



EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 6, Issue 7

SBU Hosts Third Annual Clergy/Spouse Dinner Cruise



It's time again for the Annual Clergy/Spouse Dinner Cruise aboard the Royal Argosy sponsored by Seattle Baptist Union (SBU).

At no cost to clergy, the evening includes a three-hour cruise on Elliott Bay and a luscious buffet dinner.

DATE: Tuesday, August 17, 2006

TIME: 6 PM begin boarding
7 PM set sail

You must register your attendance with Clem via email at clemeba@comcast.net or via telephone at 253-850-2226.

Evergreen Takes on Washington DC: Biennial

The 100th Anniversary of American Baptist Churches was marked time and again by folks from Evergreen.

Japanese Baptist Church opened the Hall of Ministries in a special way expressing thanks from *120,000 Nikkei Voices* to the denomination for its work during the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II.

Pastor Greg Ledbetter was honored with the Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award for his work in reaching out to

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Special points of interest:

- Continue praying for Barry and Becky, and add Marcia Patton to the prayer list as they deal with health issues.
- Ministers remember to RSVP if you plan to attend the SBU-hosted Clergy/Spouse Dinner Cruise.
- Community Church of Issaquah appreciates your help in the hosting of Tent City 4.

Peter's Perspectives

What a journey! My journey was with my son Chuck and grandson Andrew to visit my grandson Jason, in Japan just outside of Tokyo where Jason is teaching

English to Japanese children.

The journey began with the raising of many questions: When was the last time I had returned to Japan?

Had I ever been to Japan before?

Because of my "Japanese face" many assumptions

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Events & Happenings in Our Churches



WEDGWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

invites you to join in the Centennial (100 year) Celebration of their journey—past, present and future: July 20—7 PM; July 21—4:00 PM and July 22nd—11 AM. For info call the church at 206-522-5778 or visit the web at www.wedgwoodchurch.org

On July 1, 2007 Pastor Roger Lynn preached his 500th sermon at **THE UNITED**

CHURCH OF MOSCOW and 1,000th sermon overall. Earlier in the service, church member, Bruce Bradberry roasted Pastor Roger with a reworking of the folk song "500 Miles" as "500 Sermons".

BLACK CAUCUS MEETS,

Saturday, July 21, 2007 at the New Beginnings Annex, 120 Whitman, Renton (across from Renton High School), 10 AM.

REPRESENTATION NEEDED FOR ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING,

AUGUST 25, WEDGWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 9 AM—Member churches are encouraged to send representatives to the Board meeting as we begin discussion and planning for the October 12-13 Annual Meeting. Be sure your voice is heard.

PULLMAN BAPTIST CHURCH's last Sunday in the present building will be July 22, 2007. The new worship site will be 725 Thatuna, Pullman WA 99163.

Let's Go Out to the Ball Game—Mariners VS Minnesota Twins, Aug. 13th

The Seattle Mariners will face the Minnesota Twins on Monday, August 13, 2007 and some of the Evergreen family will be there!! Will you?

Available on a first come-first served basis, are twenty four tickets at \$10.00 each for

seating in the same area the group occupied before—above and behind home plate. These are excellent seats.

If you are interested, please contact Clem at clemeba@comcast.net or 253-859-2226.

At the time of publication, there were 24 tickets available.

Marcia Patton, Executive Minister Recovering Following Surgery

Our executive minister, Marcia Patton, was admitted to Alexandria Hospital on Sunday, July 1 and underwent gallbladder surgery on Monday, July 2, 2007 as the Biennial drew to a close.

She was not feeling well on Sunday and thought it best to

see a doctor before flying on Monday. Doctors discovered she had a gallstone which Marcia later described as "the size of a large chicken egg".

Following the surgery and a short hospital stay, Marcia recuperated at the home of her brother Tom and his fam-

ily until she was allowed to return home on Saturday, July 7.

Thank you for your prayers, offers of help and other well wishes. You're a beautiful family.

Pullman Baptist Church Approves Sale of Church Building and Grounds

Following is an edited version of a report by Rev. John Doty, Pastor of Pullman Baptist Church (PBC):

On Sunday morning June 17, 2007, the gathered members of Pullman Baptist Church voted unanimously to accept the full-price offer to sell the church building and grounds. During the past year discussions were increasingly focused on the sale as a possibility, with the idea of creating an endowment fund to support ministries in the future. The church was at a point of crisis in November-December, 2006 due to high heating bills and low income.

