle area to volunteer to host next year

Godspell Fundraising Event

The recent production of Godspell was well received and very well done. However, the production proved very expensive to launch.

We are still working on a final tally, but, regrettably it appears proceeds may have met, but not gone beyond production costs. So we are concerned that Tent Cities may not be the recipients of the kind of support we had hoped to share with them.

If you wish, contributions may be made directly to Tent Cities or through Evergreen Association by noting the contribution is for Tent Cities on the memo line of your check.

Curtis Comments

(Continued from page 1)

ticularly our identity as the most diverse denomination. Evergreen focused on reflecting that claim in earnest. Now, the denomination has a similar opportunity to live up to its ideals. The question that comes to us is, "What does Evergreen have to offer the denomination as it navigates this difficult transition?"

ABC-USA is poised to become an organization like no other if she chooses. Evergreen has some important insights to bring to the table and now is our time to lift up the Baptist ideals that have guided our own emergence; ideals such

as unity that respects diversity, relational structure and consensus building.

The lessons learned and the blessings received in the Evergreen story are vital to ABC's future, especially in the area of the ethnic caucuses. It is difficult for people who have not been immersed in it to grasp how being in caucuses can provide avenues for new relationships. This is why it is our burden to ensure that these insights are given voice in the new structure.

So my challenge to Evergreen in 2009 is to really think through how we, as an Asso-

"The question that comes to us is, "What does Evergreen have to offer the denomination as it navigates this difficult transition?"

ciation, can bring our story and insights into the ABC-USA denominational restructuring process.

Happy New Year and God Bless,



Curtis

Thank You All!!

These simple words of gratitude are really not enough, especially this year. Our finances have been extremely tight this year and we only got through because we took monies from our “bequest” fund, reducing it by ½ before the market reduced it even further.

This year when we say thank you to those folk who gave to Evergreen above and beyond their gifts through their local churches, it is with a humble heart and a sense of needing to press forward to fulfill our mission to Build Bridges of reconciliation, hope and understanding in our broken world.

Thank you to these special partners in ministry for giving

\$1,000 or more:

Al and Harriett Harrington
Roy and Carol Johnson
Lawrence & Frances Nelson
Marcia Patton
William and Sally Patton
John and Maxine Sondericker
Carol Tamparo
Herb Tsuchiya
Richard Ice

\$100—\$999

Robert and Almarie Burchell
Leonard and Judy Gay
Roxanne Fowler
Peter Koshi
Angela Farrar
Betty and Doug Bates

Chrystal Cooper
Ken and Gila Curl
Patricia Hunter
James & Clem Winbush
Paul and Gail Aita
Sylvia Luckie-Benefiel
Lloyd & Marjorie Burns
Lee Campbell
Carolyn Covington
Ellis Keck
Walter Bryen
Gay & Phyllis Hasselblad
Wiley Kehrl
Donald Meberg

Colvin Caughey
Craig Darling
Jeananne Oliphant
Mark Pittenger
Janet Roberts
Sandy. and Fay Sandberg
Laurie Walker
Doug and Michelle Holmes
Zip and Millie Zediker
Bob Fukano
Gus and Perla Belo

Howard Bess
Susan Dohrmann
John and Vernetta Doty
Charles Elven, Sr.
Jim and Charlotte Erickson
Catherine Fransson
Julian Hunter
Joe Neuschwander
Tom and Marilee Nielsen
Charlotte Scherer
Marian Voge
Sarah Welton

\$1 to \$99

Samara Hoag

Chris Boyer
Greg Ledbetter
Virginia Bishop
Belva Baxter
Mabel Brockhoff
Ray and Karen Carter
Heidi Cleveland
Georgene Haley
Virginia Nielsen
Jon Peterson
Yoshihisa Sawano
Deborah Thompson
Marc Walter
Curtis and Robbin Price
Stephen Anderson
Barbara Bryant
Lynne Lohr
Brooke Rolston
Judy Freeborn
Anne Hall
Peggy Keiffer
Sandi Montgomery
Marilyn Potts
M.H. Schumacher
Bill Clarke
Harold and MaryEllen Harris
Cindy McCarty
Priscilla McCarty
Clinton McNair
Bruce and Candace Sagor
Carolyn Shimabukuro
Sarah Dean
Dee Schirmer
Leota Stanley
Alice Woldt

You can help to continue our ministry by a contribution today in the envelope provided or on line at ea-abc.org.

