



EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 7, Issue 5

LEADERS RETREAT ESTABLISHES TWO GOALS

At a retreat with Eric Law in February, Evergreen Association leaders (Executive Committee, TEAM and Caucus leaders)



developed two specific goals for the coming year.

The first was conceived as the group shared that Evergreen is a well kept secret even in our own churches. All leaders attending were excited about Evergreen but felt that the Leader group had become the same faces for too long. The goal reads: The Leader group will each have told why he/she is excited about Evergreen so

that at least one person per leader is added to the faithful (participating body). Some of the action plans to accomplish this goal are testimonies in each newsletter and the development of an Evergreen video that will be ready for a first viewing by the Annual Meeting and further refined to show at the ABC/USA Biennial convention in Pasadena in June 2009.

The second group realized that even our churches that are in Seattle sometimes feel isolated about their ministry and mission.

They were concerned that we could help one another in various ways. Their goal statement: In the most culturally appropriate way, each caucus will identify a church with a need, and the people of the association will rally around to help address that need by the 2008 Annual Meeting. Caucuses have begun meeting to determine needs. Churches should hear more from caucuses.

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Prayer Concerns

- *Yosh had surgery that went very well. He is at home recuperating and healing. He appreciates your prayers cards and letters.*
- *Thank you for your prayers for Salt Lake City First Baptist Church. Keep them coming. Include former pastor Scott Weisser in your prayers.*
- *Churches seeking pastoral leadership: Seattle First Baptist Church; Grace Baptist in San Jose; The United Church of Moscow, ID.*

Curtis Comments

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream

dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

Peter quotes this text from Joel on the day of Pentecost. The multi-cultural

crowd had just heard the messages of God from the mouths of



Curtis Price, Chair
EA—ABC

(Continued on page 4)

EYE-CLINIC IN HAITI WAYS FOR US TO RESPOND

Rev. Dr. Ron Kirstein (an ABC counselor in the Seattle area) went to seminary with Nzunga and had opportunity to see him recently at their son's wedding. He forwarded this report about the need to get medicines to the eye clinic and to send used eye glasses.

Dear Ron,

Greetings. Here is some information on the eye clinic.

The Cap-Haitian eye clinic is the work of the American Baptist missionary couple, Dr. Hollis & Wanda Clark. It started in 1989 in the city of Cap-Haitien, the second largest city of Haiti, after Port-au-Prince, the capital. Since its beginning, the eye clinic is there to serve the poor of Haiti who would not have the opportunity and access to good medical care, specially the eye care. That is why it will never turn anybody away because of his or her economic status.

The old persons and the single mothers without any outside financial support and without any support from family members are the most vulnerable people. Most of them depend on the help from this clinic for their on going eye care. Without this assistance they become blind in a short period of time. This is the case with cataract and glaucoma patients.

The clinic provides total eye care

ranging from surgery of cataract, reparation of cornea, and other corrective vision operations. We service many other needs including checkups and treatment of glaucoma patients, counseling and spiritual services. Eye glasses have been a source of comfort to many who would not see well or read well without this modern corrective support.

Since its beginning the clinic has seen over 90,000 patients. In a month or two we will be hitting the record of 100,000 patients that have been treated at the Cap-Haitian eye clinic. Every month we perform about 40 eye operations of all kinds.

So behind each operation or each pair of eye glasses given out there is a story: a vision restored, a family saved by restoring the vision of the mother or the father, the provider; a future saved of a girl or boy who would go blind; another chance given to someone to continue to read his Bible or to write his books and letters.

We praise God that the Cap-Haitian eye clinic is being the channel God is using to heal the many who pass by.

What do we need at this point? Dr. Clark has retired and in spite of his retirement he continues to help with purchasing the medicines and some equipment. As of last March he arrived at the point that he will no longer help the eye

clinic purchase what is needed in order to continue the service.

We need an American licensed doctor who will be willing to use his license to help us buy the medicine.

Every two to three months, we would send the list of our needs and he will then order the medicines from the companies. Since my name is already on their list, it will be sort of an easy process.

Your Evergreen Association would help a great deal in this regard. ***Instead of sending us the money, that money would go directly to paying for the medicines*** (through United Mission giving). This would be an effective way of supporting the eye clinic.

Nzunga

Nzunga confirmed for me that used eyeglasses are still very much needed in Haiti.

PS from Ron: Nzunga confirmed for me that used eyeglasses are still very much needed in Haiti.

