



EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of
American Baptist
Churches

Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2005

THANK YOU—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the volunteers who help bring to fruition the ministries and mission of Evergreen.

For their diligence, and faithful service in carrying out the duties of their respective positions on the Executive Committee, we thank specifically, **Ken Curl**, chair; **Yosh Nakagawa**, Vice Chair; **Betty Bates**, Treasurer; **Roy Johnson**, Euro Caucus member; and **James Winbush**, Black Caucus member and Chaplain whose terms will expire at the

end of calendar year 2005. Most have served since 2003.

Also, we want to say a special thanks to that group of individuals who monthly work to produce and distribute the newsletter, cleared out shelves so the new tenants could move into the offices, keep the filing updated, and generally assist in helping us meet deadlines and the office running smoothly are most appreciated. So, thank you to those that gave a helping hand in 2005:

Betty Bates
Frank Bolden
Gwen Hilton
Ruben Hilton
Ruth Hunter
Shirley Moffitt
Gay Hasselblad
Phyllis Hasselblad
Becky Jurewicz
Chellie Rowland
Terri Simpkins
Charlotte Scherer
Virginia Thompson
Bill Thompson
Marian Voge
Ethelmae Walters



From your
Evergreen Staff -

Clem *Marcia*
Yosh *Angela*
James **Barry**

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY WORSHIP SERVICE—January 16, 2006

Mount Zion Baptist Church will host the third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day worship on Monday, January 16, 2005 at 6:00 PM.

The Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr., Senior Pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church of Oakland, California and professor of Preaching and Church



J. Alfred Smith, Sr.

Ministries at the American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) will be

preaching. Musical celebrations will be offered by the youth choirs of Japanese Baptist Church and Mount Zion Baptist Church, as well as the Evergreen Sounds—representing Evergreen Churches.

Mark your calendar and plan to join the celebration.

During this holiday season, we remember in prayer the families of those who recently passed, and express our sympathies to:

Richard Axeman whose wife, Becky passed away on Nov. 28; **Roxanne Fowler**, whose father passed Thanksgiving weekend in Billings, MT; and **Stephen Jones**, Pastor of Seattle First Baptist Church, whose father, Dwight, passed Nov. 19 in Eldon, MO.



EVENTS AT OUR CHURCHES

American Baptist Women of Evergreen and Puget Sound NW Conference: April 28-30, 2006: Moses Lake WA

EVERGREEN SOUNDS

is in Rehearsal for the M. L. King, Jr. Day Worship Service. Your Voice is needed! The group meets at Japanese Baptist Church, 7 PM on **TUESDAYS— Dec. 6 & 27, and Jan. 3 & 10** and then on Jan. 16 for the worship service at Mount Zion.

Fremont Baptist Church will present its **Christmas Concert** on Thursday, December 8th, at 7:30 p.m.

The Concert will include the church choir, soloists and a carol-sing-along.

Featured is the Cornu-

Japanese Baptist Church is delighted and honored to invite you to attend the **Service of Ordination for Noriko Kussman** on Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2005 at 2:00 pm. Noriko has been our Interim

Seattle First Baptist Church (Monthly) Jazz Vespers December 4, 6 PM;



“What can we do to enhance our discipleship approach and/or programming?”

“Do you have any ideas for creative Christian education?”

“How can we do a better job of training our Sunday School teachers?”

copia Concert Band offering Christmas and period music from the early 1900's. The Band performs in uniforms and vintage costumes.

Join us for ragtime, early jazz, maybe even a march -- music from the days when Fremont was new! No charge.

Youth Director since July. She has brought a depth of faith and a joyful enthusiasm to her ministry with the young people of our congregation, and we are very blessed to have her serving with us. We are

Wedgwood Community Church, Young Adult Retreat, December 16-18, scholarships available. Call 206-522-5778;

Sound familiar? The equipping Disciples Team of National Ministries offers The Planning Guide for Disciple-Making Churches CD as a resource to equip you to respond to these questions. The CD includes teacher tools, calendars, articles, questions

Reception following the concert.

A collection will be taken for the Fremont Food Bank. 717 N. 36th (1/2 block west of the Troll). Call (206) 632-7994 for more information.

really looking forward to the service, in which we hope many of our youth and young adults will have an active part. Please come and worship with us on the afternoon of December 11th as we recognize and celebrate Noriko's call to ministry.

New Beginnings and Evergreen sponsor: Ministering in the 21st Century Conference, May 9—12, 2006, Site TBA

accompanying the Nine Qualities of a Disciple-Making Church to help leaders assess their progress and much more.