Now we are at a point, in essence, of being a "new church plant," with a supplementary basis of funding. We stand at the edge of the Red Sea, and are moving off the

Evergreen Seminarians

The Evergreen Association is one of several church bodies that sponsor the Institute of Ecumenical Theological Education (IETS) at Seattle University. Though Seattle U is a Jesuit school, its School of Theology and Ministry provides M.Div. and other degree programs for Protestant students through IETS, as well as for Catholic students through the parallel Institute of Catholic Theological Education (ICTS). As part of its ecumenical commitment, IETS asks each sponsoring denomination to assign a person to be its

familiar land of Egypt into the unfamiliar, led by God. Our community is 80% college students, faculty and staff, and therefore our target audience lies within those ranks. Our church body is a reflection of our community--college students, graduate students, non-traditional students, not the least of whom are my wife Vernetta and me.

Meanwhile, we are in a "preparing for the Exodus" mode—taking very little, only the most precious silverware and a few dishes, sound system, instruments, and the pastor's key parchments.

This is not a definitive or final report on what's going on at PBC. Actually Allegra Johnson, our moderator, took

notes at the meeting, including what I "really" said, and we are working together on the next steps of site selection, what we're keeping and leaving, setting up the endowment fund, breaking down how we'll spend the conservative percentage that we withdraw each year, and so on.

Meanwhile, we're looking at several fun events later in the summer. One includes a Youth (loosely defined) Retreat to the Doty' Chiwawa River cabin near Leavenworth, WA. July 27-29. There'll be some hiking, swimming at Lake Wenatchee, spiritual growth, wild games, and fellowship.

More later.

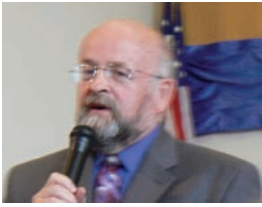
Denominational Formation Coordinator, serving as a liaison between the seminarians and their respective church bodies. An important part of this function involves introducing students to the resources and procedures of their denomination, especially (but not exclusively) related to ordination.

Dr. Paul Aita, senior minister of Japanese Baptist Church of Seattle, has served officially as the American Baptist Denominational Formation Coordinator for the Seattle U program for a number of years.

Having been asked unofficially to provide similar services for Evergreen students enrolled at Fuller Northwest, he has tried to relate to students from both schools and to include all of them in group events. One of the requirements for American Baptist seminarians at IETS is to participate in an annual one-day retreat together each year, and this has definitely been open to Fuller students as well. Other events for seminarians have been held in conjunction with Evergreen meetings, while

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Mountlake Terrace Installs Pastor—Welcome Dennis Plourde!!



Meet the Rev. Dennis Plourde, installed as pastor of

the First Baptist Church of Mountlake Terrace in a worship service on Sunday, June 10, 2007 at 4:00 PM.



Diane & Dennis Plourde with Moderator, Chrystal

Evergreen Takes on Washington DC!

the lost, lonely and left behind during the Children in Poverty breakfast. Yosh Nakagawa was honored with the Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award at the 2010 breakfast (which had 250 in attendance).

We were represented by two able young adults: Thomas Davis and Monique Ramirez of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. And Janice Spinks and April Braxton accepted the award for the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship as the congregation was honored at the plenary session for the African American Church with the highest increase in United Mission Giving.

Meanwhile, Pastor Stephen

Jones and Lora-Ellen McKinney daughter of Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney) both did book signings at the convention.

There will be more pictures in future newsletters, but here are a few to get you started.



Banner created by Pastor Judy Gay



James Winbush at MMBB gathering



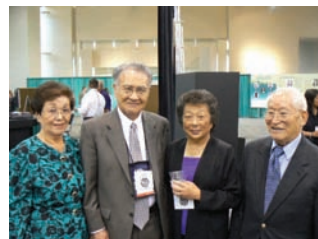
Dr. Paul Nagano speaks.