Thank You

Thank You

Change



Terri Simpkins
National President
AB Women's Min.

Change is inevitable, it happens! Sometimes change is good and other time, no so good. Most of the time change is what we make happen, and obviously, that, too, can be good or bad. This is a time of change

for our country with a new President coming into office. This can, also, be seen as good or bad. We can approach change as positive or negative. It is up to us to decide how we look at change. It also needs to be a time of serious prayer for a world in distress and in need of change.

Several years ago, I set a personal goal. It was based on my personal life of wanting other women to feel better about who they are. I wanted them to feel better about themselves than I had before I dedicated my life to Jesus as my Savior. I grew up with very low esteem and still fight the battle through prayer and Godly counseling. I have changed in many positive ways. Since I have no daughters, I began devoting time to my daughters-in-laws, (and granddaughters, as they came along) assuring them they can be all they want to be with Christ. As I grew in my relationship with God I have been able to work with many women from different walks in life, women in AB Women's Ministries, women in my church and women in prison. *2 Cor 5:17 If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!* NCV. What a blessing it is to see changed lives in Christ.

Recently I was with eight women in a Bible training class

at the prison; they were writing and sharing a "three minute personal testimony". (This is good exercise for all of us to do!) I was amazed listening to each of them tell what their life was like before they began their walk with Jesus, and how that commitment has changed their lives. One lady had been kidnapped at age 11 and had been missing for two weeks before she was able to return home. When she returned, she realized no one had missed her. They didn't realize she had even been gone, let alone for two weeks! To compensate, knowing that no one in her family missed her, she was determined to never be missed again. In doing so she surrounded herself with relationships that would eventually lead her to prison. After entering prison, she dedicated her life to Jesus and is a new creation, becoming a witness to many other women and has become a very good Bible teacher.

In Matt 18:3-4 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, you must change and become like little children. Otherwise, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who makes himself humble like this child." In prison women and men are fortunate to have the freedom to become like a little child and change their lives. Not all do, of course, but Jesus is there, available to all who seek Him.

For the past year and a half we have supported a campaign to Break the Chains of Sexual Trafficking. I know that those girls, women, boys and men are not in the same kind of prison in which I've worked. They don't have the opportunity to go to a chapel service to

hear about a God that loves them. I can testify that when they do escape and are free to tell their *life changing* stories, they are amazing. Today there are far too many victims in a prison of slavery and we must not forget to pray for their freedom from an abusive bondage that is not self imposed. It is important for us to remember that Jesus loves these children of God and is always available to those who seek Him.

Life is about change and how we accept it. In a recent communication Mary Jane Sullivan, President of AB Women's Ministries of Maine used the following quote from Mother Theresa: *JOY is prayer. JOY is strength. JOY is love. JOY is the net of love by which we catch souls. We give most when we give with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and to each other is to accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love.*

My prayer is that each of you will always find JOY in change.

Terri

Marcia's hip replacement surgery on Monday, December 29th went well.

And as this publication goes to print, she is on her way to therapy. Please pray for her full recovery.

REGISTRATION FORM
Building Bridges Event—Saturday, February 21, 2009
Community Church of Issaquah

Please Print and send completed form and registration fee to: Evergreen Association, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032
Due by February 18, 2009

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone () _____

E-Mail _____

Workshop Selections (see schedule on next page):

Session 1 _____

Session 2 _____

Session 3 _____

Registration Fee per person (includes lunch)

enclosed

\$15.00

Clergy Award

Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods, made me aware of an Award for Parish Clergy, awarded by the Academy of Parish Clergy. I thought the criteria provided some interesting food for thought, so I pass them along to you.

If you have interest in actually nominating someone for the award, you can check out the website at:

<http://www.apclergy.org/ParishPastoroftheYear2009NominationForm>

Below are four behavioral characteristics to be described about the nominee. The commentary which follows each characteristic is to

help understand each characteristic. One nomination, prepared by one or several lay persons is needed.

