



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 9, Issue 7

**Bar-be-Que and
Bake Sale/Auction
Fundraiser
July 17, 2010
Tickets available
253-859-2226**

Black Caucus BBQ: A Delicious Evergreen Support



Ken Curl, Evergreen Chair

I can smell that BBQ now. The sauce will make you smack your lips and lick your fingers (napkins available upon request). The meat is always succulent and tasty. The sour cream pound cake is out of this world. What else can I say in support of the Black Caucus BBQ.

Well I could say that the cost is only \$20 per plate and that includes the meat (ribs, chicken, beef or a combination of the three), salad, beans, corn, and cake. I believe I missed a few

items which will be a delight.

Did I mention the dessert auction that starts about 3:00 p.m.? Last year Marcia's apple pie went for \$50, so bring lots of money.

The place is the Cedar River Trail Park, behind Boeing off Logan street and 6th in Renton, Washington. The date July 17, 2010. The time 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m.

The Black Caucus is donating the food and all proceeds go directly to Evergreen. Let's keep Evergreen 'in the chips' by purchasing your ticket today (Clem made me say that).

Need a ticket? Give Clem a call at (253) 859-2226, and she will let you know the closest contact person or get tickets to you.

Oh, and did I tell you that last year the BBQ raised a little over \$3,400 for Evergreen and our goal this year is \$5,000?

Hope to see you on July 17th !

Ken

Inside this issue:

<i>Events & Happenings Around the Association</i>	2
<i>Evergreen Annual Meeting</i>	3
<i>UBC Calls Santiago as Pastor</i>	4
<i>ABCUSA Biennial—Puerto Rico</i>	5
<i>Women In Ministry Gathering</i>	6
<i>From Great Tragedy—A Little Peace</i>	7
<i>News From the Nzungas</i>	8

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM MARCIA

During the month of June, I took the week before the Asian Caucus meeting to be in Michigan with my parents and a day to go with my friend Diane on a Quilt Shop Hop. My parents are doing okay—I took home some Copper River Salmon which we all enjoyed at my brother's home on Father's Day. My foot surgery has been indefinitely postponed because of a reaction to a vaccine, so the work of July will go forward a bit more smoothly. Thanks for your prayers.

Events & Happenings Around the Association

 **FREMONT BAPTIST CHURCH** invites you to join in an afternoon of *Foot-Stompin' Hymns*, October 24, 2010 to benefit Evergreen Mission Outreach such as the Haiti Eye Clinic, Burmese Refugee Resettlement and Tent Cities.

 Through December 12, 2010, the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (719 S King St) is showing an exhibit entitled "A Refugee's Journey of Survival and Hope." The experiences of Burmese refugees arriving in

the Puget Sound region are included in this exhibition. See http://wingluke.org/refugees_postcard.htm for more information.

Shepherd's Garden Open House—June 9, 2010

Shepherd's Garden, 39 one-bedroom apartments for seniors, made possible by the vision of Good Shepherd Baptist Church leadership and congregation which donated the land, is American Baptist Homes of the West (ABHOW)'s second affordable housing community in the state of Washington.

The celebration was enjoyed by many, including Snohomish County Councilman Mike Cooper, current GSBC

pastor, Christopher Boyer and 6 former pastors.



Shepherd's Garden resident, the Hasselblads, the Turners



Good Shepherd Pastors: (L-R) - Dick Birdsall, Chris Boyer (current pastor), Bill Painter, Judy Gay, Bernie Turner, Chuck Elven and Jerold Sutton

Explore God Curriculum

Would you like to explore the God that we know through God's actions and relationships? You have the opportunity this fall if you order the Judson Press *Journeys* curriculum for adults. Four sessions look at what we can learn about God through narratives from the exodus of the Hebrews. The other sessions focus on the images of God in

the lyrics of the Psalms and related Christian hymns.

The leader's guide and student's book were written by Marilyn Marston, former pastor of Panther Lake Community Church, now a member at University Baptist Church.

Increase the fall curriculum orders from the churches of

Rev. Marilyn Marston

the Evergreen Association by ordering online at www.judsonpress.com (enter Region Code 38 during check-out) or call 1-800-458-3766
Order now!

Evergreen Annual Meeting—October 8-9, 2010

The 2010 Evergreen Annual Meeting will be hosted by the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 19300—108th Avenue SE, Renton WA 98055, October 8—9, 2010.