Relaxing in the hospitality room



Thomas Davis



Yo & Akira Ishimaru; Sue Nakagawa; Peter Koshi



Patrick Green, Robin & Curtis Price; Sarah Welton



Monique Ramirez

Peter's Perspectives

(Continued from page 1)

are made regarding my relationship to Japan.

Chuck put it directly and best when he asked early in our journey, "Dad, I don't understand how it is that you have never wanted to visit Japan? Was it because you married Dorothy who wasn't Japanese? Or was it because you grew up primarily in a white community?" He continued, "I know you went to Seattle because you were called as a Japanese American pastor by the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church. I know you identify with your Japanese background; but why not include Japan and her people?" Good questions. What was my thinking and feeling? The answer to these questions were very important to my family.

They, being only part Japanese, were excited to go to Japan. Jason was already there, thoroughly enjoying his work and the people. It was their idea and excitement that three generations would make this journey together. They had already accepted their Japaneseness, Japan, and the people. But, what of Dad and Grandpa?

All questions were resolved when Chuck asked me how did I feel that I was now actu-

ally in Japan, on Japanese soil, among thousands of people who look just like me? When I said that I was comfortable and felt at home, he said, so did he and Andrew. Our spirits met! Three generations now one!

The other amazing part of the journey was how the Japanese saw me and accepted me. I learned through interpretation that they saw me as being Japanese, but my not speaking the language was seen and accepted that I was an Americanized

Japanese. What an understanding! I should not be surprised, for the Japanese understand clearly what it means to be westernized or Americanized. They can take anything from the outside and make it theirs, their way. Some day, I hope to find a book written by a Japanese author about the culture of Japan. My initial impression is that the culture of Japan is very complex while remaining at its center "Japanese."

What am I learning from my journey and the journey of three generations of Peter Koshis? I am learning that it is one thing to talk "ethnic" but another to "be" and to "feel" ethnic. I am more of a "whole" person now that I have emotionally bonded with my people, nation and land. I even

cont.

celebrated my 85th birthday there with Chuck, grandsons and friends. Wow!

Yes, in this Fourth of July month, I am proud to say that I am an American of Japanese parentage. I've had the privilege of walking the ground of former Koshi City and placed flowers at the Koshi cemetery, (thanks to a neighbor who shared flowers with us.)

I must say that the entire trip was a spiritual journey - even the train trips from Tokyo to Kyushu and back. Maybe this is where and when I was over-reacting, but for some reason I was filled with a sense of the spiritual. What was it, what is it? Maybe I will have an answer sometime later. It is an awesome country!

Thanks to Chuck, Andrew and Jason for a wonderful birthday gift - one not to be forgotten. Also, thanks for the cheering and support section: Chuck's family and my daughter Susan and family.

My appreciation to the Evergreen family for letting me share my journey. Thanks for your prayers and thoughts as we traveled.

Rev. Peter Koshi, Chair

Interfaith Retreat

Friends,
I write to let you know of a wonderful opportunity to experience spiritual teaching from three faiths: Sufi Jamal Rahman, Rabbi Ted Falcon, and me...Catherine Fransson, Christian Pastor from an American Baptist Church. The three of us will convene a retreat at Camp Brotherhood north and east of Arlington, Snohomish County, Sunday night August 26, beginning with dinner, and ending with lunch on Thursday the 30th.

Accommodations range from camping, to dorm rooms, to cabins, and from \$265 to \$380. All meals will be prepared.

This is a continuation of an annual summer interfaith retreat

founded by Ted, Jamal, and Rodney Romney, and held at Indralaya on Orcas Island. Last year the third presenter was Don McKenzie of University Congregational United Church of Christ. I am participating for the first time -- the first woman leader.

THE WOUNDED SEEKER: Transcending challenges on the Spiritual Path

Identifying and acknowledging our difficulties allows us to awaken to the gifts they hold.

Our obstacles reveal their wisdom

Stumbling blocks turn into stepping stones!

Through stories, chant, worship, meditation, music, writing, and laughter you will be supported on your spiritual journey. The wise, humorous and clear teaching of these spiritual leaders will open your heart.

Won't you join us?

Questions: Contact Christina Brugman at 425 821-3605 or WoundedSeeker@aol.com Send checks made out to Seattle First Baptist Church via mail to Christina Brugman, 11122 NE 132nd St., Kirkland WA 98034.