The CD is available to churches free, upon request at Judson Customer Service at 1-800-4JUDSON or www.judsonpress.com



A Declaration on an Issue of Importance on Our National Budget

American Baptists are persons who take seriously the gospel call to care for the needy, to protect the vulnerable, to advocate for the oppressed, and to engage in ministries of healing and wholeness. In a range of Policy Statements, including the Policy on Human Rights (7021:12/76), the Policy Statement on Housing (7033:6/83), and the Policy Statement on Family Life (7036:6/84), we call on our people and our churches to advocate for government programs and policies that strive to ensure the

well-being of all people. In the Declaration on an Issue of Importance on Children in Poverty, adopted unanimously by the General Board in its June 2005 meetings, we called upon American Baptists to recognize and prioritize the needs of economically disadvantaged children and to work to change systems that create and perpetuate poverty.

On Friday, November 19, 2005 the United States House of Representatives passed the House Budget Reconciliation Bill by a vote

of 217 to 215. It proposed a national budget that will cut \$50 billion from some of our most vital anti-poverty programs—food stamps, Medicaid, child care, student aid and loan programs and more. The Bill, if enacted, will immediately harm the most vulnerable in our land and thus further imperil the well-being of all U. S. citizens.

In the upcoming weeks the budget will face negotiations in the House and Senate, followed by separate votes in each chamber.

We therefore call upon our Office of Governmental Relations, our churches and members to advocate for the poorest among us by calling upon our legislators to refuse the passage of any budget bill that eviscerates vital programs that ensure basic human needs and to work to restore necessary funding to anti-poverty programs so that all people in our nation might experience the wholeness and shalom God intends for us.

General Board Votes:

69—Yes

5—No

4—Abstentions

SHORT TERM MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Xtreme Team 2006 Needs Your Young Leaders!

We know they're out there! We know **you** know who they are! Please help to connect the dots between the Xtreme Mission Adventure 2006 to Bolivia and Brazil and those exciting, young leaders in your churches! Find out more about the Xtreme Teams at www.xtremeteamonline.org
Applications are being accepted NOW!!

Short Term Mission Leader Training Weekends in 2006!

March 17-19 in Pennsylvania or March 24-26 in California

Culture shock, unrealistic expectations, and team conflict are inevitable. Trained leaders can not only guide a team through these challenges, but help each individual learn and grow, too. Whether you will be leading a short term mission team in 2006, or just want to get some cross cultural training that is invaluable for mission outreach in your own

neighborhood, this weekend is for you! For a brochure on the training or for a registration form, go to www.discoveryteams.org, go to Leadership Training, and click on the links provided.

IM Posts Request for English Teachers

Sammuk Christian Academy, in Bang Saen, Thailand is seeking two English teachers for the academic year beginning May of 2006, one to also teach basketball. The academy is a private Christian boarding school for students from grades 5-12.

Qualifications:

- ES/TESL certified, college graduate recommended
- Christian, view teaching as a ministry
- Love of Children and able to establish rapport with them

Terms of Service:

- Arrive February 2006 for three months language study; begin two year service commitment May 2006.
- School provides monthly stipend of 15,000 baht (\$375), roundtrip airfare, housing, food, and laundry.

Contact: Jonathan Hilsher at 1-800 ABC-3USA; ext. 2164



OUR MISSIONAL VISION STATEMENT

American Baptists' newest region is an attempt to rethink the purpose and function of an association of American Baptist Churches. We seek to recapture the shared life of the churches of the New Testament in ways fitting to our Baptist heritage.

Because the Evergreen Association began its life with a new mission in mind, we first outline how that mission is already coming to fruition:

1. The Evergreen Association makes **decisions by consensus** and follows a process whereby actions proceed only after reaching consensus among racial/ethnic caucuses of churches and within meetings.
2. The Evergreen Association organizes its life around racial/ethnic **caucuses** that are formed when a minimum of two like churches are accepted into Evergreen membership. The purpose of the caucuses is to level the playing field, empower all congregations, and assure that no unjust privilege is extended.
3. The Evergreen Association advocates the historic **Baptist Liberties**, which include soul liberty, local church autonomy, religious freedom, scriptural liberty and the priesthood of all believers.
4. We intend our association to be joyful, prayerful and respectful. In the same light, we wish to engage other ABC Regions, the American Baptist Churches in the USA, local ecumenical partners, and Baptist groups around the world in the same **positive spirit**.
5. The Evergreen Association bases its

life around **mutuality between churches and pastors**. This shared life is central for our emerging vision.

Some of our basic contextual assumptions are:

American urban culture has become increasingly isolationist and competitive. As our Baptist churches have sadly tended to conform to this nonbiblical culture, local congregations have increasingly become isolated from each other and suspicious of one another. The Scripture instead calls us not to "be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds" (Romans 12:2). Evergreen is built upon a counter-cultural concept of mutuality between congregations.

