



# EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 6, Issue 4

## ALL—CLERGY RETREAT FREE! WEB SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A grant awarded to three Evergreen Covenant Groups (clergy supporting one another) from the National Ministers Council is funding an overnight retreat for all Evergreen clergy at Camp Bethel in Hoquiam, WA.

There is very little structure to this retreat, so there will be plenty of time to connect with fellow clergy, enjoy the out of doors, sit in quiet reflection and/or meditation and just be refreshed and renewed for the work clergy is called to do.

So take advantage of this rare opportunity.

There is also an option to stay until Wednesday, April 18, if anyone attending desires.

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David Spears of Spears Design is in the process of building a new web site for Evergreen Association.

When the website is launched, hopefully

in a few weeks, we will be able to share pictures and



information on events and happenings involving individuals and churches. For an example, the picture included in this article is one we received from Rev. Dr. John Doty, pastor of Pullman Baptist Church as a means to share with us that the mission trip to Harvey,

*(Continued on page 8)*

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### Pray For

- Beverly Spears & family in the loss of Bev's father, Peter.
- Barry Briscoe and family as Barry continues to recuperate at home.
- Becky Jurewicz and family as Becky faces the struggle with cancer.
- Pastoral Leadership for Mount Zion, Panther Lake, Seattle First and Bountiful.

## PETER'S PERSPECTIVES

In this time just before 2007 Easter, it seems fitting that I lift up the strength of Evergreen Association of ABC/USA. Being bridges as members of Ever-green,

and building bridges is truly a remarkable undertaking and focus of our Association. One might ask why spend time building bridges when we're doing



*Rev. Peter Koshi, Chair, Evergreen Association*

well. A poem by Will

*(Continued on page 2)*

## EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

\*\*\*\*\***NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** presents the Empowering the Church for the 21st Century Conference, April 30—May 2, 2007, Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center, Seattle. Remember to register on-line at: [www.empowermentconference.org](http://www.empowermentconference.org) or at [www.thenbcf.org](http://www.thenbcf.org); or call: 253-520-6673.

\*\*\*\*\***AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**, Moses Lake Washington, April 27—29, 2007.

\*\*\*\*\***JAPANESE BAPTIST CHURCH** invites everyone to the **ANNUAL SUKIYAKI DINNER**, Saturday, April 28, 2007: 2—7 pm Take Out;

4—7 pm Dine in;

7 pm Cultural Program

(Taiko drummer prelude at 6:30pm)

Contact: June Shkurhan,  
425-228-4376

\*\*\*\*\***AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA 2007 BIENNIAL MEETING / CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** will be held at the Convention Center, Washington DC, June 29—July 2, 2007. The theme is "Arise and Shine". Information and registration online at: [abc-usa.org](http://abc-usa.org) or call the Evergreen office: 253-859-2226.

## As You Make Plans to Attend the ABCUSA Centennial/Biennial...

Evergreen will host a **HOSPITALITY ROOM** in the Convention Center during the ABCUSA Biennial in Washington DC.

It would be helpful if—before we leave home, we had a list of

- WHO is attending
- WHEN you will arrive

- WHERE you will be registered
- HOW you think the **HOSPITALITY ROOM** can best serve you, and
- WHEN you plan to leave

Please share this information with Clem in the Evergreen office for compilation, so that we will be amply prepared to

meet your convention needs. Additionally, if you are willing to volunteer some time to serve your fellow Evergreen brothers/sisters in the hospitality room, please leave that information with Clem as well at 253-859-2226 or email: [clemeba@comcast.net](mailto:clemeba@comcast.net)

See You At the Biennial!!!

## Peter's Perspectives

*(Continued from page 1)*

Allen Dromgoole, "The Bridge Builder," verses 2 and 3 comes to mind:

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,

"You are wasting your strength building here;

## continued

Your journey will end with the ending day,

You never again will pass this way,

You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,

Why build you this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,

"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,

"There followeth after me today

A youth whose feet must pass this way.

This chasm which has

*(Continued on page 5)*

PASTORS, CHURCH  
CLERKS,  
TREASURERS,  
MODERATORS...

