



# Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 4

## Community Easter Morning Worship

Join us for the Second  
Easter Morning  
Community Worship  
Service

7:30 AM

April 12, 2009

St Ignatius Chapel

Seattle University

901 12th Ave. S

(Just off 12th Avenue at  
the 900 block)

JBC, Mt. Zion, and SFBC will  
lead the service. The JBC Praise  
Team and UBC Choir will lead in  
song.

## Empowering the Church Conference Scholarships

The 2009 Empowerment  
Conference will be held April  
27—29 at City View Church ,  
255 Hardie Ave. SW, Renton  
WA 98057.

In support of the opportunity  
the conference offers church  
leaders to learn from known  
theologians, preachers,  
teachers and practitioners of  
our time, Seattle Baptist Union  
(SBU) is sponsoring a limited  
number of scholarships for  
Seattle area church clergy and  
lay leaders.

For scholarship information:  
call the NBCF office at 253-  
520-6673 and ask for Sheila.



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### GOING TO THE BIENNIAL?

- Please notify the Association Office.
- Perhaps you can help cover the Evergreen booth

**NEED A PICTURE  
“REPRESENTATIVE OF  
YOUR CHURCH” pg 3**

## Curtis Comments

I have had many conversations lately about the denomination. With the restructure and the biennial coming up it is at the front of people’s minds. However, I had one conversation recently

with a friend who suggested that, “People are not interested in being a part of a denomination these days.” She continued to say that the issues of the denomination seemed to be issues that concern

the clergy and few others.

She may have a good point. In our postmodern



Rev. Curtis Price  
Chair EA-ABC

(Continued on page 2)

## Events & Happenings Around the Association



Photo courtesy  
of the North  
American Post

**JAPANESE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(celebrating its 110th Anniversary this year) invites you to join in its Annual **Sukiyaki**

**Dinner**, a fundraiser supporting the church programs and charitable programs in the community.

The dinner will be held at

JBC, 160 Broadway Seattle  
98122 on Saturday, April 25,  
2009.

For ticket info: 206-622-7351



Look for the first edition of the newsletter aimed at **“Building Relationships with American Indians and Alaska Natives People”** on Evergreen’s web page: Follow the **RESOURCES LINK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.**

View the newsletter—an example of the continued effort to build relationships with American Indians. Download it and share it with others.



**GOOD SHEPHERD Baptist Church announces the groundbreaking ceremony of Shepherd’s Garden, the new 40 apartment affordable senior housing complex, April 7, 2009!**

## Curtis Comments

*(Continued from page 1)*

world loyalties to any particular group certainly seem a little more liquid than in the past. I began to wonder if the denomination as an institution was on its way out. To be honest, perhaps it is; but I know that at the very least it will be greatly overhauled in the coming years whether there is a restructure or not. But my prayer is that there continues to be a link to the history and legacy of the American Baptist Churches USA in the years to come. It is our history that has provided for us a sense of continuity during time of great turmoil. It has been a rock to cling to and a starting point for our decision making.

Take Evergreen for example. When faced with the reality of a split between two groups within the region, we took on designing a new region. Not wanting the split and reasons for the split to

be our only reason to be a region, we asked what else was there. In the face of this question, we looked to our history and identity as Baptists. ABC boasts the most ethnically diverse denomination in the US. This claim drove us to look at our multi-cultural make up which led us to realize that there was an opportunity to create an equitable system. It was a natural move because valuing our diversity is part of our DNA. It has been our history and it is a value that drives us. We are called the *Evergreen Association* because we wanted to be deliberate in harkening to our Baptist roots of free association based not on geography or even theology but on mission and ministry. When seeking to create a critical mass of churches, it was our identity as American Baptists that was the starting point.

There is a lot to be said for churches being independent and

continued

unaffiliated with a national body. It brings with it a certain kind of flexibility and pliability. Yet what is forfeited is the stability that comes from a connection to concrete history and a sense of identity. I am driven first by my affirmation of Christ as personal savior. However, I am next identified with the values and history of this group called American Baptists and that identity has served to light the way over and over. I will continue to pray for the denomination in the hopes that there will be throughout this next era, an American Baptist Churches USA.

Grace and Peace,

Curtis Price

## A Picture 'Representative of Your Church' is Needed

Every church is asked to send a picture representative of your church to be included in a display at the 2009 Biennial Meeting in Pasadena.