It seems early to be discussing an October event, but this most important gathering in the life of Evergreen member churches will be upon us

soon. Begin planning now. Identify your representatives (Five delegates per member church) and remember all members and friends are invited to attend.

The guest preacher is the Rev. Liliana DaValle, executive minister of the Rhode Island region ABCUSA.

For the first time in Evergreen's history, included in the Friday opening events is a Men's lunchtime gathering featuring Manuel Luquin, Past President of American Baptist Men USA (ABMen-USA).

And as has been the practice in past years, clergy leaders will lunch together, as will AB Women.

A Note From ABSW President Paul Martin

..."I can't wait to receive the Newsletter from Evergreen. It is so exciting and informative to read about the activities of the Region.

Your Executive Minister is a part of our family here at ABSW. She serves as the Chair of the Board of Trustees Academic Committee and is a part of the Executive Committee. She provides valuable assistance to the work of our seminary.

Thank you for printing

the good story on my dear friend of many years, the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright.

Also, I am excited to see almost every month some activity of the seminary reported in your newsletter. Sun Kim was a student of mine and is an exceptionally gifted young man. We are very proud of him. It was a blessing for us to recognize the achievements of Dr. Ledbetter, who is quite a remarkable gentleman with

magnificent gifts for Christian Ministry.

Again, accept my appreciation for the mentioning of our great seminary. Keep me on the mailing list, and God bless you and the region.

Dr. Paul M. Martin
President
American Baptist Seminary
of the West, Berkeley CA"

Hymnologist Leland Ross Shares

On Sunday, May 30, 2010, Leland Ross of Fremont Baptist Church coordinated/led the music in an Esperanto worship service at the Esperanto-USA convention in Washington, DC/Bethesda, MD. The music was very diverse culturally and linguistically: in addition to all the Esperanto, we sang the first song in both (Cuban) Spanish and Esperanto, the second song (to the tune

of "Amazing Grace") in both Cheyenne and Esperanto, and the third song in a mixture of Swahili and Esperanto. The fourth song was only in Esperanto, but to a calypso tune. The last three were more "standard" hymns: "All Glory, Laud and Honour", "God of Grace and God of Glory", and "Ĝojan Certacon" (to the tune of "Blessed Assurance").

I have been selected to present a poster display on the history of Esperanto hymnody at the annual meeting of the Hymn Society in the U.S. & Canada, which will be at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, in July 2010.

Leland

Renton Community Supper

On June 7, 2010 an ecumenical group of Renton-area churches and organizations (including **New Beginnings Christian Fellowship and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church**) joined with the Renton Salvation Army to launch a feeding ministry to serve hot meals to people in need.

Dinner is served every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 5:30PM-6:30 PM at the Renton Salvation Army (720 S. Tobin, Renton WA).

The Renton Community Supper is a co-operative ministry united around this single purpose: to assist the helpless, homeless, and hungry who live among us. The ministry provides a free meal, a warm and friendly place to enjoy it, and connections that offer hope for a better future - all at no charge, and with no strings attached.

The churches and organizations behind this effort contribute the finances, volunteer labor and other necessary elements to make this meal a reality. Service is on a volunteer basis and

Rev. Toni Booker

we encourage all to help us meet the needs of a growing community.

We are looking for groups of 6-8 people who can set up/breakdown tables, serve and clean-up from 4:30p-7:30p. A cook on staff prepares the meals.

For more information or if you wish to support us financially please visit our website www.rentoncommunitysupper.com. We can also be reached at 425-255-5974.

It's Unanimous: Manny Santiago is UBC's New Pastor!

On Sunday, June 6, 2010, members of University Baptist Church unanimously affirmed the Pastoral Search Committee's nominee, Juan "Manny" Santiago, to become their new pastor. Manny is Puerto Rican, fourth-generation American Baptist, holds an M. Div from Andover Newton Theological School, and has written a book entitled, Being Baptist. He is on the national boards of Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists and The Baptist Peace Fellowship.

Although all of these attributes contribute to his perspective and gifts, [UBC] selected him because he was the best fit for [their] future direction. After a weekend of group meetings, an all-church



potluck, and packed worship, UBC members agreed with the Search Committee's belief that Manny will meet [their]

goals for the pastor who will:

- Guide UBC in discerning a corporate mission vision to define how they are to enter into God's mission for peace and justice in the world,
- Bring creativity to how they will use a new worship space,
- Assist in envisioning change that would attract young adults and families with children,
- Be supportive of and en-

gaged in education of UBC youth regarding Christian faith, faiths of others, and Baptist principles.