**2006 ANNUAL  
REPORT FORMS  
DUE**

in the Region Office  
by April 30, 2007 or  
ASAP

## Evergreen Executive Committee at Planning Retreat



Yosh, Curtis, Marcia, Barbara, Karen, Stephanie and Peter

## *The Christian Citizen* Presents American Baptists' Steadfast Pursuit of Social Justice Part I

In a first-page editorial, Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, National coordinator of Public and Social Advocacy, National Ministries, ABCUSA, shares that [Volume 1, 2007] "will revisit key moments in recent Baptist history—from a visit by representatives of the American Baptist Home Mission Society with Abraham Lincoln

to the founding of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, from ministry among interned Japanese Americans during World War II [story told by Yosh Nakagawa, Brooks Andrews and C. Ramsey-Lucas] to our work resettling refugees since that great conflagration, from our support of southern

pastors during the civil rights movement to our more recent efforts in behalf of children..."

Do take the time to go on this historical journey into why and how American Baptists [we], arrived to face the "Great Opportunities" which are before us today.

## When is a Charitable Gift Tax Deductible?

Excerpts from a brochure by the Office of the Treasurer—ABCUSA. The entire brochure may be downloaded at [www.abcusamissions.org/missiongiving/treasurer.cfm](http://www.abcusamissions.org/missiongiving/treasurer.cfm)

Giving, for Christians is a profoundly spiritual issue and helps us respond to the overwhelming needs in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

But what about the practical side of giving...claim[ing] a tax deduction? If you are among the 30% of taxpayers who do itemize deductions on your income tax return, use the following criteria to ensure your charitable gifts are tax-deductible.

- A charitable gift must be in the form of cash or property, such as

checks, credit card charges, real estate, stocks, bonds, or insurance policies...

- A charitable gift must be unconditional and without personal benefit to the giver...
- A charitable gift must be made to or for the use of a qualified organization created or organized in the United States...
- A charitable gift cannot exceed the amount allowed by law...
- A charitable gift must be properly substantiated...Individual cash gifts of \$250 or more require receipts from the gifted organization with the following information:

a. Name of donor

b. Statement indicating whether ... the organization provided any goods or services to the individual for the gift...

c. Giver must receive the receipt before the date he/she files a tax return claiming a deduction for the contribution, or the due date for filing the return.

While it is the sole responsibility of the giver to comply with substantiation rules, the church can take an active role in informing givers of current IRS guidelines to ensure their gifts are tax deductible.

## Christian Churches Together: Founded February 7, 2007

A letter dated February 16, 2007 from Roy Medley, ABCUSA General Secretary:

I consider it one of God's minor miracles: the bringing together of Pentecostals, Evangelicals, Mainline, Historic African American, Orthodox and Roman Catholics to form a common table for dialogue and cooperation called Christian Churches Together.

Wednesday night, February 7, representatives of 36 different bodies including ABC, the Salvation Army, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Open Bible Churches, Bread for the World, Sojourners, the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch, the Greek Orthodox Diocese of America, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc, Cooperative Baptists, the United Methodist Church, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United Church of Christ gathered in worship to thank God for this act of divine mercy and providence and to pledge our commitment to walk together for

the sake of our Christian witness. We prayed: "Gracious God, as you call us to yourself, you draw us closer to one another. Let your gracious Spirit continue to work among us, teaching us that we belong to each other even as we all belong to your Son, Jesus Christ.

In the day before and the day after the service we focused our attention on two key concerns: evangelism and poverty. As different communions spoke of their theology and practice of evangelism, a common thread that ran through them all was an emphasis on discipleship. Our focus on radical discipleship as American Baptists is being mirrored in other communions as well as we all seek to make disciples deeply devoted to Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God. The formation of Christian identity as foremost in our self-understanding and action in the world is seen by all as essential to

the mission of the local church.

Because it was a priority for Jesus, the poor must be central to the mission of the Church in the world is a conviction which we all share as well. We stated, "As leaders in Christian Churches Together, we believe that a renewed commitment to overcome poverty is central to the mission of the church and essential to our unity in Christ." Our desire is to lend our moral voice to the public arena on behalf of the poor in our country and around the world; and to encourage our local churches and mission agencies to work for

The formation of Christian identity as foremost in our self-understanding and action in the world is seen by all as essential to the mission of the local church.

economic justice for all. Again, we as American Baptists with an emphasis on Children in Poverty are at the forefront of this concern.

Representing our churches and tradition, I was proud to sign the charter member roll for Christian Churches Together. We have much to learn and much to share with this expansive table of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley  
General Secretary

### ASIAN WOMEN'S GATHERING Sunday, July 22—Wednesday, July 25, 2007 during the ABW National Conference, at Green Lake Conference Center, Wisconsin

- Go to [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org)
- Get details about the conference & scholarship
- Register
- Or email: [Florence.Li@abc-usa.org](mailto:Florence.Li@abc-usa.org); call: 1800-222-3872 extension 2468

## Peter's Perspectives

*(Continued from page 2)*

been as naught to me

To that fair-haired youth  
might a pitfall be,

He, too, must cross in the  
twilight dim,

Good friend, I am building  
the bridge for him."

Don't we wish that someone  
had built a bridge for we Bap-  
tists so that we would not fail  
to cross the "chasm" deep and

wide as many are doing?

What an ingenious concept  
for a Region to lift up! Who  
thought of such an idea? Or is  
it more accurate to attribute  
it to inspiration of the Holy-  
Spirit? A bridge not only con-  
nects but over-rides torrents,  
barriers or obstructions, mak-  
ing access possible from oppo-  
site sides - the bridge becom-  
ing the "common ground."

continued

May I suggest some "bridging  
words": respect for, identify-  
ing with, relating with, and  
shalom. The two most power-  
ful bridge words are -  
PEACE, the proclamation of  
the Angels, "...and peace on  
earth to all whom God fa-  
vors." Luke 2:14 (NLT), and  
LOVE; Jesus said, "This is  
my commandment, that you  
love one another as I have  
loved you." John 15:12  
(NAS).

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Ministry in Such a Time as This: Adaptive Change for Faithful and Effective Leadership

Pastoral and lay leaders are in-  
vited to attend MINISTRY IN  
SUCH A TIME AS THIS, a Pre-  
Biennial event in the Washing-  
ton Convention Center, Wash-  
ington, DC, on Friday, June 29,  
2007, from 9 am until noon. The  
event is designed to invite  
American Baptists into reflec-  
tion on what it takes to be faith-  
ful and effective Church leaders  
in such a time as this.

MINISTRY IN SUCH A TIME  
AS THIS will focus on prepara-  
tion for the adaptive changes  
needed in order to do faithful

and effective ministry in the  
new context of this time that  
some have named a post-  
modern, post-Christendom cul-  
tural context. MINISTRY IN  
SUCH A TIME AS THIS is a  
mission enterprise that requires  
of us comprehension of the dy-  
namics of our time and imagina-  
tion to proclaim and live the  
Old, Old Story in ways that are  
compelling to our contemporar-  
ies.

Dr. Diana Butler Bass and Dr.  
Parush Parushev will bring  
their expertise as well as their

inspiring spirits to offer insight  
and modeling.

Sponsored by:  
The Ministers Council  
Campus Ministers Association  
International Ministries

LOCATION AND TIME:  
Washington DC Convention  
Center  
Ballroom C - Third Floor  
Friday - June 29, 2007  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
*More information on*  
[www.ministerscouncil.com](http://www.ministerscouncil.com)

## American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) Sends Thanks

Four percent of your contribu-  
tions to United Mission is  
automatically donated to  
American Baptist Seminary  
of the West (ABSW). So, re-  
cently you gave more than

\$1,200 to ABSW for which  
we've received thank you  
notes to express their grati-  
tude to the churches...

Also, Micky Holmes writes, "I

am excited to report that dur-  
ing spring break, March 25-  
30, ten of our students and  
two faculty members will be  
traveling to Gautier, Missis-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## FACF EXTENDS A HELPING HAND

by Ben Naguit

Albay PHILIPPINES— On November 30, 2006, Typhoon Durian wreaked havoc, followed by seven hours of heavy down pour of rain from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The mix of rain and wind beating against Mayon Volcano triggered a landslide. In less than an hour, hundreds of houses were totally or partially destroyed. Over 600 people died in Albay and

countless others were injured. That afternoon John Faclag, his wife Mercy, his sons Oliver and Emil and their maid Carrie were inside their beautiful two-story home. They could hear the avalanche of rocks outside. When they attempted to open the door, the weight of the rocks had trapped them inside. They rushed to the rooftop where they believed they

would be safe. As John held his son's hand, the last words he heard were, "Dad, will Jesus save us?" John tried his best to save his family, but they were swept away. The sheer force of the avalanche covered them with dirt serving as their informal graves. John's neighbor yelled out as he threw a rope, "John, let it go and save yourself!". John

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ABSW Sends Thanks

continued

*(Continued from page 5)*

sippi to rebuild homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The ABSW group will be working with Habitat for Humanity in cooperation with the American Baptist Churches of the USA. This

trip is being initiated and organized by our students, who feel strongly that God has called them to be faithful to their calling, in action as well as in study.

Thank you for supporting these men and women who seek to bring hope to those

who have experienced great loss."