Please send the picture electronically to [clemeba@comcast.net](mailto:clemeba@comcast.net) or if by US Mail (no larger than a 5x7) to Evergreen Association ABC, 409 Third Ave. S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032

The picture should be in the Evergreen office no later than May 1, 2009.

**Pastors,  
Treasurers,  
Moderators:  
Remember Your  
Church's Annual  
Report is DUE by  
April 30th.**

**You may submit your  
report on-line at  
[annualreport.abcis.org](http://annualreport.abcis.org)**

## Cross Raising at New Beginnings' Future Home Site



*Photo by John Lok  
The Seattle Times*

On Saturday morning, March 7, 2009, the cross was raised to its location atop the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Worship and Family Life Center at 19300

108th Avenue SE., Renton. From a safe distance away members of the congregation, family and friends viewed this encouraging moment in the life of the Church.

Pastor Leslie Braxton shared that [this celebratory event was] one of the most inspiring experiences of [his ] life .

The first worship service in the new facility (900—seat



*Photo by Frank Lowe, Deacon, NBCF*

sanctuary, classrooms, a youth center, exercise/dance studios and office space) is planned for late May or early June 2009.

## Renewal Opportunity for Pastors from the Lilly Foundation



The Lilly Foundation has announced another round of sabbatical scholarships for active pastors serving local congregations. These grants are intended to offer pastors and their congregations a chance

for renewal—a renewal that most could not otherwise afford. These grants offer \$50,000 for a pastor to cover the costs of a one-year sabbatical.

A link to the Lilly information is included here:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=244500034](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=244500034)

On the bottom of that page you will find the link to the RFP itself.

## BIENNIAL CORNER



One of the goals of the Evergreen Leadership Retreat is to have 500 conversations at the Biennial about Evergreen. One of the important aspects of that is that *we need to know if you are planning to be at the biennial, so we might ask your help at our booth in the Missions Fair*. But whether you are at the booth or not, what might you say to someone who discovers you are from Evergreen Association. Here are some “talking points”.

⇒ Evergreen is unique because of our organization by ethnic cau-

cuses (rather than geography).

- ⇒ Evergreen is unique because of our decision making by consensus.
- ⇒ The above points mean that in our Region people of color feel totally a part of the decision making process and the Euro-caucus is learning better what it means to work in a multi-cultural setting.
- ⇒ We are discovering new things about each other in our work and ministry.
- ⇒ We chose the name Association because we value relationship.

- ⇒ Local churches are attempting to do some of their work by consensus, thus building stronger church bodies, as members feel that they have been heard.
- ⇒ Our Region is geographically “scattered”, extending from Palmer Alaska to Costa Mesa California (Everyone is welcome to a listing of our Region Churches).

This should help you get started. I hope you can join us in Pasadena and help us have our 500 conversations. More about the biennial next newsletter.

Marcia

## Paddle to Suquamish/Tribal Canoe Journey 2009



Native Canoe Journey 2009 will culminate in the Kitsap Peninsula region of Washington State, with the Suquamish Tribe hosting canoe journey ceremonial events, August 3—8, 2009 beginning with *canoe protocol* on August 3rd

This year is the 20 year anniversary of Paddle to Seattle; the first modern-day Native Canoe Journeys. There were no known organized traditional-styled intertribal canoe journeys since the 1800's.

The 1989 Paddle to Seattle involved 9 canoes from Washington Coastal Tribes and British Columbia paddling

from Suquamish to Seattle. These journeys have become annual events, known by many as “Tribal Journeys”.

Find more information at: <http://tribaljourneys.wordpress.com/2009-journey/>

## Church World Service Position Opening Announcement

Position:: Secretary II /Office Manager—Seattle P O Box 968, Elkhart, IN

Send Resume and cover letter via email to:

46515; or fax to 574-266-0087.

[cwshr@churchworldservice.org](mailto:cwshr@churchworldservice.org); or mail: Church World Service/CROP, Attn: Karen M. de Lopez,

Applications must be received by April 10, 2009.



## Keeping the Leadership Accountable

During our January Evergreen Leaders Retreat, we heard a presentation about the Intercultural Development Inventory (our next Building Bridges Plenary?). We also “guessed” what our collective Inventories revealed. Each person was asked to complete a 50-question Inventory prior to the retreat. What we discovered, is that we all rated ourselves a bit more “developed”

than we actually scored. (Most other groups do this, too).

