



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 8

Annual Meeting 2009, October 9-10

Plan now to join the Evergreen family at our Annual Meeting on October 9—10, 2009 at First Baptist Church, 22800 –56th Avenue W, Mountlake Terrace WA 98043.

The keynote preacher and workshop facilitator will be the Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Director of National Ministries, ABCUSA.

Also, Kihomi and Mabudiga Nzunga, mis-

sionaries to Haiti, will be with us this year. You'll remember, that Haiti has been an Evergreen focus for the last couple of years.

Lodging Options:

Embassy Suites
20610 44th Ave N.
Lynnwood, WA 98036
(425) 775-2599
- \$109 for single (with full breakfast)
\$119 for double (with full Breakfast)
(About 2 miles from the Church)

Studio 6
6017 244th St. SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
(425) 771-3139

- \$59 Queen (no charge for extra person) - has small kitchen
- \$67 Two beds (No charge for extra person) - also small kitchen
(about 3/4 to a mile from Church - within walking distance in good weather!)

Start planning now to attend!!



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Your Continued Prayers for:

- Mike Cooper, spouse of Chrystal Cooper, founding lay leader of Evergreen, for strength to face a health crisis.
- Alicia & Manuel Luquin as they both face recuperation following an auto accident.
- Evergreen Churches in various stages of pastoral search

Curtis Comments: The Laughing Jesus



Curtis Price
Chair, EA-ABC

head back, in a full-

In my office there is a large portrait of Jesus; mouth wide open;

on belly laugh. It is a portrait that often takes people aback when they see it, but it is my favorite image of Jesus. There has been so many times and so many events in my faith

journey that let me know first hand that God has a sense of humor, and often I look at this picture and think that Jesus must be laughing at me as I flounder in

(Continued on page 3)

Best Practices—Mission Ideas that Work: SHOES, SHOES, SHOES!



[From Sarah Halverson's Thursday Thoughts]

Hiya Fairview! –

What an incredible worship we shared together last Sunday! I had no idea that **Barefoot Sunday** would be so well received! When we sang out Take Off Your Shoes you all really took off your shoes! It was so joyful watching you come to the altar shedding your shoes, and even unloading bags of them! We certainly responded with generosity this last Sunday! Together we imagined where the shoes that we moments before had on our feet would

be and whose feet would soon be wearing them. They could go to a woman who suffered from domestic abuse here in our own community, or to a child in the Appalachian mountains. They might end up on man's feet in South America, or a village woman in Africa.

I already know where one pair ended up! Right this very moment a little girl affected by HIV/AIDS here in Orange County is wearing them! Because of our relationship with the AIDS Services Foundation (ASF), when a social worker heard of the need for shoes and put the word out, Ty Rose at ASF knew of our collection of

shoes and called on Fairview to the rescue! How wonderful that we have such a strong network where we are able to really serve our community!

This is how a church becomes a real COMMUNITY church that is truly responsive to the needs of others. Great work Fairview- we are contributing members of the Global Community that is God's Creation.

Sarah Halverson is the pastor of Fairview Community Church in Costa Mesa, CA.

Share your mission practices that work.

Events & Happenings Around the Region

 **New Beginnings Christian Fellowship (NBCF)** is moving into its sanctuary space on Sunday, August 2, 2009. There will be worship services at 8 AM and 12 Noon, and a community worship event at 5:00 PM. You are invited to attend any and/or all services. More information may be found at <http://www.thenbcf.org/home.htm>

The address for the new NBCF facility is: 19300 108th Ave. SE, Renton WA 98055.

 **Seattle First Baptist Church** is seeking an Interim Family Ministries Coordinator, Sept. 1—Dec. 31

(with extension possible through Spring 2010). For a full job description call 253-859-2226, email Clem at clem@ea-abc.org or call SFBC at 206-325-6051.

 **Samaritan Center of Puget Sound** and Plymouth Church sponsoring—for Clergy and Lay Leaders—Richard Blackburn, Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, present *“Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation”*, at Plymouth Church (UCC), 1217 Sixth Ave., Seattle, Sept 25 and 26th.

From the Director of Camp Indianola

Re: Suquamish Tribe 2009 Canoe Journey

“...I just want to acknowledge and express appreciation for the \$\$ support of our efforts in hosting Native American and First Nations folks participating in the Tribal Canoe Journey 2009.

I was also glad to see the positive statement from Evergreen Association—ABC to Native Neighbors... Thanks again”

(Continued from page 1)

my efforts to live out my faith. Yet I find this thought comforting. Anyone who knows me would not find my love of this image surprising. And I think it is a great image of Christ as he relates to Evergreen as well.

