

Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 9, Issue 11

Cynthia Clawson in Concert to Benefit Evergreen



It's time. Less than two weeks remain to purchase your ticket for this One Night Only event—Saturday, November 13, 2010 when the Evergreen Euro Caucus presents Cynthia Clawson, who has

been dubbed “The most awesome voice in gospel music”.

You may order tickets for Cynthia Clawson in Concert at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/124519> (includes a processing fee), see your Association Board representative at your church, contact Seattle First Baptist at 206-325-6051 or contact Clem at 253-859-2226 or clemeba@comcast.net

Also, you may risk tickets being available and purchase them at the door.

Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Avenue, Seattle 98122.

There is general seating only, so arrive early, choose your seat, sit down and prepare to be blessed.

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Prayer Concerns:

- *Marcus Walker, pastor of Burton Community Church—diagnosed with metastatic Melanoma, stage 4 (see page 3)*
- *David Simpkins, retired pastor of Burien Community Church— injury resulting from a fall landed him in the hospital.*
- *Donald Ward, pastor of Daystar Baptist Church, and family in the loss of his mother.*
- *Churches seeking pastoral leadership: Burien, Issaquah, New Community of Faith, San Leandro, & Wedgwood.*

“Who is My Neighbor?”

Ken Curl

What a wonderful subject for our Annual Meeting! The meeting brought out the best of Evergreen with everyone participating and working together to better understand the mean-

ing of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Liliana DaValle, Executive Minister of the Rhode Island Region of ABC challenged us to think of



Ken Curl, Evergreen Chair

ourselves as the neighbor. When the lawyer tested Jesus,

(Continued on page 2)

Events & Happenings Around the Association



BURIEN COMMUNITY CHURCH has called Rev. Sam

Hochstatter as interim following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. David Simpkins whose celebration was held on October 31, 2010 during worship service.



WEDGWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH has called Nancy

Darnell as interim after former pastor Curtis Price ac-

cepted the call to First Baptist Church, Salt Lake City UT.



NEW WALK CHRISTIAN CHURCH wants you to **SAVE THE DATE**—March 6, 2011 to join them for their 6th Year Anniversary Celebration. More details as the date approaches.



Biennial registration opened on Monday,

September 27, 2010. Register now to attend the American Baptist Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 24-26, 2011.



SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH invites you to walk the Labyrinth on second Sundays, 6—8 PM.

- November 14
- December 12
- January 10, 2011

Call the church for details.

“Who is My Neighbor?”

(Continued from page 1)

saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it? The lawyer answered, “You shall love the Lord your God will all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.” But the lawyer desiring to justify himself, asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Now here is the good part. After Jesus told the parable of the Good Sa-

continued

maritan he asked the Lawyer, “Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?” And the Lawyer said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” The good part is that showing mercy toward our brothers and sisters even though they may not look, speak, or act like us is truly being the neighbor!

I am reminded of a recent tragic incident where a Native American woodcarver, John T. Williams was gunned down by a young Seattle Po-

lice
Of-

*“Who is my neighbor?”
...
“He who show[s] mercy on
[me].”*

ficer. Could part of the reason this happened be because Mr. Williams being Native American was somehow not considered worthy of being shown mercy. Each of us is the neighbor and everyone is worthy of being shown mercy. As Jesus said to the lawyer, “Go and do likewise.”

Ken

Give to United Mission ... And by so doing, support Evergreen Association, AB Home Mission Societies (National Ministries), International Ministries, Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board, and the Office of the General Secretary, and the American Baptist Seminary of the West—that is—all of the American Baptist family!

Prayers Asked for Burton Pastor, Marcus Walker

Marcus Walker, pastor of Burton Community Church has metastatic Melanoma that is widespread—advanced; Stage 4.

His wife, Laurie, reports that “...he is the same Marcus—compassionate, funny, handsome, and smart. He talks of flu symptoms and moves more slowly.

Amazon.com just delivered the boxed set of the Red Skelton and Carol Burnett shows. The two of us are taking walks, riding bikes and eating delicious food. On the

day of the appointment with the oncologist he was singing *Onward Christian Soldier* at the top of his lungs in the kitchen.

We are thankful for your petitions before God, and invite your encouragement, hope, humor, love and good news about people fighting Stage 4 Melanoma. From our new reading and conversations with cancer survivors we are learning that the medical approach is not all that matters; love, caring, and positive attitude are also impor-

tant.

You are invited to help Marcus hear that his life, and contributions to this world’s people, have been and will continue to be worthwhile.

Cards are encouraging and can be sent to 907 South Sheridan, Tacoma, WA 98405.

