



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 7

Bar-B-Que Cook Off Fundraiser—July 18, 2009

Have you
***purchased your ticket for the **Bar-be-que Cook Off** featuring Top Grillers: Pastor Chris Boyer (brisket), Deacon Ken Curl (ribs) and Deacon Julian Hunter (chicken)

***and put aside funds to participate in the **Home Baked Goodies Auction** featuring such culinary artists as Deacons Frank and

Priscilla Lowe, Executive Minister, Marcia Patton, Evergreen Chair Curtis Price, and Evergreen Treasurer, Perla Belo? Let us know if you'll bake something..

If not, it's time to get a move on!!

See your church's Association Board Representative or call the Evergreen Office at 253-859-2226 for tickets.

Saturday, July 18, 2009

Hours: 12 Noon until 6:00 PM Bake Sale
Auction : 3:00 PM

Location: Cedar River Trail Park, (between Boeing and the Renton Airport near Renton High School Stadium, Renton, WA)

Ticket Cost is \$20

Meal Choices: BBQ Pork Ribs, BBQ Chicken, Smoked Beef Brisket or a Combination of all three

Driving directions on the back of the tickets.

See **The Missional Church Learning Experience**, July 18, 2009, Grace Baptist Church, San Jose CA. pg. 3

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Our Prayer Concerns:

- Churches seeking pastoral leadership—Issaquah, University, Moscow, Salt Lake City, Grace—San Jose
- Barry Briscoe
- Yosh Nakagawa

BIENNIAL GOAL—500 CONVERSATIONS—EXCEEDED!!



*Curtis Price
EA-ABC Chair
spoke to the
delegation*

The Evergreen Goal of having at least 500 Conversations about our unique structure of caucuses and doing

business by consensus was far exceeded. We figured that when Chair Curtis Price spoke to delegates prior to the by-law vote that we had connected with 500 just like that. Our Executive Marcia Patton spoke of Evergreen's unique ways

at the by-law workshop, about 100 people. And everyone had one-on-one or one-to-two conversations that were interesting to say the least. It helped to have our Evergreen Booth in the Missions Fair. It helped make the Biennial fun!

Best Practices—Mission Ideas that Work: OPEN HOUSE

(Article reprinted, with permission, from Fremont Baptist Church newsletter, From the Pastor's Desk, June/July 2009.)

Our Open House was great success. Fortunately, we had chosen to hold this event on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon in May. Our guests, who included first time visitors to Seattle from Maine as well as a couple who had worshiped here 65 years ago, were greeted by music from the String Band that had gathered outside under the trees. Their presence was so in keeping with the "Before" picture that had appeared in the Seattle Times the previous weekend.

Keeping an accurate count of our visitors proved to be a difficult task but a modest estimate would be that 80 people participated in the tour. An informal exit poll indicated that the two favorite locations in the building to visit were the organ pipe room and the sub-basement. Visitors spoke favora-

bly about those who were playing the organ and the knowledge of people stationed throughout the building. The views from upstairs and the treats were also favorites.

Young and old alike enjoyed getting their passports stamped as they visited various sites throughout the building. The missing stamp on one visitor's passport led to an amusing conversation with the pastor. This gentleman had not yet gotten a stamp in the 'pastor's box' but emphatically assured me (Pastor Gay) that he had had an extended conversation with the pastor. As I pressed him for more information, he suddenly got a knowing expression on his face as he stated the obvious, "You're the pastor, aren't you?" It was obvious that he had not been expecting a woman to fill that role in the church – but we were able to enlighten him.

All of our visitors were

given information about the ministries of the church and several requested further information about our denomination, which was provided. Door prizes (gift cards supplied by *Patty's Eggnest*) were sent to seven of our visitors.

This event was intended as a way to introduce our church to the neighborhood and as such was very successful. A special thank you to Judie Clarridge who brought the Fremont Historical Society on board, and to everyone in the church who participated in this exciting event.

Mark your calendar – we will host a similar event again in the future – after all it's only a couple of years to our 120th anniversary.