Many judicatories are mostly promotional in nature, planning events and workshops which local churches are urged to attend. Pastors and leaders are asked to promote one event after another. Although our association needs promotional events, the genius of Evergreen lies in the fundamental mutuality between congregations networking together to meet shared ministry needs and callings. We encourage pastors and congregational leaders to be in non-competitive, sharing relationships with one another.

We have chosen the New Testament Greek word, koinonia, (koy-noh-nee-ah) to describe the mutuality we see emerging in Evergreen that we expect will flourish (Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Galatians 2:9, Philippians 1:5, 3:10, 1 John 1:3, 6, 7). The Scriptures describe koinonia, not as mere "fellowship," but as "sharing in the Spirit" (Philippians 2:1). We therefore understand koinonia as participating in a shared life among congregations, characterized by a dynamic spirit of mutual caring that expresses itself in networking ministry needs and resources.

There will be a meeting of leaders in early 2006 to determine the key result areas.



**At the November 12, 2005
Association Board Meeting
the Vision Statement was
approved as follows:**



Our vision can thus be summarized:

Our goal is to encourage every Evergreen church to move forward in creative partnership with other churches and the Association.

Through the love of God in Christ and the shared life of the Holy Spirit, we seek to empower every Evergreen congregation to become a vital missional church. We will lead our congregations in Spirit-directed transformation—expanding in vision for ministry, engaging our local communities, and creating healthy congregational systems including: worship, study, decision-making, stewardship, fellowship and outreach.

- In particular, Evergreen desires:
- a. to help every pastor build bridges from the isolation of ministry to the companionship of *koinonia*
 - b. to assist every congregation to enter into cross-cultural partnerships
 - c. to encourage every Evergreen church to be engaged with other churches in active ministry networks
 - d. to welcome new congregations in the discovery of profound mutuality of ministry with other Evergreen churches
 - e. to continually ask our Association: "How can we deepen *koinonia* among our churches?"

(continued on page 5)

THANK YOU AGAIN



Mr. Ken Curl



Dr. Yosh Nakagawa



Mrs. Betty Bates



Rev. James Winbush



Mr. Roy Johnson

In addition to saying thanks on the first page, I want to repeat the thanks to Evergreen's First Executive Committee members. Since more than half the committee is moving off at the end of the year, I want to lift again, their names and remember their faithful service: Ken Curl, Chair; Yosh Nakagawa, Vice-Chair; Betty Bates, Treasurer; James Winbush, and Roy Johnson, caucus Representatives. They have done a fine job. They met at least once a month in 2-3 hour meetings and then showed up at Board meetings, too! They did an excellent job of putting together this fledgling organization and have done it with grace! Ken Curl will continue on the board, serving as Treasurer; and for the moment, so will Yosh Nakagawa, serving as Asian Caucus Representative. When you next see any of these members, say thanks!

And I want to say thanks to our churches for your continuing support throughout this year. It is the support of our local churches through generous gifts to United Mission and specific gifts to Evergreen that makes running this organization possible. It is important to get your November receipts into Valley Forge in order for them to count in this year's Evergreen accounting. Thanks for your wonderful and timely giving!

Thank you, and God bless you -
Marcia
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Marcia



**Evergreen Association of
American Baptist Churches**

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Executive Minister

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Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for the 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, EXCEPT THE PARISH PAPERS as you choose, for your congregation (s).

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The clear candle globe given to all Evergreen churches during Annual Meeting is a reminder of the importance of our Association through Evergreen and the common mission we share. The word “**Evergreen**” is etched on the back of the globe.

Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton, Executive Minister

**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.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- **2—Executive Committee Meeting, Busch Garden, 5 PM**
- **6—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal, Japanese Baptist Church, 7 PM**
- **11—Ordination Service for Noriko Kussman, Japanese Baptist Church, 2 PM**
- **23-26—EBA Offices closed for Christmas**
- **27—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal, Japanese Baptist Church, 7 PM**
- **30—EBA Offices**

closed for New Year

JANUARY, 2006

- **2 EBA Offices closed for New Year**
- **3—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal, Japanese Baptist Church, 7 PM**
- **6—7 ACT Weekend**
- **10—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal, Japanese Baptist Church, 7 PM**
- **13-14—EBA Staff/ Executive Committee Retreat, Camp Burton**
- **16 MLK Day Worship, Mount Zion Baptist, 6:00 PM**
- **21—Ministerial Stan-**

dards Committee, Japanese Baptist Church, 9 AM

- **29—Ordination Councils for Chris Boyer and Charlotte Keyes, Good Shepherd Baptist Church**

FEBRUARY

- **3-4—Euro Caucus Sponsored Workshop TBA**
- **10-11—ACT Weekend.**
- **18—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM**