



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 10

Annual Meeting—October 9–10, 2009 These Hands, These Feet “So Send I You” John 20:21



So much of what goes on in Evergreen begins as theory. We theorized

that barriers between people of different ethnicities and cultures could be overcome by doing business in caucuses and focusing on relationship building. We theorized that consensus was the only way to really honor the equity for which we were striving. We theorized that mission and ministry would trump divisiveness.

The ministry of Evergreen is driven by innovation and new ideas that are put to the test. Taking risks and creative approaches to real issues have

been at the root of our success as an association. Throughout our short history we have never shied away from the possibility of failure and even when things didn't go the way we had hoped, every new theory that we test is a learning experience and we grow from it.

The theme for this year's Annual Meeting is taken from the Biennial Theme, “These Hands, These Feet.” As I have reflected on the theme I have seen that we are at our best when we step out with these feet and we reach high with these hands. Whenever we, as Evergreen, have prayerfully sought the mind of Christ, our discernment has



always lead us to God-sized visions of who we are to be and what we are to do.

As we approach this next annual gathering I can't help but wonder where God is taking us next. Where will we be called to go with these feet? Who will we be reaching with these hands? The world is shifting and the church finds itself at a crossroads in so many ways. What the church will look like in the future is unclear. But I feel confident in saying that what it will take for the church to really *be* the body of Christ is more creative, innovative, risk-taking, God-sized ideas which we boldly embrace with fear

(Continued on page 2)

THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

- HELP US GET A GOOD MEAL COUNT.
- HELP US HAVE ENOUGH HANDOUTS.
- HELP US BE PREPARED FOR YOU.

REGISTER NOW!

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Keep Praying for

- *Yosh Nakagawa who we just learned has been back in the hospital with complications to his last surgery. However, we also learned he plans to make an appearance at the Annual Meeting. Let's keep praying.*

Congratulations to

- *Judy Gay who won first place in her age group in the triathlon!*

Curtis Comments

(Continued from page 1)

and trembling—being uncertain of the outcome.

The same spirit of boldness that spurred Paul to bring the gospel to the Roman world spurs us on as well. We have huge challenges. People are not showing up just because we are having church these days. Fewer and fewer are resonating with mainline Christian-

ity, and yet spirituality is a universal longing. The Post-modern world is moving at a fast pace and the church is historically the last to catch up. As we combine our efforts to meet these challenges, I want to encourage all of us to think big and risk much with bold faith knowing that God is faithful as we commit these hands and these feet to the service of Christ.

continued

So I wish to encourage, challenge even, all of us to dream big and live out the God-sized vision for this association as we look to face the challenges of the future.

Grace and Peace,



Curtis

Annual Meeting Highlights



Kihomi & Mabudiga Nzunga
Missionaries to Haiti

Worship
Worship
Karen Choir

Business Meeting
Fellowship



Aidsand Wright-Riggins
Keynote Speaker and
Workshop Facilitator

New Beginnings Youth Choir

And YOU!

Greetings From Peter Koshi in Colorado



"Knowing that the Evergreen Annual Meeting is growing near, I want to send greetings because I am missing being present with all my friends. I remember my days with Evergreen with gratitude and a deep sense of blessing. How, I am increasingly convinced, maybe convinced, that (Rm. 8:28

NLT) "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

You all need to continue to claim this assurance and see things coming together for good before your eyes. This means each one must not just look but to "see."

Next time I will write how the above is showing up in my life, socially and spiritually. God is good indeed!

With affection and appreciation to ALL,

Peter K. in Colorado"

Best Practices: Ministry that Works—Wedgwood’s Big Yard Sale

Every spring at Wedgwood Community Church we open up our parking lot for a community yard sale. Through door hangers and flyers we invite residents of the neighborhood to reserve a table and a 10x10 space to sell their stuff. The event is free, and we provide the space, a table, a chair and all the advertising for the sale. Sellers get to keep all the money.

We began this as a way to contribute to the neighborhood and to get to know the people. It is a great way for people to take notice that there is a church there and the sellers are there all day so the members of the church go around, talk with them and get to know them. Many new relationships have come of it. Some have come to “try out” the church. The biggest outcome is the sense of gener-

osity people have attributed toward the church. People are surprised when I tell them that it is free. They want to know the catch, and I tell them it is just our way of using our resources to contribute to the community, get to know people and for people to get to know us. The effect has been that people begin to see the church as a vital part of the community even if they don’t come to worship.

Events & Happenings Around the Association



Good Shepherd Baptist Church is

seeking an **artist** to create a mural for Shepherd’s Garden. Artists residing in Washington are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Contact: Rev. M. Christopher Boyer at 425-774-1010 or gsbchurch@verizon.net



The Common Ministry at Washington State

University (WSU), Pullman Washington, presents the 32nd Annual **Roger Williams Symposium** featuring Dr. Martin Marty, Friday and Saturday, October 16—17, 2009. Register online at: www.commonministry.com

or for more information call 509-332-2611 or email: office@commonministry.com

World Mission Offering Month (WMO)



The month of October is World Mission

Offering month when American Baptists traditionally focus on global mission— that is outside the United States and Puerto Rico. So particularly this

month you and your church are encouraged to give generously through ABCUSA to WMO.

Also know that at any time during the year when you give to United Mission 4.96% goes directly to International Ministries.

Thank you for your gifts to the World Mission Offering.

Churches in Budget Planning: Considering the Worker Deserves to be Paid

We recently received a request from one church asking about salaries. Because of Evergreen's size, we can offer only an average salary for our Region. We experienced a significant "jump" this year. I suspect that some of our colleagues which have a church that pays well, made a difference in our average. Here are the numbers, and if your

church is doing its budget work now, please share.

- As of July 1, 2009 the Average Compensation (salary and housing allowance) for Evergreen pastors was \$54,557, that's a 15.6% increase over the average for July 1, 2008 which was \$47,210.
- For comparison, the average for ABC/USA July 1,

2009 was \$48,644, a 2.1% increase over July 1, 2008 which was \$47,635.

Remember, too, that October is Pastor Appreciation month. Perhaps your pastor would benefit from attending Together in the Lord in Orlando (see September issue)

We hope this information is helpful to you and your churches.

Moscow Calls New Pastor, Jodie Tooley!



The United Church of Moscow (Idaho) has called Jodie Tooley to be its new pastor.

Jodie will

move to Moscow from Walnut Creek, California, where she attends Shell Ridge Community Church, and provides part-time ministry.

She is a 2007 graduate of American Baptist Seminary of the West. Following seminary, she completed a Clinical Pastoral Education year at the Bay Area Center for CPE at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, a charity hospital in San Francisco's Tenderloin. Jodie brings a rich and diverse professional resume to her new ministry in Mos-

cow. She anticipates ordination within the Evergreen Region, and has already begun to meet with the Ministerial Standards Committee.

Jodie's first official day at United Church is October 18th. Welcome, Jodie!

Festival of Preaching Northwest

You are encouraged to put the Festival of Preaching Northwest, April 19-21, 2010 on your calendar. The conference will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC), 1217 6th Avenue and University, Seattle 98101

On the website below you

can see that there is a good complement of preachers.

If you have looked at preaching conferences before but found they were always in the East, this is your chance.

Also note the early bird registration.

For details and registration, visit

<http://www.festivalofpreachingnw.org>

Your partnership in ministry is appreciated.

JBC Celebrates 110th Anniversary!!

A series of events beginning on Sunday, August 23rd, and culminating on Sunday the 30th celebrated the 110th anniversary Japanese Baptist Church's founding. The series began with a picnic on the first Sunday and featured a Royal Argosy luncheon cruise on Puget Sound on Saturday. The following Sunday's schedule included a special worship service followed by picture taking, another buffet lunch, and a concert.

The worship service on Sunday, August 30th was for both the English- and Japa-

nese-speaking congregations of JBC. As such, it featured musical selections by both the Sanctuary (English) Choir and the Nichigo (Japanese) Choir, along with praise music sung in both languages. Music and scripture verses were also presented in both languages by children and adults who had participated in the church's Vacation Bible School between the two Sundays. The service also featured a nine-minute visual history of the church, prepared by Church Historian Kathy Yukawa and her son Peter, the Worship Chair.

The sermon in English by Senior Pastor Paul Aita was translated simultaneously into Japanese by Associate Pastor Yuki Sakiyama. The concert following lunch was presented by three members of JBC's Nichigo congregation. The offering taken at the concert will help to purchase some new Japanese Bibles for the Nichigo congregation.

JBC was pleased to have the presence of a number of special guests for each of the special events.

The Penny Project for Children in Poverty

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies (National Ministries) is coordinating The Penny Project to raise awareness of the extent of child poverty throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, and support for programs and ministries responding to the needs of children in poverty.