In Christ,
Pastor Judy



Events & Happenings Around the Region

 **SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** invites you to journey with them in a Senior Adult Retreat at Rainbow Lodge, North Bend WA, July 15—17, 2009. Call 206-325-6051 for registration costs/details. (See article on page 3)

 **MARTIN L. KING, JR. MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH** invites you to Vacation Bible School (VBS) for all ages, July 13-17,

2009—6:00 PM nightly. Call 425-255-1446 for more information.



FAITH LEADERS BREAKFAST—You and interested members of your faith community are invited to learn more about Habitat for Humanity's work in South King County and the many ways your community can be involved.

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Location: 221 Pacific Avenue S., Pacific, WA

For questions or to RSVP the number attending, contact Paul Heric at pheric@seattle-habitat.org or call 206-292-5240 Ext. 113.



Join with **New Hope Baptist Church** for weekend gardening at 20121 West Snoqualmie River Rd NE, Duvall, WA 98019

Call New Hope: 206-323-4212

Missional Church Learning Experience, Grace Baptist Church, San Jose

What is it?

Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) is a cluster of churches in an American Baptist region that form a Learning Community to explore what God is saying to the Church today. How can we best fit in with God's mission in our rapidly changing culture? Each church involved in the Learning Community forms a Mission Team that receives training in basic missional church principles, and practices those principles by designing and implementing a small community project. The Learning Community will meet 4 times during the process to share what they are learning and receive further training. Their lessons learned will also be

shared with other American Baptist churches in the region and across the nation.

Who can participate?

Any church large or small, country or city, who is interested in exploring the future of Christian faith in America. If your church is:

- Not engaged in high levels of internal conflict
- Not totally satisfied with its current effectiveness
- Willing to try new ideas; including involvement with your communities.

The Rev. Glynis LaBarre, Transformation Strategist, National Ministries, will facilitate this five-hour intro-



ductory workshop on Saturday, July 18, 2009,

9 AM—2:30 PM

Churches are encouraged to send a team of at least 3-4 people.

Grace Baptist Church is asking a donation of \$10 per person to cover the cost of lunch. And if you need overnight accommodations for Friday, please let Dennis know when you register.

Please register your intent to attend by contacting Dennis Glover at dennis.glover@gmail.com

See you in San Jose!

Aging as a Spiritual Pathway; Senior Retreat July 15— JULY 17, 2009

Does the thought of getting older bother you? Is your body not doing what it used to do? Are you losing friends due to illness, death or snow-birding? When the future seems uncertain, is the past all that one really has?

How about Living well in the present? That's all there really is.

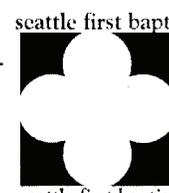
Come join us at Rainbow Lodge, North Bend WA for a

time of reflection on the process of aging as the pathway that enlarges the spirit. Dr. Gretchen Gundrum, a Local psychologist and spiritual director, will lead us to focus on all the strengths we've developed throughout our lifetime. We'll take a look at the hard-won wisdom gained from making mistakes. Instead of feeling left out of the "youth culture" we'll look at the turning points and trans-

formational experiences that have made us who we are and that lead us right into the heart of God. We will share devotional practices that calm our spirits and give us a sense of Divine presence.

To register call the Seattle First Baptist Church office at 206.325.6051.

David Kile



Report from the 2009 Biennial Business Meeting



The by-law vote failed to get the necessary 2/3 to pass (377-for; 217-against; 20-abstentions = 63.4%). I'll admit that I changed my vote at the last minute as I was not convinced that the Program Boards were ready to make the change to the new structure in a way that would make folks comfortable with the changes.

Roy Medley, ABCUSA General Secretary wrote the General Board members on Monday following the Biennial: *"This means that the current by-laws remain in force and current board members continue in their original classes on the General Board and the program boards. Going in to this meeting we knew that there was the possibility that the bylaws might not pass. There were still many questions about downsizing and*

representation, the completion of the bylaws for the program boards, and the matter of how we handle public debate on current issues in the new structure.

"I am considering this vote much like a first reading at the General Board. We have received feedback that our efforts need further work, and this gives us the opportunity to work to bring as many people on board as possible as we revisit the by-laws. And to aid us in our work we have significant written feedback from the delegates that was requested in the second discernment session.

"In the meantime, there are several things in the proposed bylaws that we can already begin to implement. We can continue to plan the 2011 Biennial as a mission summit,

and we can structure our General Board meetings to be more like a mission table, for example. We have already begun the practice of having a representative from the caucuses meet with us and that can continue.

"You will agree with me, I am sure, that we do not want structure to consume the next two years. There is too much important work that God is calling us to do to allow us to be diverted by that."

I concur with his assessment and ask that you keep Perla Belo in prayer as she continues as our representative on the General Board.



Evergreen booth display and its designer, Patrick Green



Curtis with Evergreen's Youth Representatives

2009 Biennial: A Summary and an Invitation

“...Finally, [from Dr. Roy Medley ‘s letter highlighted on page 4, he summarizes the gathering thusly] this was a wonderful Biennial. We were blessed with the powerful preaching of Dr. David Coffey, Dr. Kirk Byron Jones, Rev. Robin Smith; a powerful altar call by Evangelist Nick

Vujicic that saw scores of youth and others come forward in rededication or first time commitment. We were blessed by a surprise visit by Dr. Rick Warren who heard we were in town and joined us Sunday evening. And the glory of the Lord was all around us as we closed the

2009 Biennial with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus accompanied by the magnificent organ of First Baptist [Church], Pasadena...”

So start planning now to be part of the 2011 delegation to the Biennial in Puerto Rico.



Youngest Evergreen Reception Attendee



The Reception sponsored by Fairview Community Church



A couple of Evergreen folk volunteer on one of the mission projects—to put together baby kits.



And yes, Evergreen showed up at



JENA Six Saga Over as of Friday, June 26, 2009

It's taken more than two years, but the "Jena 6" can now put this saga behind them.

On June 30, 2009, after more than 320,000 of you stood up to protect them from Jim Crow justice, the Jena 6--Jesse Ray Beard, Carwin Jones, Robert Bailey, Theo Shaw, Bryant Purvis and Mychal Bell--are all now free to move ahead with their lives

The five remaining Jena 6 cases were brought to conclusion when Jesse Ray, Carwin, Robert, Theo, and Bryant pleaded "no contest" to simple battery—a misdemeanor for

which they received no time in jail, but will serve seven days of probation and pay relatively minor fines and court costs.

Your actions offline and online helped to put Jena on the map and resulted in critical coverage in every mainstream news outlet. You started a movement that made it impossible for Louisiana officials to support the status quo.

...It is important to remember that if it were not for the extreme nature of this case, most

"...our work cannot just be about identifying and fighting for individuals railroaded by the system, but about creating systemic change in criminal justice in America."

of us wouldn't have known about it or gotten involved...

...our work cannot just be about identifying and fighting for individuals railroaded by the system, but about creating systemic change in the criminal justice in America...

Ministry: A Perspective on Literacy and Content Area Reading (The First in a Series of Articles) Rev. Dr. John Doty

What if we approached a sermon or bible study from a content literacy perspective?

1. We would need to know the reader-hearers' vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension levels.
2. We would need to understand the reader-hearer's background and prior knowledge.
3. We would need to engage in much more dialogue, questioning, and talking-to-learn.
4. We would ask the reader-hearers to move beyond the literal level of the text,

"reading the lines," to the comprehension level, "reading between the lines."

5. We would encourage understanding of near and far context, as well as culture and language ("sitz im leben") of the text being heard-studied.
6. We would ask the reader-hearer to write or say central elements of the text in their own words.
7. We would ask the reader-hearer to make application of the text to themselves, and their life setting.
8. We would move from the form of a sermon being "stand and deliver" to engaging the congregation at multiple levels, including mid-sermon breaking

into groups, dialogues throughout the sermon, mini-minutes for writing a personal reflection on a statement or quote, etc.