Because of the resulting conversation we agreed as Evergreen Leaders to strive to do three things:

1. Consistently and more intentionally use “mutual invitation” as we do our work, at all levels.
2. Use more intentionally the Levels of Consensus tool particularly when we report our

work, so that we have a sense of where each other (individually or corporately) is on the particular concern before the body.

3. To do a much better job of evaluation. (This is where we need everyone’s help, as evaluation instruments are too often “missing” in our work together.) In particular the leadership group suggested we ask the question regularly: what did you learn about your iceberg?

## Christian Community Credit Union Offers \$40,000 in Scholarships



(San Dimas, CA, March 2, 2009)

Christian Community Credit Union (CCCU)’s *Focused*

*on the Future Scholarship Program* is giving \$40,000 in scholarships in 2009. The scholarship program is open to members of CCCU (for membership eligibility requirements, contact the

Credit Union).

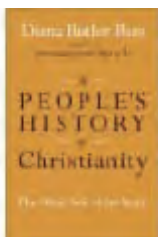
To apply, students must be enrolled at an accredited college, university or seminary. Also, students must be taking 12 units or more for undergraduate students and eight units or more for graduate and post-graduate students.

Application deadline is April 30, 2009; scholarships will be

awarded in May.

For a scholarship application and/or Credit Union membership information, call 800-347-CCCU or visit: [myCCCU.com/students](http://myCCCU.com/students)

## Author Diana Butler Bass Introduces Newest Book at Seattle First



Diana Butler Bass will introduce her new book A People's History of Christianity at a Seattle

Spiritual Synthesis event on Sunday, May 3, 3 p.m., at the Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave. You are encouraged to be a part of this discussion

Butler Bass is the author of seven books on American Protestantism, including *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, *Strength for the Journey*, and *The Practicing Congregation*. She has taught at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Rhodes College, and Virginia Theological Seminary, and is currently Senior Fellow at the Cathe-

dral College of the Washington National Cathedral. From 1995 to 2000 she wrote a weekly column on American religion for the *New York Times* syndicate and is a popular speaker at retreats and workshops across the country.

## Remember to Give to Evergreen Association

Evergreen Association is the newest Region in American Baptist Churches USA and serves as a bridge builder or connection for the 38 member churches. The Association provides opportunity for member churches to work together, get to know each other, share efforts to do ministry with and for each other and our surrounding communities.

Your support is needed. All of us are certainly aware that

ministry requires resources and resources often require money. This year, as in years past, Evergreen set a goal of raising \$40,000 in individual gifts—a goal amount which represents what we truly believe we need to meet our budget commitments for 2009, and even in these difficult economic times we believe that to be possible with your support.

Your gift in any amount at this time is greatly appreciated.

To those regularly giving in support of Evergreen—Thank you so much.

For those receiving this newsletter via US mail, a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included for your convenience.

For those reading this newsletter electronically, please go to [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org) and give online or mail your contribution to Evergreen Association ABC, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032.

## Youth Council Proposal (Coming Before the Association Board April 25th)

In an effort to foster young leaders and to bring up the next generation in the “Evergreen Way”, the Executive Committee proposes the following:

1. A council comprised of two youth from each caucus will be formed with the mandate to
  - a. Foster relationships between young people within Evergreen through youth activities and op-

- portunities for connection, and
  - b. Bring a youth voice into the leadership of the Evergreen Association Board.
2. The youth will be assigned an adult advisor who will help them form into a leadership team.
3. The youth will be a part of the Association Board and Caucus meetings playing a leader-

ship role and representing the youth of our churches.

4. This effort will be funded through the caucuses who will be encouraged to dedicate a portion of their budget to underwriting youth activities.

## Canoe Journey Proposal (Coming Before the Association Board April 25th)

As our neighbors gather this coming August 2009 by paddling from their homes to the home of the Suquamish Tribe, we want to join in with others in encouraging them in their efforts to renew their tribal heritages and traditions. In the spirit of the 1988 and 1998 Ecumenical Apologies to the Northwest

Tribes, we offer a letter of greeting and encouragement (text of the letter to be made available to Association Board members).