It is difficult to respond to the many phone calls, however, emails to this address: l.walker@ix.netcom.com

are welcome, too.”

Seattle Baptist Union (SBU)

Invites

Seattle-Area American Baptist Churches*

to attend its

Annual Meeting

Friday, November 12, 2010

Hosted by Panther Lake Community Church, 10630 SE 204th, Kent WA 98031

Fellowship time: 6:00 PM; Dinner served at 6:30 PM

Business Meeting immediately following Dinner

Each member church is entitled to representation by the pastor and two (2) members at no cost. A church may add one (1) additional representative for each 50 active resident members over 100 members. The cost of the meal for these additional representatives will be \$15 each. Any member of an SBU church may attend and pay the \$15 meal cost.

Please complete the registration form sent to your church, and mail it with any additional meal fees to: SBU, 409 Third Avenue South, Suite A, Kent WA 98032-5843; or call Clem at 253-859-2226 and pay at the door.

Be sure registrations are returned by Friday, November 5, 2010.

*within these geographic boundaries of Seattle WA: 128th SW in Snohomish County in the North; east to the Redmond/Carnation ridge, including Maple Valley and Issaquah; south to include the Kent School District and Federal Way; and west to Puget Sound, to include Vashon Island

ANNUAL MEETING, INSTALLATIONS, ABSW AND A RETIREMENT

September began with American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) Trustee meetings. These were among the most positive meetings that I've witnessed since joining that board about six years ago. The attendance was the best it has ever been, and as we were working hard on getting ready for American Theological Seminaries (ATS) Accreditation early next spring, it was an important meeting. The top 4% of your United Mission Giving goes to ABSW, and they are grateful for the support.

Our Annual Meeting was a good event. New Beginnings was terrific as our host! Their new facility served us well. The Rev. Dr. Liliana Davalle was an inspiration and guide as we considered "Who Is My Neighbor." We did a lot of work, and also set out an ambitious task for ourselves as we affirmed the proposal from the Call to Sacred Action Team (see full text on page 5).

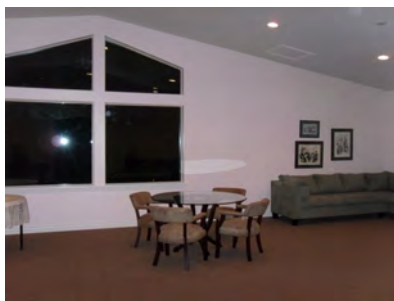
In the weeks following the Annual Meeting, two installations of pastors took place. On the 17th, Rev. Curtis Price was installed as pastor at First Baptist Church, Salt Lake City (picture page 10). The church was delighted to be installing a pastor who "knows" Utah and its unique culture. Rev. Timothy Phillips was the guest preacher.

Many neighboring ABC pastors were present as well as ecumenical colleagues.

While in Utah I had a great visit and meal with Don and Marge Proctor, pastor of First Baptist Church Bountiful and got a chance to see their new addition (pictured here). The finishing touches have yet to be completed, but it already has opened new ministry possibilities for the church.

On the 24th, University Baptist Church, Seattle installed the Rev. Juan Manuel Santiago Rodriquez as pastor. Again, it was a beautiful service with Dr. Valerie E. Dixon, scholar, peace activist, and founder of www.justpeacetheory.com as preacher. She preached on hospitality and the role of hosts and guests. The music by the choir was of course amazing (We also heard them at the Annual Meeting.) . Pastor "Manny" received several gifts from the church—including a few days' supply of peanut M&Ms (see pictures on page 10) .

The last Sunday of the month was the last Sunday that Rev. Dr. David Simpkins would be in the pulpit of



Burien Community Church as pastor. David has been with the church since its existence as Burien Community Church, a merged congregation. David was the pastor of one of the merging congregations. He and his wife Terri are remaining in the area, so we anticipate seeing them at Evergreen events (pictures on page 10).

In-between these events were meetings with ecumenical partners—

"We did a lot of work, ... set out an ambitious task for ourselves as we affirmed the proposal from the Call to Sacred Action Team "

mostly working on training events for cultural competency, including one evening with Eric Law. What have you done recently to come to further your understanding of others?

It is always a pleasure to serve you. As I prepare to go to Philadelphia twice in November, for ABC conversation on immigration and General Board meetings. I appreciate your support and encouragement.

Grace and peace,

Marcia

Report to the Association on the CALL FOR SACRED ACTION

On September 8, 2010 Marcia Patton attended a meeting at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center at Discovery Park, Seattle. It was a meeting of the Native American Advisory Council of the Seattle Police Department. It was an extraordinary meeting where more than the usual folks from the police department (including the Chief) were present as well as more than the usual folks from the Native American Community.