Following the affirmation, Manny told UBC that he had tears of joy in knowing that he will be coming to UBC, but also tears of sadness to leave his current church, the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew Methodist in New York City. UBC members can certainly empathize with the loss he may feel as well as the loss members of his current congregation will feel. UBC sends them their thanks and prayers for the change that will come to them. Manny spoke of having a feeling of coming home when he arrived in Seattle on Friday.

Welcome, Manny, to the Evergreen Association!

Evergreen at the Seattle Mariners Vs Minnesota Twins Game



Mountlake Terrace; Wedgwood, Martin Luther King, & Japanese Baptist churches represented



Japanese Baptist Church



And the Mariners WON!!

Good Shepherd



Mountlake Terrace



Japanese Baptist Church; Mountlake Terrace



JBC; friends from Burma; Wedgwood

ABCUSA Biennial June 24–26, 2011 in Puerto Rico

It's time to begin registering and arranging transportation to the 2011 American Baptist Biennial gathering to be held in Puerto Rico.

- Reunite and fellowship with denominational family and friends
- Be inspired by preachers, speakers, and missionaries
- Witness transforming ministries across ABC and our partners
- Share in the forming of the future of our denomination

- Experience God's movement with our ABC/ Puerto Rico family
- Renew yourselves and revive your ministries...**CELEBRATE!**

For more information go to the Evergreen website (homepage) at www.ea-abc.org and click on the Annual Meeting logo (like the one in this article) near the bottom of the page to be linked to the ABCUSA information and registration page.



The planning team is looking for music/musicians for the event. Do you have a group ready to go to Puerto Rico? Check the website for more details.

Haiti Trip Is A Go!

Having reached “sufficient” registrations and accompanying deposits, the Haiti mission trip is on! There is ample space for you to be part of this first experience for Evergreen.

Do you want to join the group? If yes, then send your \$200 deposit immediately to Evergreen Association, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032.

With a group of five signed up, the trip to Haiti is a go!

Trip costs: \$1,300 (September 14—20, 2010) and \$1,550 (September 14—25, 2010).

Contact Ron Kirstein at: rkirstein@verizon.net or 206-533-9285, for questions.

MISSIONAL CHURCH LEADER EXPERIENCE—IS YOUR CHURCH SIGNED UP?

We live in the age of the most change ever. Just think of things like notebooks, cell phones, i-pods and i-pads that weren't around just a few years ago. The church is faced with the changes—like it or not. A church must have a web-site and a myriad of other things that simply weren't a part of the picture just a few years ago. It has

created a real problem for our churches. There are no easy answers. We do offer today a program that has given many churches hope for the future.

The Missional Church Leader Experience is an 18 month program that will begin in September. There will be two simultaneous meetings, one in the Bay Area of California and one in Seattle.

Micky Holmes, mmholmes@absw.edu will be coordinating the program in the Bay Area. Carol Sutton, carol-dicksutton@comcast.net will be coordinating the program in the Seattle Area. The First Session for the Bay Area will happen on Saturday, September 11 and in Seattle on Sunday, September 12. We'll let you know meeting places in the next newsletter. Sign up today!

AND THEN THERE WAS JUNE!

In the last newsletter, I told of a very busy month of May. June brought its own brand of special events.

We started out by selling over 80 tickets to spur the Mariners to a victory over the Minnesota Twins (see pictures). It ended with a special celebration at University Baptist Church where they ordained (a local church ordination) Margie Peyton. Margie has been playing the organ for over 30 years. She currently serves as their minister of Music. Her ordination pa-

per was a beautiful blending of music and theology, and the ordination reflected that as well.

Also in June there was a delightful gathering of Evergreen Women in Ministry who were blessed to have Holly Bean listen to concerns and were thrilled to have Sarah Welton come from Alaska to be with us.

I enjoyed being at the Duwamish annual gala, experiencing a little of the culture of these first people of Seattle. The Sacred Action Task Group met and moved that work forward, which

Notes from Dr. Patton

was presented to the Association Board meeting. I went to Chicago to meet with the national Asian American Baptist Caucus. They had a pastors retreat the day before, but still had lots of energy and life. The culminating cultural show included songs in different languages, a brother/sister playing beautiful violin music as well as a classical pianist and break-dancers!