It does not take long for anyone new to the Evergreen Association to recognize that laughter is a big part of our life together. I would say it is an important part as well. Laughter and humor are disarming and can be a fast track to breaking down barriers. It can often help awkward situation be less awkward. But most importantly, laughter is an indicator of great joy. It is a contagion that passes joy from one person to the next like a fast moving virus. It is a universal language of joy. While what is funny may vary between cultures, humor exists

in all. While humor can be hurtful (I do my share of apologizing) it can also help one feel a part of the group. I would like to go so far as to claim it as a spiritual practice. To laugh, especially at ones self, is to know the presence of God's utter joy and happiness. Perhaps I am stretching or perhaps I am trying to justify my own jovial behavior at Evergreen events, but laughter is interwoven into the culture of Evergreen and I dare say it is one of the things people notice about us that distinguishes us from other organizations.

There is not one interfaith gathering where Evergreen people are present where a comment is not made about the Baptists being the fun group. It is not unusual for people who have been a part of ABC or other Baptist groups to come to an Evergreen meeting and comment

on how different it is from meetings their usual meetings. Our laughter bears witness to the joy we have in each other and in the ministry we do together.

So I invite you to join in the fun and let out a guffaw at our next gathering knowing that it ministers to those who are there and to those who are watching.

Grace and Peace,



Curtis

You and Support for Evergreen

Evergreen Association depends on you and your church's giving through United Mission for financial support.

It is important that we receive your gifts on a regular basis. Church giving through United Mission is our financial life blood.

If you would like more information about mission giving, or for an Evergreen representative to visit your church one Sunday, or during a meeting time, please email clemeba@comcast.net or call Clem at 253-859-2226 and we will be happy to schedule a visit.

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Interest Rate or More,
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ANNUITY**

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American Baptist
Foundation**

Contact your
AB Foundation
Representative,
Rick Barlow

206-444-0323

RBarlowABF@msn.com

The Biennial Experience: A Youth Perspective

by Abby Reyes



I am so thankful and honored to have been chosen as a Youth/AB

GIRLS Representative of my region to attend the 2009 American Baptist Biennial. It was an eye-opening experience that I will always remember and was very beneficial for my continued growth of faith as an American Baptist.

The best part of Biennial may have been person-

ally witnessing all the unique and wonderful differences of the denominational family and being able to gather together as brothers and sisters of Christ, worshipping under one roof. Our American Baptist family is much bigger than I imagined and we are spread throughout unique places of the world. I enjoyed reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones such as refugees from Burma, or missionaries from the Congo. I was thrilled to learn about the work of God being fulfilled in a variety of ways and

places and joyfully overwhelmed to witness that we embrace our cultural and generational differences. We share the bond of faith and will always be spiritually connected.

This American Baptist family reunion sure did leave an impact on my life that will help me to grow and understand more spiritually. I hope to attend more Biennials in the future to continue to grow and learn more about my fellow Baptists and the work being done with the love of

B-B-Q and BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

Thanks to your support of the Black Caucus initiated bar-be-que and bake sale fundraiser, Evergreen realized more than \$3,300 in revenue. Most important was the wonderful spirit of the day, the good camaraderie, the beautiful weather, and let's not forget the delicious food!

Special thanks to all our cooks and bakers.



Burma: the refugee journey

Burma (also called Myanmar) is a large country, comprising 135 official ethnic groups, and several others not legally recognized by the government, a military dictatorship. Under the current regime, political dissent is not tolerated, minority religions (especially Christianity and Islam) are repressed, and minority ethnic areas are being assimilated through immigration by the dominant Burman ethnic group. People of certain ethnicities are denied any right to citizenship, and some communities are the target of genocidal “ethnic cleansing” in their ancestral village areas.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of people have fled Burma, often in harrowing journeys of great danger and hardship. The fortunate ones make it to refugee camps in the surrounding countries, mainly Thailand and Malaysia. In the camps, refugees have little access to education, can’t legally come and go, can’t seek paid work in their host country, and must depend on charity for their needs. Many develop a kind of learned helplessness that some have called “refugee camp syndrome.”

Some take the daunting steps to seek resettlement in another country. After a rigorous screening process, a few are selected for resettlement here. They receive loans to fly to America, where non-profit “voluntary organizations,” help them get situated. Refugees get financial assistance, culture and language instruction, plus help

with finding an apartment, medical care, and job hunting, but only for a limited time, usually eight months. After that, they are expected to have found paid work, be able to support themselves, and start paying back their travel loans. During economic “good times,” refugees willing to work very hard are able to make ends meet, and hope for a better life for their children.

“...eight months. After that, they are expected to have found paid work, be able to support themselves, and start paying back their travel loans.”