Next Steps for ABC/USA

The beginning of April saw me in Florida meeting with the General Executive Council and deciding further recommendations to the General Board (Rev. Walter Heyman is our representative and Terri Simpkins serves on the General Board, too) about the restructure of our National Governance. I will share in the newsletter and in other ways the official papers as they are released.

At this point let I do want to share several things. First the meetings in

general were positive and forward thinking, rather than rancorous and negative as they have been at times in the past.

The recommendation for restructure helps the ABC in many ways to address some problems with the current structure. One of the things I like is the direct involvement a local church can have into the direction of the ministry and mission of ABC/USA. There is also a movement away from legislation and toward focus on mission. The National Program

Boards will be smaller, with greater autonomy while retaining appropriate interdependence.

Nothing will change unless the biennial delegates vote the necessary by-law changes. Plan now to attend the biennial in Pasadena in June of 2009. You can visit the website to see the plans that are being made: www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/biennial2009.htm

Marcia

Events & Happenings Around the Association



Panther Lake Community Church, Kent welcomes new pastor Rev. Stan Smith to their congregation. An Installation service will be held at the church at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 1, please come and add to the churches joy. Stan comes from Colorado to be with the Panther Lake congregation.



Mount Zion Baptist Church, Seattle has called the Rev. Aaron Williams as pastor. He

begins with the congregation on May 1, 2008. He comes to Mt. Zion from Texas.



Seattle First hosts Opening Doors to Spiritual Freedom, the sharing of journeys to interfaith and hope, May 9, 7—9 PM; May 10, 9 AM to 3 PM. Contact the church office at 206-325-6051.



Labyrinth Walk continues to be available from 6 PM to 8 PM on the second Sunday

each month. Plan for a time of meditation— May 11 and/or June 8, 2008. Park on the street and enter the lower Seneca doors.



Diana Butler Bass, author of [The Practicing Congregation: Imagining A New Old Church](#), Seattle FBC, 7 PM. Call 206-325-6051 for info.

Letter From the Evergreen Association Treasurer

Rev. Perla D. Belo

Greetings to you in the name of the risen Christ!

This letter comes to you as members of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches whose mission is to build bridges between communities, equip member churches to share Christ and teach God's word, and to translate our unity to the word. We are seeking your financial support to sustain and grow the mission of Evergreen Association.

Building bridges between communities first begins with our Evergreen church members through the Caucus representation (Black, European, and Asian Americans) where leadership is shared and voices are equally heard regarding the mission/ministry of Evergreen. The Caucus way is Evergreen's unique contribution to church life.

Equipping member churches to share Christ and teach God's work centers on evangelism and discipleship which are at the heart of the mis-

sion/ministry of the church and balanced by social justice acts. Evergreen's evangelism team, the church for the 21st century, the Act Team leaders, and financial donation to SHARE/WHEEL Tent Cities through the Seussical Broadway musical fundraising event are some ways that evangelism, discipleship, and social concern are accomplished.

One way we translate our unity to the world is through the unified financial support of churches/members for the mission of Evergreen.

We have set a goal of \$45,000 for 2009 Building Bridges Annual Fund Campaign. We ask each church to prayerfully consider a 10% increase over your 2008 offering to United Missions, and a gift over and above your giving to United Missions to go directly to Evergreen Association. We also ask individual members, executive committee, Association board and caucus leadership to finan-

cially support the ministry of Ever-

Thank you for your gift to Evergreen. Please give today using the enclosed gift envelope or go the web at <http://evergreen-abc.org/donate/donate.html> to donate online!

green and to prayerfully consider a 10% increase over your direct financial contribution in 2008.

Thanks to our new website, you can now donate to Evergreen online: www.ea-abc.org.

We desire your partnership in doing the mission and ministry of Evergreen to the glory of God!

In Gratitude and Faith,

Perla

Perla Belo

Curtis Comments

(Continued from page 1)

Galileans yet in their own tongue. So ridiculous was this scene to onlookers that they assumed that the disciples were drunk. But Peter rebukes them and shares this text saying, "This is not drunkenness, this is what was spoken of by the Prophet Joel."

As I think about what a Spirit-filled Evergreen Association looks like, I return to this text. Here the evidence of the Holy Spirit is a myriad of voices sharing and hearing the good news of Christ, together. Likewise, Evergreen is at its best when we come together sharing and hearing all of our voices—young and old, men and women, Black, Caucasian, Filipino, Japanese, Hispanic, First-Nations, clergy and lay. This is why I get most concerned within Evergreen when we seem to have only a few voices. It is

much harder to hear the Holy Spirit speaking when it comes from only a few voices.