9. We would challenge the reader-hearer (including ourselves) to go out and "live it."
10. Sharing and reporting back how we are living the text and engaging our community.

Welcome A New Lay Ministry: Refugee Services

At the beginning of June, I began my new Companis Mission Worker placement, coordinating Evergreen's services to refugees from Burma. My first steps included meeting and beginning to know some of the Seattle area faith communities that are mainly made up of refugees.

Burma is a large country, with many different ethnic communities. Among refugees from Burma in the Seattle area, I've now met three distinct faith communities, all Christian, worshipping in different languages. The *Karen Community Church* worships in the *S'gaw Karen* language. The *Washington Burmese Christian Fellowship* worships primarily in the *Burmese* language, and the *Chin-Burmese Community Church* worships in dialects of the *Hakha Chin* language, along with the more widely-understood *Burmese* language. All three churches are friendly, spirited, and accommodating, with multiple generations and lots of young people. I look forward to visiting with them frequently.

At the Chin-Burmese Community Church, I was asked to speak for a few minutes, and explain my interest in them. I

had to think about a concise way to describe this new and as-yet developing ministry. So, I focused on the kind of relationship I hope to have with their Church, and all of the Burma refugee communities.

A Church elder skillfully translated my English into Hakha Chin dialect, sentence by sentence, as I spoke. The last half of my "sharing" summed up my vision for this ministry so far:

"...You have always been our brothers and sisters in Christ. Since the time of the missionaries, you have been in our hearts and our prayers. In June of this year, I was called by the Evergreen Association to learn about refugee people from Burma, teach our own churches about your communities and needs, and bring our people into deeper love and fellowship with you.

I am not a pastor. I do not control wealth and power to give you many things. I am not here to recruit new members for the churches of the Evergreen Association. I am here to say that we love you. We want to know you better. We thank God that you have come here. We do not know exactly what God plans for us by bringing you here to live. But we trust God, and reach out to you in love.

During the coming months, I will

try to learn from you, teach my own community about you, be of service whenever I can, and see if together we can move closer to the Kingdom of God on earth. I ask that you will teach me about yourselves, be my friend, and let me be your servant. I promise to listen carefully, and be your friend. I promise to help the diverse communities of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches know you better, and express their love for you. The fruits of this expression are not yet known to us. But expression of love in Jesus Christ, if it is true, can only bring forth what our loving and merciful God desires for us.

Thank you for allowing me to worship and speak with you this evening. May all thanks be to God for bringing us together in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior."

So, I look forward to much listening, learning, and sharing with the Evergreen Community. With help from mentors like Pastor Paul Aita, and all the people of the Evergreen Association, I hope to help all of us find ways to understand and love our new neighbors from Burma.



Paul Roby,
Coordinator EA
Services to Refugees

Northwest Kaleidoscope Institute: Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community—August 10 to 13, Camp Berachah, Auburn WA

Leaders involved in small group ministries—bible study, youth ministry, adult forums, discussions; chairs of committees and commissions; religious educators; and those who have read Eric Law's

books and want to get a hands-on, in-depth experience in putting the theory, method, spirituality to practice should attend.

Call or email the Evergreen office for registration info:

253-859-2226;
clem@ea-abc.org



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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.



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Building Bridges Between Communities

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY

- 11—Black Caucus Meeting, Kent Office 9 AM
- 18—Bar-B-Q Cook Off Fundraiser—Renton Cedar River Trail Park, Picnic Shelter (between Renton Airport and Boeing Plant)
- 18—Introduction to Missional Church Learning Communities at Grace, San Jose (pg. 3)

AUGUST

- 4—Clergy Cruise (by invitation only)

- 8—**Association Board Meeting**, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM
- 10—13 Kaleidoscope Institute Northwest, at Camp Berachah, 19830 SE 328th Place. Auburn WA 98092 (Contact Marcia for info)

OCTOBER

- **9—10 EVERGREEN ANNUAL MEETING, First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace**

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.