I hope you can join us.

Cathy

Evergreen Seminararians

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still others have been scheduled separately. Dr. Aita has also made himself available to meet with students individually. If they have not already done so, seminary students in the Seattle area are encouraged to contact Dr. Aita at Japanese Baptist Church.

One of the students who has been involved regularly with other American Baptists seminararians throughout her studies is Linda Smith, a member of Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Baptist Church in Renton,



Linda Smith

who was ordained by that congregation. Linda will be graduating this spring with a Post-Master Certificate in Transforming Spirituality along with her Master of Divinity degree. A former Human Resource Director of the US Postal Service (Seattle District), Linda is also a federally-certified mediator and a qualified Spiritual Director. She has had extensive church experience in Christian Education, Outreach, Youth, and Evangelism, and was part of the transition team during the formation of the Evergreen Baptist Association. Starting in September, 2007 Linda will be a Spiritual Coach

continued.

for the Pastoral Leadership program at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.

Evergreen is truly blessed to have students like Linda among our number. In addition to being excellent potential candidates for positions that come open in our churches following their respective graduations, they can also be looked to as resource persons during their seminary years. (In the coming months, we hope to feature others of our local seminary students and recent graduates in *Evergreen Notes*.)

We're Listening!

Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Rev. 2:7

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA will be leading a workshop Friday afternoon and preaching on Friday evening at the worship experience. The workshop will

focus on the re-structure of the General Board and representative process of ABC.

We are hopeful to begin with worship led by Native Americans and have a significant workshop time talking with folk about how to respond in helpful ways to Native peoples wherever we are.

Saturday will feature Caucus

Meetings and afternoon business session. The worship will end on Saturday with Taiko Drums.

Seattle Baptist Union (SBU) will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the Asian Caucus Appreciation Dinner on Saturday evening, where Dr. Medley will again speak. Plan now to attend! Registration information will be coming soon.

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES' BIENNIAL/CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, JUNE 29-JULY 2 IN WASHINGTON DC

VALLEY FORGE, PA

(ABNS) -- American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) will celebrate the centennial of its founding at the Convention Center in Washington, D.C. starting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 29. The event opened with an historic joint worship session that included thousands of Baptists—not only from ABCUSA, but also from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Progressive National Baptists and the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. The last two groups are based in Washington, D.C.. The rest of the weekend included a series of uplifting events and ended on a spiritual high at Monday's great commissioning evening service.

Pre-Biennial Events

Special training and education sessions preceded ABCUSA's Biennial/Centennial, including "Seeing the Children – Transforming the Church," at Howard University Divinity School in Washington, DC to discover creative ministry models that meet the needs of children living in poverty, especially important after Hurricane Katrina.

On Thursday there was special training for ministers led by nationally known Dr. Gil Rendle, author of *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations*, entitled: "Telling a better story: shaping the hopes and fears of the people."

100 Years of Living and Loving

The highlight of the three-day event was the celebration of the denomination's 100th anniversary. American Baptist Churches of the USA (ABCUSA) is a uniquely diverse gathering of believers that cuts across all of societies' groups. Among our 1.5 million members, who are spread across 5,800 churches, American Baptists have no racial majority. We believe this remarkable diversity is the result of decades of working together to overcome our differences to truly become the hands and feet of Christ in service to society.



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American Baptist Churches**

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www.ea-abc.org**

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.

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Building Bridges Between Communities

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 16—Ministerial Standards Committee.
- 20-22 Wedgwood 100 Years Celebration
- 21—Black Caucus meeting, New Beginnings Annex, 10 AM

AUGUST

- 6—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM
- 13—Evergreen goes to the Seattle Mariners vs. Minnesota Twins Baseball Game.
- 14—Clergy & Spouse Dinner Cruise, 6 PM Boarding, 7

PM Sailing.

- **25—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM**

SEPTEMBER

- 15—Building Bridges Event, Location & Time TBD
- 28—29 ACT Weekend

OCTOBER

- **12—13 Annual Meeting Japanese Baptist Church, General Secretary AB-CUSA, Roy Medley, Key-note Speaker**
- **13—SBU Annual Meeting/ Asian Caucus Appreciation Dinner, Japanese Baptist.**

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.