I was in worship at New Beginnings for the kick-off of the Empowerment Conference where Dr.

Brenda Little shared the message, and in it she asked, "Is there a Sister here God can use?, Is there a Brother here God can use?" Her question rings in my mind as I come into Pentecost this year. Are there people out there God can use to reach this hurt and broken world? Are there people who can add what they hear the Spirit saying to the mix that we might have a clearer understanding of what God is saying to us? Are there people who are willing to live the image the scrip-

continued

ture paints for us of how a "Spirit-filled" community looks?

Here the evidence of the Holy Spirit is a myriad of voices sharing and hearing the good news of Christ, together.

As we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit this month, it is my prayer that *that* same Spirit will revive our commitment to living out the Pentecostal community God

has called us to be.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Curtis L. Price,
Chair, EA-ABC

Diana Butler Bass

Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Project on Congregations of Intentional Practice, a Lilly Endowment-funded research study of vital mainline Protestant churches at Virginia Theological Seminary *offers a compelling alternative to the declining, not sinking, but changing "old congregational design"*.

June 2, 2008

Seattle First Baptist Church, 7 PM



Third Annual
**TAKE YOUR PASTOR, FAMILY
&/OR FRIENDS OUT TO THE
BASEBALL GAME!**

(Date has Changed!)

MONDAY, **JUNE 16, 2008**

Seattle Mariners Versus Florida Marlins
Tickets are 2 for \$20

To order tickets: Send your check or money order and number of tickets to 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032 or call 253-859-2226 or email: clemeba@comcast.net

RSVP by Tuesday, June 10, 2008

An Evergreen Witness: To Serve Again

As a Christian and through God's grace, two goals gave meaning to my life: knowing Christ personally and making Christ known and being in ministry as well as seeing others "be in ministry".

Retirement from National Ministries in Valley Forge as Asian Ministries Director for thirteen years brought my husband and me back to Seattle to be with our son, daughter and grandson.

Three years later, I was asked to be the Pacific Northwest Asian Caucus advocate (2006-2007) for the national Asian Caucus.

In 2007, I was invited to participate in the Evergreen Association leadership retreat, and given my first time to know the Association leaders. Later that year, I was asked by Yosh Nakagawa to attend the Association Board meeting and was nominated by the Asian Caucus members to be the new

Evergreen Association treasurer (2008-2009).

God answered my prayer to use the ministry skills/experiences gained in National Ministries to serve Him in some way. Now I am part of Evergreen Association in several ways: Executive Committee, TEAM, Finance Committee, the Association Board, and have attended my second regional leadership retreat.

It is an exciting new experience to be part of the ongoing work of the Lord, from national to regional, through Evergreen Association. Praise God!

Rev. Perla D. Belo



OOPS!!
The March 2008 edition of the Evergreen Notes reported the names of representatives in Evergreen churches who attended the New Baptist Covenant in Atlanta, and failed to include **Rev. Charlotte Keyes of Good Shepherd. Sorry!**

An Evening with the Snoqualmie Tribe



Join tribal members for a fundraiser dinner and fellowship to defray legal costs involved in seeking

to declare the Snoqualmie Falls as a Sacred Place.

The Natives will share stories of the Falls and an update on the current legal status of the efforts to date.

Sunday, May 18, 2008 5-7:00 PM
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle, 98122

Reservations: \$15.00 a person or \$25.00 for two

RSVP – Church Council of Greater Seattle, 206-525-1213



International Ministries ABC joins with American Baptist Churches of Oregon to present and invite you and your congregation to the World Mission Conference.

This conference is planned as a family event, including a children's Mission adventure and a Youth Mission Encounter to run concurrently.

For information and registration:
Call 541-779-7831 or go to www.internationalministries.org

An Urgent Call for Help on the Gulf Coast

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 04/17/08) — National Ministries needs more volunteers to build homes on the Gulf Coast during the 2008 Blitz Build in Baton Rouge, La., April 28 to May 17.

On behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, National Ministries is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project 2008 to build 11 homes for 11 deserving families. Some of these families were displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and have permanently relocated to Baton Rouge.