During times of economic downturn, they compete with native English speakers for the few available jobs. Refugees, who overcame so much to get here can become desperate as they face the same risks of homelessness and alienation faced by so many American citizens, but in a culturally strange environment where almost nobody speaks their language.

For many, hope comes when they find *community* here. It may be in the form of family, fellow students, a faith community, other groups of friends, or some combination of these. Community is a place where the refugees find people who speak their language, where they feel loved and welcome. It’s a place where they get the wherewithal to carry on, and build their own piece of our hyphenated Ameri-

can culture.

We Baptists are communities of faith, following Jesus together.

God created us, and brought us to this place and time. God created our refugee brethren, and brought them here now. It’s an opportunity for us to reach out in love, as our Lord taught us. For refugees in their distinct faith community, we can know and love them, community to community. For refugees adrift as individuals, we can offer our love and caring. We might help them find a community that understands and welcomes them, or we might strive to be that community for them. The most important thing we can do for refugees from Burma is to be interested and curious. Just as Burma is complicated, with many different peoples, the needs of refugees from Burma are complicated. This can make it hard to understand what’s most needed, but also opens a world of different ways that we, as individuals and as faith communities, can help. Contact me (Paul Roby) to learn more.

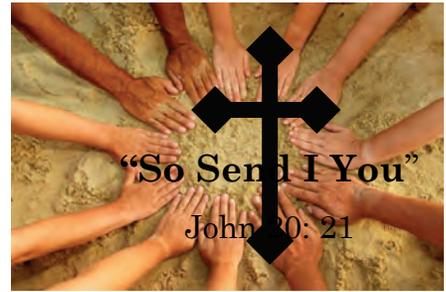
Dr. Paul Roby is a Companion Mission Worker, placed as the Burma Refugee Services Coordinator for the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. His office is in Kent, Washington.



ANNUAL MEETING

THESE HANDS THESE FEET

Meeting Schedule



Rev. Dr. Aidsand
Wright-Riggins

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

22800—56th Avenue West

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE, WA

Rev. Dennis Plourde, Pastor

OCTOBER 9-10, 2009

The Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins

Director, National Ministries, American Baptist Churches

Keynote Preacher

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events held at First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 12 Noon Ministers Council Lunch
American Baptist Women's Ministries Luncheon
- 1:00 PM Registration Opens
- 2:00 PM Workshops: Work in Haiti — The Nzungas
First Timer's Orientation — Marcia Patton
- 3:00 PM Break
- 4:00 PM Conversation Café — Aidsand Wright-Riggins & Clem Winbush
- 5:30 PM Fellowship Time
- 6:15 PM Dinner — Thai Meal with Native American Flute Player Dario Meguire
- 7:30 PM Worship



Kihomi & Mabudiga
Nzunga

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 8:30 AM Registration Opens
- 9:00 AM Opening and Beginning of Discernment Session
- 10:00 AM Caucus Meetings
- 12 NOON Lunch
- 1:00 PM Worshipful Work, including Karen Church Choir
- 4:00 PM See you next year!

409 Third Avenue South Suite A
Kent WA 98032
Phone: 253-859-2226
FAX: 859-859-1537
WEB: www.ea-abc.org



Evergreen Association of American
Baptist Churches



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

2009 Annual meeting
THESE HANDS THESE FEET

John 20:21
"SO SEND I YOU"

OCTOBER 9-10, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail the completed form (and applicable fees) to: Evergreen Association of ABC, 409 Third Avenue S., Suite A, Kent WA 98032-5843. Checks and/or money orders should be made payable to Evergreen Association-ABC.

Name _____ Church Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

	Cost	Total
I am a DELEGATE (Representative Voice for my Church) <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee	\$10.00	\$ _____

Signature of Church Clerk or Pastor (Required for Delegates only) _____

MEAL REGISTRATION		
	Cost	Total
<u>Friday, October 9, 2009</u>		
Ministers Council Lunch/Meeting	\$10.00	\$ _____
AB Women's Luncheon	\$10.00	\$ _____
Dinner	\$15.00	\$ _____
<u>Saturday, October 10, 2009</u>		
Lunch	\$10.00	\$ _____

TOTAL DELEGATE AND MEAL FEES ENCLOSED \$ _____

Deadline: October 1, 2009



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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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

AUGUST

- 4—Clergy Cruise (by invitation only)
- 8—**Association Board Meeting**, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM
- 10—13 Kaleidoscope Institute Northwest, at Camp Berachah, 19830 SE 328th Place. Auburn WA 98092 (Contact Marcia for info)

SEPTEMBER

- 18—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM

OCTOBER

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

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.