In addition, we [propose to] join with our United Methodist brothers and sisters in Christ who are supporting this particular journey by making the lands and facilities of <sup>1</sup>Camp India-

nola, available to the tribes for a landing site and hospitality during August 3-8, 2009, with a gift of \$500 from our program budget.

<sup>1</sup>There is a cost in terms of loss of revenue to Camp Indianola of \$20,000 for this week. They are offering landing site and housing for 250 people gratis to the Tribe. This isn't much, but it does say to our Ecumenical partners that

## Judson Press Regional Rebate Program Pays Again

Evergreen received a \$44.13 rebate from Judson Press because the following members remembered to enter "38" in the Region Code box during checkout when ordering online:

- ⇒ Bonnie Sato
- ⇒ Chris Boyer
- ⇒ James Winbush
- ⇒ Amy Chilton Thompson

These funds add up. So when you order from Judson Press please enter "38" in the Region Code box and Evergreen will receive a 10% rebate.



Also you may connect to Judson Press from Evergreen's website at

[www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org) Click on Re-

sources and look for the Judson Press link to the right of the Resources page.

Thank you all for your support of Evergreen Association.

## Take Your Pastor, Layleader, Family Out to the Ballgame May 18, 2009

On Monday, May 18, 2009, the Seattle Mariners will play the Los Angeles Angels and Evergreen will be there!

Order tickets for your youth, lay leaders, family members and friends to join you at that game as well. Just send your check or money order and the

number of tickets you wish to purchase to the Evergreen office and the tickets will be mailed to your return address.

<b>BASEBALL TICKET ORDER FORM</b>	
Name _____	_____
Address _____	_____
# tickets _____	@ \$10 each =\$ _____ enclosed
Mail to: Evergreen Association, 409 Third Ave S, Suite A Kent WA, 98032	

## Obama Comes to Costa Mesa!

The following email was sent by Sarah Halverson, Pastor of Fairview Community Church, Costa Mesa CA:

The President of the United States of America is on his way over to our corner of the world! We wanted to make sure he noticed us! ...The helicopters are buzzing and the city is alive with excitement. We've been told that the streets will be closed into the early evening. So we're contemplating canceling Bi-

ble Study. We'll send out an official email letting you know the decision! Until then read the article on your favorite church!

And from an Orange County Register article: Bringing people from all walks of life together was of high priority to Reverend Sarah Halverson of Fairview Community Church, across from the fairgrounds [where Obama will speak]...

"We are a good representa-

tion of this country. We have a lot of diversity in this community, but not everybody in this community has equal rights," [Halverson] said. "He's building bridges all across the nation, and perhaps he can give us the stimulus that we need to build bridges here."



## ABSW Letter of Thanks



AMERICAN BAPTIST  
SEMINARY OF THE WEST

We received a letter from President Elect Dr. Paul Martin of the American Baptist Seminary of the West which reads in part: "I am so honored to have been asked to become the President of our great Seminary and to join

with you in celebrating the gifts that God bestows upon our beloved institution.

;;we are in receipt of your very generous gift of \$556.30 to be applied to the Annual Fund of the ABSW. Your gift will serve to enhance the ministries that we provide to the students who have invested their preparation for ministry in our seminary.

As President Elect, I am over-

joyed at the wonderful people who continue to support the efforts of our great institution by providing these magnificent gifts for the continuing work of our institution...thank you so much..."

*Note: 4% of United Mission Giving is automatically sent to ABSW. This was your giving in January 2009.*

## Job Opportunities and Work Weekend Projects at Camp Bethel—Hoquiam

### SUMMER SERVICE STAFF POSITIONS

- ⇒ Assistant Cook (full-time temporary; minimum wage)
- ⇒ Dishwasher (full-time temporary; minimum wage)

All positions include on-site housing and meals.

Contact Anita Pitman.

**IMMEDIATE YEAR-ROUND/FULL-TIME POSITION:** Seeking committed Christian single or couple to serve in 160-bed camp, year round. Position requires skills in maintenance and group cooking. Compensation: \$1,000 per month, housing, utilities, health benefits, vacation, and an opportunity to serve in a vital, rewarding ministry. Contact Anita.