Although 210 generous American Baptists have already signed on to give their time and talent to this worthy cause, 20 more volunteers are needed for the week of April 28 – May 3 when the work will focus on framing exterior and interior walls, raising roof trusses and roof decking, and installing windows, doors and vinyl siding. More than 50 volunteers are still

needed for the week of May 12 – May 17 to complete vinyl siding, tape and float sheetrock, paint, and install trim work, cabinets and landscaping.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. Construction skills are not required, but any knowledge of or experience with construction is appreciated. Volunteers are responsible for transportation to and from Baton Rouge and the work-site as well as a weekly fee of \$100 for food and lodging.

Originally, the Blitz Build plan called for construction of just five homes. Because of the committed efforts of American Baptist churches and volunteers, however, the Baton Rouge affiliate of Habitat for Humanity was successful in obtaining a matching grant through the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project 2008, which

is focusing the efforts of its 25th annual work week on the Gulf Coast. Now American Baptist volunteers will be building a total of 11 homes.

Thousands are expected to volunteer across the Gulf Coast through the 2008 Carter Work Project.

“More than 50 volunteers are still needed for the week of May 12 – May 17”

More information and registration materials are available at [nationalministries.org>Caring Ministries>Volunteer Ministries](http://nationalministries.org/Caring_Ministries>Volunteer_Ministries) (http://www.nationalministries.org/caring_ministries/vim/index.cfm) or from Victoria Goff, National Ministries’ national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries, at vgoff@abc-usa.org; 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2449.

Hurry, these deserving families need your help! Time is running out.

ABCUSA Unveils New Stewardship Web Pages—Blessed Be the Lord God!

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 04/17/08) — Mission Resource Development within the Office of the General Secretary is pleased to announce the debut of new stewardship pages on the American Baptist Churches USA Web site. This site will provide support for anyone engaged in stewardship promotion, including pastors and local church stewardship committees. Designed to be user friendly, these new pages include real-life stories of how United Mission dollars are at work in our world. Articles of interest, links to other resources and motivational stories can also be found in

this one location.

“We are pleased to provide this timely assistance to our churches,” said Rev. A. Roy Medley, general secretary for ABCUSA. “We are confident that the support on these pages will help our churches as they work to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world.”

Go to: www.abc-usa.org/leadership/stewardship/stewardship_page/slices/stewardship_page.htm Viewers may also [click here](#) to go directly to the site. These new pages are a large step forward in pro-

viding easy-to-use support for the important task of stewardship awareness.

“...help our churches as they work to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world.”

It is expected that ongoing feedback from the regions and from local churches will allow the site to continue to grow to meet the changing needs of our denomination.

New Walk Holds First Baptism

On April 13, 2008, the New Walk Christian Church, the newest member of the Evergreen family of churches, held its first baptism service at Community Church of Issaquah.

During the service, seven candidates were baptized—three youth, one teen and two adults.

Pastor Walter Heyman, Evergreen's National Board Representative, and the New Walk Christian Church congregation celebrated three years as a congregation on March 2, 2008.

"Godspell" is Coming

The decision has been made, the check will soon be in the mail to secure rights.

We are on task to again raise money for Tent Cities/SHARE/WHEEL. Get ready to audition. Plan now to attend. The production will run two nights this year: Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, 2008 at Seattle First Baptist Church!

Rev. Marcus Walker will be director, Rev. Chris Boyer producer.

Auditions are scheduled for July.

Take Your Pastor, Family &/or Friends to the Ball Game!

Order Form

Seattle Mariners vs. Florida Marlins

June 16, 2008 7 PM

Complete the order form below, enclose your check or money order for the number of tickets ordered and send to: Evergreen Association of ABC, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Church _____

_____ @ 2/\$20.00 each = _____
tickets purchased Amount Enclosed

All orders must be received by the **DEADLINE: June 10, 2008.**



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 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

MAY

- 17—WBC Biennial Breakfast Meeting, Richland WA
- 18 An evening with the Snoqualmie: Celebrating the Sacred Mist, Seattle FBC, 5-7 PM
- **31—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM**

JUNE

- 2—Diana Butler Bass, Author, Seattle FBC, 7 PM

JULY

- 5—11 MTW—national youth gathering, Estes Park CO
- 19—Auditions for "Godspell"

AUGUST

- 19—Minister & Spouse Cruise. Clergy, save the date.

OCTOBER

- **10—11 6TH Annual Meeting, New Hope Baptist Church, Seattle.**

NOVEMBER

- **21 & 22—"Godspell", a fundraiser for Tent Cities**

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.



- **16—(Note the date change)** Take your pastor, family and/or friends to the Mariners versus Marlins Baseball Game.