The meeting was scheduled because of the killing of 50 year old American Native carver, John T. Williams, by a Seattle Police Officer on August 29th at 4:15 pm. One of the reasons the police officer reportedly pulled his weapon was because John was carrying a 3 inch knife, and had a piece of wood in his other hand. I'm told he was a very skilled carver and storyteller. The native community is shocked and outraged.

At the meeting I heard again stories of people of color being afraid of police officers, because of the experiences and/or stories of harassment especially by white police officers. There were many calls for peace and calls for justice during the meeting. Marcia wondered again and again, "What can I do?"

What can Evergreen do?"

To begin our journey of working for justice, the Sacred Action Team is proposing the following actions for the next 12 months: **Each Caucus is asked to:**

1. Name one person who will be part of a Strategic Action Coordinating Team. If there is a need to stand with a community upon whom injustice has been served (like the Native American community with the slaying of John T. Williams), then the team member will covenant to call others in his/her caucus to "mobilize" members to attend meetings and/or write letters, etc. This team may meet once or twice in the year to discuss how to work together for common good and justice. A part of this step is to name one person from each church who would agree to be the contact person for the Strategic Action Coordinator.

2. Agree to find members of your caucus who might participate for one year in a covenant group. This group will covenant with each other to meet for a year once a month (most likely in members' homes, but not necessarily). Members will share their stories with one another and pray for one another during the year. Hopefully

the group will be willing to report to Evergreen their experiences at the end of the year. (Note: Item three may be one group or two. We list it as three a and b, but it could be one group or two working simultaneously, knowing that the other group is also working.)

- 3a. Find person(s) to serve on an Evergreen Association Team on Justice Issues. This team will meet (at least monthly initially), to outline the kind of learning in which Evergreen individuals and churches might engage. They will develop resource bibliographies and may eventually develop training events that churches might request.

- 3b. Find a person/(s) to serve on a "Response to Immigration Team". This might be made part of the team in #3a, or a separate team. Right now one of the on-going injustices for all groups is the current state of immigrants (both documented and undocumented) in our country. This team would collect resources, and encourage churches to develop reasonable responses to the need for immigration reform. If the two teams are one, the first thing the team would tackle would be immigration.

Affirmed by Association at October 9, 2010 Annual Meeting.

Click on the following link to purchase CD/DVD's of the Evergreen Annual Meeting on the New Beginnings website:

[Http://thenbcf.org/bookstore](http://thenbcf.org/bookstore)

Church of the Covenant—Alaska Recognizes International Day of Peace

Church of the Covenant in Palmer, Alaska, led by Pastor Sarah Welton, recognized the International Day of Peace. Members of the congregation read information about the

nature of the many known conflicts around the world, noting the area of the world on a map with an arrow, lighting a candle, and finally, ringing a bell.



This year there were 43 areas of the world noted on the map, 43 candles lit, and the bell rung 43 times. The 2010 observance was continued from September 19 and October 3rd to the second Sunday of October when members requested it not be hurried.

Deacons Bree Lyons and Mary Duhamel first prepared this observance in 2008 and members found it so impressive and valuable, it has been continued each year since.

Urban Grace—Tacoma Presents Fair Trade Shopping Opportunity



Global Craft Sale.

The sale benefits skilled artisans and farmers in more than 36

Urban Grace Church, Tacoma Washington invites you to invest in the world. Shop fair trade. On November 13th and 14th from 10am-4pm, discover an exquisite collection of handmade items at a Fair Trade

countries earn a fair wage and support their families. Featured items include handloomed textiles, pottery, chocolates, coffee, baskets, a variety of holiday items and

much more.

Fair trade vendors represented will be Ten Thousand Villages, Jubilee Traders, Laughing Lotus, SERRV, Equal Exchange and Blue Note Coffee.

For more information contact Jennifer Dean at 253-272-2184 or jidean@urbangracetacoma.

PCBA News —Baptists Lunching Together

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, Dr. J Alfred Smith, Sr., Pastor Emeritus of Allen Temple Baptist Church

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011, Dr. Joe Kutter, Director of ABC/USA Ministers Council

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011, Dr. LeAnn Snow, Dean,

American Baptist Seminary of the West

All gatherings will be at Grand Lake Gardens, 401 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland, 12 noon.

Lunch and Program cost:\$8.00

For reservations please call Joan Thatcher at 510-350-7008.