1. FAITHFULNESS: Describe this person's personal faith as it is grounded in a connection and time with God (including devotional life) and how this person helps people mature in the faith and encourages others along their faith journeys. What is the worthiness of the calling? These are pastoral and spiritual characteristics.

2. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Describe this pastor's personal motivation (self-starter and internally driven and called to do the work of mission and ministry). How does this person adapt to options and works collaboratively with a variety of perspectives? Describe this person's self care habits and the supportive spouse/partner and family environment. When things don't go as planned, what is the ability to get back up and try again with another approach? What is the evidence of focused continuing education? Is a code of eth-

ics and conduct apparent and kept?

3. LEADERSHIP: Describe how this person fosters and leads with a sense of unity of spirit and purpose; how the congregation is lead in discern and see God's preferred future with increasing clarity; how leadership and credit is shared with others, thus creating a distributed sense of ownership; how others in the congregation get connected to ministry using their gifts as ways to discern how best to service; and the building of good relationship and the helping of others to also build them. All this may be described as prudence: grasping each situation in its uniqueness, to engage in its complexity, to possess the spectrum of skills and knowledge necessary to address current and long-range issues.

4. CONGREGATIONAL OBJECTIVES: How does the congregation show intentionality in reaching new people and growing in worship attendance as part of the pastor's leadership? How has the congregation become more relevant and faithful to the larger community? How does the pastor's ministry connect to people outside the membership?

Marcia Patton

BUILDING BRIDGES EVENT SCHEDULE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ISSAQUAH

SESSION 1 – 8:30-10:00 AM Our Call to Mission

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER
Kaleidoscope Bible Study	A Bible Study methodology you can use in any church setting & how it can be used for church growth	Eric Law
Why the Church should be outside its doors	Why should we be concerned about communities outside our church doors?	Marcia Patton
“Call” Costa Rica Style	We are all “called” to ministry; how do you discern your call ala Costa Rica?	Gary Baits
Resources for your Church	Resources for Evangelism, church growth, and cultural awareness. - Experience introductions and get a taste of what might help your church.	James Winbush, Angela Farrar, Clem Winbush, Tim Phillips, Judy Gay, et al
WRAP	White Racial Awareness Process, Part 1	Lucky Lynch

PLENARY SESSION – 10:15-10:45 AM
“High/Low Context” Eric Law

Session 2 – 11:00-12:30 PM Mission Involvement

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER
Grace Margin	Preparing an invitation to work on issues of concern for your church or your community	Eric Law
Local Schools— Church Outreach	How to connect to local schools and beyond to building networks and developing community programs	Curtis Price & Diane Plourde
Burmese Refugee Resettlement	There are several hundred Burmese refugees coming to King County. Find out how you can help.	Paul Aita
Quilt Squares	Preparing materials to send to mission stations	Mabel Brockhoff
WRAP	White Racial Awareness Process, Part 2	Lucky Lynch

LUNCH 12:30-1:00 PM

Session 3 – 1:00-2:30 PM How to Reach Out

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LEADER
Paperless Music	Songs that can be taught without using paper—appropriate for worship and other meetings	Eric Law
Telling Your Story Thru Art	Diane shares her testimony thru art and opens the way for you to share your testimony through your gifts.	Diane Plourde
Generations	How do we respond to different generations	Mark Rambo
Baptist “Polity”	What makes Baptists Baptist?	Marcia Patton
WRAP	White Racial Awareness Process, Part 3	Lucky Lynch



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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.



Building Bridges Between Communities

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 10—Association Board, 9 AM, Wedgwood
- 19—MLK Day Worship, Rev. Warren Stewart, Sr, preaching, Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1634 19th Ave, Seattle 98122, 6 PM
- 23-24—Leaders Retreat, Camp Burton

FEBRUARY

- 20—Euro Caucus Workshop—White Racial

Awareness Process (WRAP), Wedgwood, 9 AM—3 PM (includes lunch)

- 21—Building Bridges Event, Community Church of Issaquah, 205 Mountain Park Blvd. SW, Issaquah 98027, 8:30 AM—2:30 PM.

JUNE



- 26-28—ABCUSA Biennial, Pasadena CA

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.