### 2009 MEMORIAL DAY WORK WEEKEND

Register by May 15th to participate in the Work Weekend. You may choose any day (s) May 22—25. There is work for all skill levels—from dusting to power washing, repairing ceilings, and cutting underbrush etc. **Contact Anita Pitman at 360-289-3444 or email: [pitwmn@msn.com](mailto:pitwmn@msn.com)**

## Walk to Gethsemane, SFBC—April 9

On **Maundy Thursday** join the faithful at Seattle First Baptist for a simple supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, then make a pilgrimage to the third-floor gym and walk the labyrinth in candle-

light.

**Dinner (\$5.00) - 5:30 p.m.**

**Labyrinth Open 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Seattle First Baptist Church**

**1111 Harvard, Seattle 98122**

**Telephone: 206 325-6051**



Rev. Tim Phillips

**Seattle First Baptist Church Installed Rev. Timothy Phillips as Lead**

**Pastor, March 22, 2009, 2:00 PM**

## Emergency Evacuation of SLC Child Care Center

Congratulations to the staff and children who successfully evacuated the building in two minutes and in four minutes, 42 seconds were completely off the property when there was a gas line break at First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City.

The staff very calmly and professionally evacuated 96 children complete with diapers, bottles, snacks, blankets etc.

The Child Care Center has monthly drills and the little ones knew what was happening, so they were not frightened and did exactly what the staff have taught them to do.

The church extends special thanks to

- East High School for opening their gym to us and other child care centers..
- Salt Lake City Police and Fire departments for their

help and for making our children feel safe.

- all who called to offer help and check on us an
- Wilma Nichols who was upstairs cleaning the kitchen when the call to evacuate came and she jumped right in to help.

Congratulations to the Staff and Children at First Baptist Church Salt Lake City's Child Care Center for the ministry you do there.

## Global Day of Prayer for Burma

Like many churches around the world, Seattle's Japanese Baptist Church observed March 8, 2009, as the 13th annual Global Day of Prayer for Burma. During worship that morning, in preparation for a special time of prayer, the congregation was blessed with a musical selection presented by a group from the Washington Burmese Fellowship, which meets in Kent. Led on the guitar by their pastor, Joshua Lian, the group sang about the peace of God, which they long for in their individual lives and in that of their native land.

It was fitting that on the same day during the Sunday School hour, JBC's Shawnda Fukano taught the first session of a class for adult English language learners, all from Burma. Shawnda, who teaches such classes for children in public

school, has been eager to find a way to teach some at JBC and offered to do so for our new friends. After the session, one member expressed appreciation for this class, which provided a close friendly setting for participants to ask questions without



embarrassment. The five adults who attend the class now regularly attend worship at JBC on Sunday mornings, though all of them also attend services conducted in Burmese in Kent in the evening.

Several of our Evergreen churches have become involved in assisting refugees

from Burma who are resettling in the Seattle area. Churches outside of Seattle are also offering space and providing resources for Burmese coming to their areas. For information about some possibilities your congregation may wish to consider, you are invited to contact Gail and Paul Aita of JBC, who have spoken at a number of our churches on this topic. Though the Global Day of Prayer for Burma has passed, you will still find helpful (though troubling) information about the situation in that country online at

[http://www.prayforburma.org/IDX/Prayer/Day\\_of\\_Prayer/2009/DayOfPrayer2009.pdf](http://www.prayforburma.org/IDX/Prayer/Day_of_Prayer/2009/DayOfPrayer2009.pdf).



# Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

409 Third Avenue S, Suite A  
Kent WA 98032-5843

Phone: 253-859-2226  
Fax: 253-859-1537  
Email: eba@ea-abc.org  
Web: www.ea-abc.org

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Permit No. 451

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.



Building Bridges Between Communities

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### APRIL

- 12—Community Easter Service, St. Ignatius Chapel, Seattle University, 7:30 AM
- 12—Labyrinth Walk, SFBC, 6-8 PM



- 20—22 Ministers Council Retreat, Camp Bethel-RSVP

- 25—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM
- 25—Sukiyaki Dinner, Japanese Baptist Church (JBC). Call 206-622-7351

for ticket information.

- 27—29 Empowerment Conference (see page 1)

### MAY

- 18—Take Your Pastor/Family/Friend to the Mariners Ball Game.

### JUNE



- 26-28—ABCUSA Biennial, Pasadena CA

### JULY

- 18—Bar-B-Q Cook Off—Place to be determined.

## 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.