Thank You, to Contributing Photographers:

Frank Lowe,
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship

Herb Tsuchiya,
Chinese Baptist Church

Paul Wilkerson,
University Baptist Church

Marcia Patton
Executive Minister

Baby Survives Earthquake

by Kihomi and Nzunga

The peace of our Risen Lord to each and every one of you. We want to introduce you to our new baby friend. Her name is Kwenssy Kairah. She is 9 months old and an earthquake survivor. Kwenssy owes her life to her grandmother who, when dying put her under her arm keeping her safe from the rubble. The grandmother died, as did the mother of the little girl. Kwenssy was one month old when found 3 days after the quake still alive. In the "hospital" where they took her, her right arm was about to be amputated when the doctor put the amputation off. That "put-off" saved the small arm. The next day, nobody talked about that amputation anymore. Today she can use that arm without any diffi-

culty although it is not straight.

Kwenssy is in Haut-Limbe thanks to a friend who used to rent the same house as the deceased mother and grandmother. Nancy, the Good Samaritan, decided to take Kwenssy and her surviving aunt to Limbe. Nancy's two boys and parents live there. She has given them a place to live with them.

When we got back home, the wife of the president of the university told us about the need to assist Kwenssy.

Apparently the small girl does not look too bad but a close examination shows some signs of not having a balanced diet. Kihomi will try



to incorporate Kwenssy into her caring ministry.

Please let's join Nancy's faith and be praying for Kwenssy and many more who are in her situation.

Yours in Haiti
Kihomi and Nzunga

*Dear Friends,
Nzunga and Kihomi can show the hurting Haitians God's love in so many practical ways because they are there. They are there because of your support. You are truly feeding, clothing and quenching the thirst of the "least of these". They desperately need a vehicle to make their ministry effective. Please pray we will be able to raise the funds quickly to get them one.*

*Blessings,
Dennis Shewell*

[Learn more about this ministry](#)

ABHMS Debuts Justice Ministries Web Pages

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/12/10)—American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has added "Justice Ministries" pages to its website to provide information and resources to individuals, churches, and other organizations that promote social justice. Specific sections within Justice Ministries are "Children in Poverty," "Disabilities," "Immigration and Refugee Services," "Office of Govern-

mental Relations," and "Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministry."

"Since the founding of ABHMS, justice has been at the very heart of our mission and ministry," says Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, ABHMS' managing director of Resource Development. "That tradition continues with the launch of our new Justice Ministries Web pages that offer a wealth of resources and links for those seeking

justice in our society." Features include links to government organizations, information about immigration reform and refugee resettlement as well as a downloadable "Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Toolkit."

Visit www.abhms.org > Ministries & Programs > Justice Ministries, or contact Ramsey Lucas at curtis.ramsey-lucas@abhms.org or call 202-544-3400.

Asian Caucus Crafts Available for Sale at Church Events

The Asian Caucus-sponsored craft sale at Evergreen's annual meeting brought in about \$600. However, many items remained unsold.

If your church would like to offer these items for sale, perhaps in conjunction with

InterFaith Advocacy Day in Olympia

Plan to join us for this ecumenically sponsored event.

Sponsors: Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches; Pacific NW Conference UCC; Social Justice & Peacemaking Ministry team, Presbytery of Seattle; Earth Ministry; Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness; Associated Ministries/Pierce County; Diocese of Olympia (Episcopal); Lutheran Public Policy Office; Church Council of Greater Seattle; Washington Association of Churches; Jewish Federation; United Methodist Women; Council on American Islamic Relation – WA; Islamic Civic Engagement

some special event you are planning, please email Pastor Paul Aita at aita.paul@gmail.com or call 206-622-7351.

These crafts might be sold during holiday events as your congregation is thinking

about buying gifts for Christmas.

This is a way that we can continue to raise funds to support the ministries of Evergreen.



Members of Evergreen Churches Published in The Christian Citizen

Focused on Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare; Churches as Stations of Hope, Volume 2, 2010 of the "Christian Citizen: Voices for Biblical Justice" - a publication of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, ABCUSA, includes two articles written by Evergreen folks.

Doug Davidson, a freelance writer and editor living in Pleasant Hill, California, is a member of Shell Ridge Com-

munity Church. His article is entitled, *Providing a City of Refuge: A Conversation with the Rev. Dr. DeeDee M. Coleman.*

And the Rev. Dr. Clinton D. McNair, a diplomat of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Director and Associate Professor of Pastoral Counseling at the Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, and a member of Seattle First Bap-

tist Church authored, *Mental Health Treatment for Former Prisoners—Advocating Ministry for Community Re-entry.*

The Christian Citizen is supported by the America for Christ Offering and is mailed at no charge to American Baptist congregations and individuals.