Inspired by the example of the youth of First Baptist Church in New London, N.H.- who raised 60,000 pennies representing the number of children living in poverty in their state, we are encouraging youth and young adults of American Baptist Churches

USA to raise 14 million pennies to represent the number of children living in poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico. Visit www.14millionpennies.org to download or order stickers, posters, and other free resources to help promote the Penny Project in your church.

On the website we invite participating groups (schools, youth groups, congregations, etc.) to register and share the amounts they've raised toward the national goal of 14 million pennies. We're also encouraging groups to share stories of how their efforts are

raising awareness of and support for children in poverty.

We encourage all funds raised be used to support local anti-poverty efforts and organizations

.Rev. Lisa R. Harris
Acting National Coordinator
Children's Ministries/ Children in Poverty Initiative
National Ministries
<http://www.nationalministries.org>

Urban Grace Open House—October 25, 2009

Urban Grace, formerly First Baptist, will open its doors on October 25th to new and old friends in the community for an Open House which will include art and historic displays, guided tours and a variety of music. After over 125 years of ministry in Tacoma, it is a chance for Urban Grace to reintroduce itself and let people know some of the new and exciting things that are taking place.

From 1-5pm, Urban Grace will participate in the Tacoma's Historic Sacred Places: Free Open House & Tours which will feature 15 buildings dating from 1873 to 1968.

From 5-7pm, Urban Grace will host a free private event with light appetizers, music and a brief program that will highlight Urban Grace/First

Baptist's long-standing history as well as vision for the future.

All friends, partner congregations, community partners and anyone that wants to find out more about Urban Grace are invited.

For tickets, RSVP to info@urbangracetacoma.org or 253.272.2184 x104.

ABCUSA Burma Refugee Task Force Awards More than Three Dozen Grants

Thirty-eight 2009 grants have been awarded by the ABCUSA Burma Refugee Task Force to American Baptists working with Burmese refugees in the United States. The 2008 grants totaled 31. These grants are supported by ABCUSA's Mission Initiative Fund and One Great Hour of Sharing funds from National Ministries.

Grants are utilized for a variety of purposes. Most commonly, they support transportation that enables refugees to go to church, work, appointments and job interviews. Grants have been used to help new arrivals participate in drivers' education.

The funds also support staff positions such as outreach coordinators and interpreters, along with general programs that assist with emergency needs, welcome baskets and initial settlement costs.

Grants also fund programs that send children to church camp, help people find jobs, participate in job skill and life skill training, and more.

Thirteen of the 2009 grants support work in new locations. The grant program will continue into 2010, the final year of the award from the Mission Initiative Fund. The Burma Refugees Task Force hopes to expand the scope and number of projects even

"...commonly, ... support transportation that enables refugees to go to church, work, appointments and job interviews"

more next year.

"The grants became vision vehicles for congregational transformation that capture mission on the doorstep in a challenging time," says the Rev. Florence Li, National Ministries' Asian churches strategist.

(Evergreen is a recipient of two grants from National Ministries.)

A New Heaven and A New Earth

Cultural Competency Training

An ecumenical workshop that assists in building skills to effectively communicate with a diversity of people, to initiate and deepen relationships across cultural, ethnic and racial differences

Saturday, January 23, 2010

New Beginnings Christian
Fellowship

Worship and Family Life Center
19300—180th Ave SE
Renton WA 98055

Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Braxton, Pastor

Registration 8:30 a.m.— 9:00 a.m.

Seminar 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.

Cost: Advance \$25.00 includes lunch.

Group discounts available.

Registration at the door: \$35.00

To register, visit www.pnwumc.org and click “Training Events,” then “A New Heaven and A New Earth” or call 253-859-2226 to request a registration form.

Who should attend?

Lay and clergy in leadership positions in their churches or denominational structures

Congregations whose communities are becoming more diverse, or are sharing or contemplating sharing facilities

Persons ministering cross-culturally

Persons who are curious about their own blocks to embracing diversity.



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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

OCTOBER

9—10 EVERGREEN ANNUAL MEETING, First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace

22—Education Team, Kent Office, 10 AM

NOVEMBER

7—Association Board Meeting cancelled

13—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM

26-27—Thanksgiving—Office Closed

DECEMBER

5—Missional Church Learning Experience, Grace Baptist—San Jose, 9 AM-3 PM

JANUARY



4—7 Together in the Lord: Ministry Renewal Conference, Orlando FL

23—New Heaven & New Earth - Cultural Competency Training, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship

25—Greater Seattle Area Clergy Gathering with Roy Medley. More info to come.

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.