I am privileged and fortunate to represent you, Evergreen Association, in so many ways!

Thank you!

Women In Ministry Gathering

ABCUSA has charged a taskforce to gather information that will be useful in determining how the American Baptist Women In Ministry role formerly held by Valentine Royal Thomas and funded by specific dollars deeply affected by the recent downward spiral of the stock market, will go forward.

Holly Bean, a part of that taskforce, met with a group of Evergreen women in ministry ranging from missionaries to

pastors, seminarians and lay women discussing roadblocks, resources and envisioning the future of ABWIM.

The group pictured at the right met on Friday evening, June 4, and on Saturday, June 5, 2010

were joined by Gretchen Champoux, Nancy Darnell, Kathryn Jans, Marilyn Marston and Juanita Steenbak-



L-R: Standing—Diane Plourde, Judy Gay, Sarah Welton, Cathy Fransson, Clem Winbush, and Marcia Patton; Seated: Holly Bean and Inga Hart

kers at Judson Park Retirement Community Center, Des Moines WA.

PCBA NEWS

- Thursday, July 15, 2010 **Board Meeting** at Grand Lake Gardens, 1:15 PM—3 PM
- Wednesday, September 8, 2010 **BLT** at Grand Lake Gardens, Dr. James Chuck speaker, “The Chinese Way of Doing Things”, Lunch at 12:15, program at 1:00 PM
- Tuesday October 5, 2010 **Board meeting** at 4 PM in the Library. **BLT** Soup and Bible Study at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, Oakland, **6:00 PM**. Bible Study led by Dr. Norman Gottwald.
- Wednesday, November 3, 2010, **BLT** at Grand Lake Gardens, featuring

Marcia Patton, Evergreen Executive Minister.

(**Board meeting** follows)

- Wednesday, December 8, 2010, **BLT** and **Board meeting**, at Grand Lake Gardens.

Please RSVP to Joan Thatcher at 510-350-7008 for each of the above gatherings.

Congratulations to Pharez Keys

Pharez Keys, Black Caucus youth representative to the Evergreen Association Board and graduating high school senior received the Semper Fidelis Award for Music Excellence at her graduation ceremony in June. The

award was presented on behalf of the United States Marines Youth Foundation in recognition of diligence, dedication and music excellence as a performing high school bandsman.

In the fall Pharez will begin attending Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle to study music.

From Great Tragedy— A Little Peace

Pastor Judy Gay

Early on Saturday morning, June 12th, four young cousins and their Aunt Eyerusalem, perished in a house fire in Fremont. Immediately, there was an outpouring of love from the Fremont, Seattle, and Yesler communities, Seattle School District and the local business community. Later in the week, the Church Council of Greater Seattle contacted local denominational leaders to invite them to a memorial service that was to be held on June 18th at the Seattle Key Arena. Because the fire had occurred in Fremont I chose to attend that service representing Fremont Baptist Church, the Fremont community, and (as I was to discover) Evergreen Baptist Association.

On occasion, when I feel compelled to pray for peace during worship, I often encourage my congregants and others to work on affecting little peaces - person to person peaces - so that God can concentrate on the bigger picture. At the memorial service for Eyerusalem Gebregiorgis, Joseph Gebregiorgis, Nyella Smith, Nisreen Shamam, and Yaseen Shamam I was witness to just such a little peace. Reading through the program before the service began I noted that the bishop from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Imam from the Eastside Islamic Center were scheduled to speak. It was then that I began to appreciate some of the possible complexities of the service.

While gathering in a side room with local clergy, I was introduced to the pomp and dignity of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church through the presence of their bishop and his entourage. Later the delegation from the Russian Orthodox Church arrived, and were seated on the stage.

The program began with a prayer by the Ethiopian Bishop in the native language of Ethiopia. In its entirety this prayer included chanting, singing, the swinging of censers, and the positioning of colorful umbrellas. The religious sermon was also in the native language of many in the audience. When the Imam was introduced, he spoke of the family and offered a prayer for those lost in the fire.

Daniel Gebregiorgis, brother and uncle to the deceased, spoke on behalf of the family offering thanks to individuals and groups who were instrumental in putting the service together as well as those who had been offering support to the families on an ongoing basis. He also read scripture and left us with the reminder that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. It was only later in the service that I realized the important role that this young man had played in making the little peace that we were witnessing.