For more information about copies call 1-800-ABC-3USA.

Seeing Earthquake Victims First Hand

Kihomi Ngwemi Nzunga



Dear Loved Ones and Friends,

Greeting from our dear Haiti. We all have seen Haiti's earthquake devastation on TV. To see it first hand with your own eyes is a totally different thing.

A month after we returned to Haiti, I went to Port-au-Prince with four missionaries from Brazil, Mexico and Chile. We have been assigned to advise the Haitian Baptist Convention on economic and developmental matters.

To see how the capital city has been destroyed, streets devastated with rubble and the intercity transportation close to impossible, is mind-boggling.

The missionaries wanted to see some of my women. So I called them in spite of the fact that they have been relocated almost all over the city and two days' notice did not give them enough time.

Sixty women representing eight churches showed up at Siloe Baptist Church in Delmas 19 whose pastor died on the day of the earthquake. Those women welcomed us, and the missionaries encouraged them with some kind words.

The highlight was the moving testimonies we heard from two women who lost everything. Sister Marie France lost her house, her husband and 3 children (2 boys: 25 & 17 and a girl 22). She is still alive, but her spirit will never be the same. She lives in the world of her own that most of us will never imagine.

Those testimonies brought tears from all of us in the church. The whole service turned into a mourning session. It took me a special courage to stop crying and jump in with a pastoral word to calm the audience. In spite of our tears, I led the congregation in a pastoral prayer which was a big comfort to those women who asked that I return to pray more with them and do some individual counseling.

I privately asked some women how they are surviving this huge crisis. They told me that in spite of what has happened to their families and their country, God has not abandoned them. The march in the desert is long and will be long, but they still believe that they will see a better day in Haiti.

As women to whom children, men and the whole family turn in a time of need, they are forced to forget the crisis and move on with life. If they focus on the crisis, everybody in their families will end up

dying. Knowing that they have people to care for gives them more courage to hang onto life. You see more women on streets selling anything they can to survive.

Please let us keep our Haitian brothers and sisters in our daily prayers as they struggle to live a day to day life. Pray also for us that God gives us more strength and wisdom to know how to be of help to them.

Yours serving Him with ABC in Haiti

Kihomi Ngwemi Nzunga

Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't think I need to add much to this journal. Kihomi has really captured what those who lost so much in this tragedy face. I just returned from Haiti and the TV cameras are gone along with most of the aid. Much was promised but little has been delivered. It will be up to those who have labored in Haiti for a long time and love these people as the Lord loved us to help them recover. Never stop praying. Never stop caring.

Peace,

Dennis Shewell MPT Con-
vener and Communications
Advocate

First Baptist Church—SLC Installs Curtis Price as Pastor—Sunday, October 17, 2010, 3:00 PM



Pictured at the left is the laying on of hands ceremony.

Rev. Timothy Phillips was the guest preacher, and many neighboring ABC pastors were present along with ecumenical colleagues.



University Baptist Church Installs Juan Manuel Santiago-Rodriguez as Pastor—Sunday, October 24, 2010, 2:00 PM



L-R: Valerie Dixon, Keynote preacher, Ken Parker, Dennis Plourde, Elizabeth Patrick, Bruce Chittick, Manny Santiago, Marcia Patton, Chris Boyer, and Tim Phillips



The Laying—on of hands



Youth Charge Pastor "Manny"
L-R: Sara Abbasian, Valerie Foster, Eva Gaertner-Johnston, Jessica Badgeley.

Burien Community Celebrates with Pastor David Simpkins on His Retirement—10/31



Annual Meeting 2010—Who Is My Neighbor?



New Churches Welcomed—Calvary, San Leandro, Berkley First, SKY Ministries, and New Community of Faith. Each congregation received an “Evergreen” - etched candle holder.



Plan to attend the Annual Meeting Next Year—October 14-15, 2011



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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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 **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

NOVEMBER

12—Seattle Baptist Union (SBU) Annual Meeting, Panther Lake Community Church, 7:00 PM

13—**Euro Caucus Musical Concert Fundraiser**, Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard, 7:30 PM

25—**26** Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed

DECEMBER

1—Evergreen Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 12:00 Noon

2—Executive Committee Meeting, Bush Garden, 5:30

24 Christmas Eve—Office Closed

31 New Year's Eve—Office Closed

JANUARY

14—Executive Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM

17—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship, 6 PM, Site TBD

22—**Association Board Meeting, 9 AM**

FEBRUARY

11-12—Leaders' Retreat, Camp Burton

MARCH

17—Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia

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.