Thank you for continuing to give to United Mission. It matters and makes a difference.

## REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR PASTOR, FAMILY, FRIEND(S) TO THE BALL GAME!

Take Your Pastor, Family & Friends to the Ball Game Order Form



Layperson's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

# tickets purchased

Amt Enclosed

Additional names may be written on a separate sheet of paper.

All Orders must be received in the Evergreen Office, 409 Third Ave S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032-5843 by the **DEADLINE: May 22, 2007**

## Peter's Perspectives cont.

*(Continued from page 5)*

JESUS, THE CHRIST, is our bridge to the Father and the Father's bridge to us. "HALLELUJAH, CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

"Happy Easter to ALL!"  
With love and appreciation,  
Your Chair,

*Peter*

Rev. Peter Koshi

## Executive Committee, TEAM & Caucus Leaders Retreat



(L-R) Marcia, Curtis, Clem, Karen, Barbara, Stephanie, Beverly, Peter, Yosh, James (front ctr)

Walter Heyman



Doug Holmes



Herb Tsuchiya



Angela Farrar



Betty Bates



Perla Belo



David Kile  
(photo not available)

Ken Curl



## FACF Lends a Helping Hand

*(Continued from page 6)*

was pulled to safety.

When everything subsided, the neighborhood kids were running around near John's home when they found what they thought was a doll's hand. When they touched it, they realized it was human. Following up on information from the kids, the adults began to dig and unearth the body. It was John's wife, Mercy. His sons and maid

have still not been found and are presumed dead. As I interviewed John, he was still in shock and in tears. He misses his family terribly.

We were able to hand deliver relief goods to 300 families. Each bag contained rice, coffee, milk, sugar, noodle soup and a variety of canned goods. We know what we have given is not even a drop in the bucket, but at least we were able to help some who

## continued

were severely affected by Daraga, Camalig and Ginobatan, Albay.

The primary need is counseling in Addition to food and shelter. As the Lord provides we intend to return to the disaster area. If the Lord is leading you to share, please send your check to: Filipino American Christian Fellowship (FACF), 4521 188th St. SW, Lynnwood WA 98037.

## Free Ministers' Retreat

## continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

email:cfransson@sprynet.com.

**Please RSVP by April 9, 2007.**

Call: Seattle First Baptist Church at 206-325-6051 or

## Church World Service Needs School Kits Immediately

Donna Derr, Director of Church World Service sends out an urgent plea for help in meeting the “substantive pending requests for CWS School Kits. At the moment, we have only about 200 School Kits in inventory that are now uncommitted for upcoming shipments. This situation has in part arisen because requests for School Kits, just since the first of the year, have exceeded requests during the whole of last year. I think this reflects new interest on the part of many partners in receiving material resources to under gird their program work, which is wonderful. However, it means we need to work at keeping our inventory at more consistent levels to meet increasing need, which we anticipate [will continue]”.

For your convenience, the list of contents is below, and of course also online at:

<http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits>

School Kits:

- \* One pair of blunt scissors
- \* Pads or notebooks of ruled paper 8-1/2" X 11", containing 140-200 sheets of paper. No filler paper, please.
- \* One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- \* One pencil sharpener
- \* Six new pencils with erasers
- \* One large eraser
- \* Twelve sheets colored construction paper
- \* One box of 24 crayons
- \* One 12"W x 14"L finished size, cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button)

Pack these items in the cloth bag and secure contents with the clo-

sure. Or, if you prefer, a donation of \$13 per Kit will allow Church World Service to buy school supplies for use in classroom settings.

Processing/Shipping: \$2.00 per Kit.

Packaging & shipping instructions:

\* Pack CWS Kits in boxes with only one type of Kit in each box.

\* Complete the Kits Coupon (PDF file, 32 kb--

[http://www.churchworldservice.org/pdf\\_files/GiftHeartCoupon.pdf](http://www.churchworldservice.org/pdf_files/GiftHeartCoupon.pdf)) and enclose a copy in the top of each box before sealing.

\* Indicate the type of Kit clearly on the outside of the box.

- Secure the boxes with packing tape.

- Ship all Kits prepaid to:

Church World Service, Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center, 1720 Ferncliff Rd, Little Rock, AR 72223

## Web Site Under Construction

(Continued from page 1)

Louisiana—across the river from New Orleans—was hard

work, but rewarding, too!