The audience upwards of

3,500 sat in stricken silence or wept as together we viewed four incredible slideshow presentations. The victims were no longer just names on a program they were individuals who had lived and loved and laughed. In the sharing accompanying the slides of Nyella Smith, her uncle publicly thanked Daniel for the way in which he had been able to blend two cultures and two faiths, the way in which he had affected peace in the moment of grief. Or in my terms, made a little peace. Even the Native American tribute song, performed by the Head Start teachers who had worked with the two youngest children, contributed to this theme of inclusion and peace.

Daniel Gebregiorgis made peace during the service and in the days leading up to the service. I found the witness of his faith to be palpable both as he spoke and as others spoke of him. Daniel indeed had made a little peace. May that peace continue to grow in the midst of his extended family and beyond.

May the witness of his peacemaking inspire and encourage each of you in your own peacemaking efforts. May each of you become an instrument of peace.

Amen,

Pastor Gay

On That Day Everybody Ate: One Woman's Story of Hope and Possibility in Haiti, by Margaret Trost, Koa Books, Kihei, Hawaii, 2008

Sometimes we wonder if mission trips have any lasting value. Besides being a learning experience, is it possible that one's life might be changed because of having been there? Margaret Trost's personal story tells us that the answer can be yes.

In January 2000, eighteen months after the sudden death of her husband, she was

invited to go on a learning trip to Haiti and on an impulse said yes. During an evening session the group listened to Fr. Gérard Jean-Juste, priest at St. Clare's Church near Port-au-Prince, tell of the children's hunger and of his vision for a food program for hungry children in the community.

She writes, "My Haitian colleagues continue to be my greatest teachers. Whenever I visit Haiti, Manmi Dèt's open arms welcome me 'home.' I treasure every minute with her"

If you read the book, here are

"But it's important to keep taking steps, even though they are small. Never lose hope. Never give up. One day, maybe not during my lifetime, but one day, we will get there."

questions for reflection...

What have we done on impulse that led to something significant?

How have we been able to continue doing good when the problems are overwhelming?

News from the Nzungas, Missionaries to Haiti

"June 11, 2010

Dear Loved Ones,

What a wonderful year this has been. We were able to have the whole family together for the first time in seven years and greet our new granddaughter, our first. We have renewed old friendships and made new ones as we traveled the USA telling the story of Haiti and our ministry. The churches of CA, FL, IN, IL, OH, KS, WA, MO, NJ and IA all received us warmly and uplifted us with their con-

cern for us and the work we do. We still have PA and WV to go before returning to Haiti.

The Haiti we return to will be different than the Haiti we left. Disaster once again has struck and left those people yet another hurdle to overcome. Our contacts there have told us of the mental toll it is taking on them as well as the physical. For this reason we have just completed a course in effective counseling to arm ourselves with another

tool to help these people we love.

None of this would be possible without your support. As we prepare to return, we covet your prayers that we will be able to show God's love in practical ways that will ease their burdens and instill the hope of a better future with Christ

In His Peace and Love,
Nzunga Mabudiga
Kihomi Ngwemi

Notes: 1) We are still trying to get that generator in place. We've made contact so that our dollars will go far—designate your gifts for the generator as our first priority.

2) When the Nzungas return to Haiti their most pressing need for ministry will be a high clearance, four-wheel drive, crew cab truck, since the 1985 vehicle they inherited upon their 1998 arrival in Haiti has been officially declared beyond repair. You can help by purchasing a door handle, an engine or everything in-between. For more info contact Mr. Denny Shewell at 812-569-1352 or jdshevell@hughes.net



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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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 **23rd** 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, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY

- 10—Black Caucus Meeting, Evergreen Office, Kent 9 AM
- 15—PCBA Board Meeting, Grand Lake
- 17—Bar-B-Que Fundraiser sponsored by the Black Caucus, Cedar River Park, Tickets at local churches now.
- 30—31 Youth Council Planning Weekend

AUGUST

- 10—SBU-Hosted Active Clergy/Spouse Dinner Cruise, by invitation

- 16-20 Kaleidoscope NW Training, Rainbow Lodge...
- 28—Association Board Meeting, **Seattle First Baptist Church**, 9 AM (NOTE SITE CHANGE)

SEPTEMBER

- 18—WBC Biennial Meeting

OCTOBER

- 8-9 **Evergreen Annual Meeting**, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Renton WA, Rev. Liliana DaValle, Rhode Island Executive Minister, guest preacher

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.