We hope to share more pictures from Pastor Doty’s mission trip, and give you

## Evergreeners to be Honored at the Biennial

**Rev. Greg Ledbetter**, pastor of Shell Ridge Community Church, Walnut Creek CA, is the 2007 recipient of the *Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award* given by National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches, USA. The award will be presented at the ABC Biennial

Convention in Washington, D.C. on June 30.

**Dr. Yoshitada Nakagawa**, member and lay leader at Japanese Baptist Church, Seattle WA, will be awarded the *Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award* during the Biennial. Dr. Nakagawa is described by

## Continued

opportunity to view Evergreen’s developing website shortly. Keep watch at [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org)

his friend, Herb Tsuchiya, as “...not the stereotypical evangelical. He is an evangelical by the way he lives and how he treats people”.

Evergreen salutes both our award recipients during ABC/USA’s 100th year celebration/Biennial 2007!

## Volunteers Recognized for Service to Ryther's Kids

Volunteers Bruce and Candace Sagor and Pastor Curtis Price of Wedgwood Community Church received special recognition for the many hours of service they have given to Ryther's children and teens through the Spirituality Program.

Spirituality Coordinator Christine Underwood notes, "I appreciate the way that Pastor Curtis and Bruce and Candace see Ryther's kids as their kids. They have been generous in contributing their time, talents and resources. I can always tell how much they genuinely care about the kids. They have been volunteering since last April."

The Wedgwood volunteers hold a service with the children in the Residential Program from 1:45 to 2:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month. Christine relates,

"The service usually includes a story from the Bible. The focus is on being a part of God's family, the idea that God always knows where you are and you're never lost. Pastor Curtis brings his guitar, and there's lots of singing. Once a boy from the cottages got to play Curtis' guitar, which really meant a lot to him.



Christine Underwood, Bruce & Candace Sagor, and Curtis Price

The kids always have a show-and-tell and share their stories."

A service is also held on the second Sunday of each month for the Girls' Chemical Dependency Treatment cot-

tage. "Curtis talks with them about how Jesus spent time with people who were poor and lived on the fringes," Christine explains. "The girls also enjoy guitar music and singing. The message is always inclusive and affirming and is never about shame or fear."

## Baptist Joint Committee Announces \$1,000 Student Essay Contest

To engage high school students in church-state issues and to generate interest from a wide range of Baptists, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship partner organization, has launched its second annual Religious Liberty Essay Contest.

Open to all Baptist high school students in the classes of 2007 and 2008, the contest offers a grand prize of \$1,000 and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, DC. Second prize is \$500, and third prize is \$100.

Students entering the contest are asked to use their understanding of the importance of

the separation of church and state and the prophetic role of the church to respond to the following quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and critic of the state, and never its tool."

Essays are required to have a minimum of 700 words and no more than 1,000 words. They will be judged on the depth of their content and the skill with which they are written...

Visit [www.BJConline.org/](http://www.BJConline.org/) contest for more information or to download a promotional flier and/or registration form. Send any questions to [essay@BJConline.org](mailto:essay@BJConline.org)

## Garrison Bids Farewell to Seattle Area

Marti Garrison who served for a time as Evergreen's Stewardship Consultant and is currently a member of Seattle First Baptist Church has accepted a staff chaplain position at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar



Rapids, Iowa. Her full-time position begins April 2, 2007. She is looking forward to this new work, yet will also miss friends and church in Seattle.

Evergreen wishes Marti well in this new ministry.

## Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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Visit us on the Web  
at [www.ea-abc.org](http://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.



Building Bridges Between Communities

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

- **16—17(18) FREE!! All Clergy Get-Away!** (Retreat), Camp Bethel in Hoquiam, Noon—Noon.
- **20—21 ACT Weekend**
- **21—Black Caucus Meeting,** New Beginnings Annex, 215 Whitworth, Renton, 10 AM
- **27—29 PNW Women's Conference,** Moses Lake WA
- **28—Sukiyaki Dinner Scholarship Fundraiser,** JBC, 2—7 PM
- **30—May 2 Empowering the Church for the 21st Century Regional Conference,** Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center, Seattle

### MAY

- **1—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal,** Japanese Baptist

Church, 160 Broadway, Seattle, 6:30 PM

- **15—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal,** JBC, 6:30 PM
- **19—Musical Festival (Time/Place—TBD)**

### JUNE

- **5—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal,** JBC, 6:30 PM
- **9—Euro Caucus Gathering** at Wedgwood
- **9—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM**
- **JUNE 29—July 2 Biennial Meeting/Centennial Celebration, Convention Center, Washington DC**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US  
PAID  
Kent WA  
Permit No. 451

## 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.