



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 12

Merry Christmas

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is a labor of love. It is upheld by the many who give of your prayers, time, energy, and financial support to assure that this ministry and mission work continues. So to you, for whatever your part this past year—Thank you.

And to that crew which volunteers monthly to assure that the newsletter is

mailed in a timely manner—Betty Bates, coordinator, and Marge Barnett, Cora Lee Doty, Roxanne Fowler, Georgene Haley, Gay and Phyllis Hasselblad, Ruth Hunter (also for assuring our financial books balance!), Shirley Moffitt, Chellie Rowland, Charlotte Scherer, Barbara Sloan, Kathy Swan, and Bill and Virginia Thompson—THANK YOU ALL!!!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Worship Service

Monday,
January 18, 2010
6 PM

MLK Memorial Baptist Church, hosting
13611 SE 116th St.,
Renton WA 98056

Rev. Dr. Paul Martin,
Preaching

Featuring: MLK's
Amazing Grace
Praise Dancers,
SFBC Choir and more

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Our Sympathy and Prayers for

Rev. Rick Barlow, American Baptist Foundation representative, in the loss of his mother, Mary Alice "Candy" Vann.

Curtis Comments: Farewell from the EA Chair



Rev. Curtis Price
Association Chair

As the year comes to a close, so does my tenure as Chair of the

Evergreen Association. I have been reflecting on my time in the leadership of this great organization over the last several years. It has been an amazing experiment

born out of troubled waters. It was a miraculous confluence of opportunities and relationships that gave birth to something new. Over

(Continued on page 2)

A New Heaven and A New Earth: Cultural Competency Training

Saturday, January 23, 2010
Registration 8:30 –9 AM
Seminar 9 AM-5 PM
New Beginnings Christian
Fellowship
19300—180th Ave SE
Renton WA 98055
Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Braxton,
Pastor

Who should attend?

**Lay and clergy in leader-
ship positions**
**Congregations whose com-
munities are becoming**
more diverse
**Persons ministering cross-
culturally, and/or**
Persons who are curious

**about their own blocks to
embracing diversity.**

Advance Registration: \$25.00
At the door: \$35.00

To register, visit
www.pnwumc.org or call
253-859-2226 to request a
registration form

Curtis Comments

continued

(Continued from page 1)

the years it has evolved, and we are just now really beginning to experience how deep and meaningful our life together can be.

Relationship is happening and growing; trust is beginning to happen. As this trust deepens, we truly do experience moments of equitable partnership and honest power sharing. Nowhere does this happen more than on the Executive Committee. Two people from each Caucus plus Dr. Patton and Clem who have come to know each other and care for each other enough to listen with their heart and speak with the Spirit. At our last meeting the whole committee agreed that these are the relationships we wish for all of Evergreen. My prayer for Evergreen is that we continue to create opportunities for these deeply

meaningful relationships to happen. For these friendships that defy and transcend all that has conspired to keep people apart are the cornerstone of our ministry together. It is also my hope that as we go from being this great experiment to being the norm, we continue to innovate. Creativity feeds passion, and it is our passion that has brought us thus far – passion and faith. Furthermore, the world is changing quickly, and without innovation we soon become irrelevant.

I wish to thank everyone in Evergreen for this opportunity to serve in this capacity, but I particularly wish to thank the Executive Committee for their partnership and their friendship. God has brought together some good people to do this work. I also wish to thank

Dr. Patton for her leadership and guidance as well as her openness to hear what is on my mind. And of course, I would get nothing done without Clem who juggles it all with grace and patience.

Finally I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the incredible influence our Elder Yosh Nakagawa has had on me. His greatest hopes for Evergreen have been the light for which we all strive, and his faith has kept us motivated.

May God bless us all as we continue to do our best to reflect the reign of God and live out heaven on earth.

Grace and Peace,



Curtis

Events & Happenings Around the Association

🌐 Congratulations to **New Beginnings Christian Fellowship** on an excellent article in the Seattle Times Sunday Magazine, Pacific Northwest, entitled “*On A Mission: At New Beginnings, integration is the gospel*”, published November 29, 2009.

New Hope Baptist Church held its *First Annual Harvest Dinner*, highlighting St. Mark’s Community

Supported Agriculture (CSA) on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. CSA is a way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. A CSA box of produce is delivered each week during the growing seasons. Evergreen was represented by Clem Winbush. We enjoyed hearing the stories and a luscious meal featuring produce from the Clean Green Farm.

Interested in joining the CSA?

Call 206-323-0534 or email: contact@blackdollar.org

Macedonia Baptist Church, 7126 Beacon Avenue S, Seattle WA invites you to a *Christmas Musical*, Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 5 PM. Rev. Larry Ezell-Ray, pastor.

UPDATE: New Generator for the Eye Clinic in Haiti

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church has raised \$1,000 toward the purchase of the new generator for the Eye Clinic in Haiti. Let us celebrate their generosity and challenge ourselves to do our best as well.

Between MLK, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church in Renton WA, Shell Ridge Community Church in Walnut Creek CA

and the Evergreen Annual Meeting offering we are at least ¼ of the way to the \$12,000 goal. We can do this!

Churches can contribute by sending contributions through the mission offerings to Valley Forge and after the first of the year to Evergreen, marked specifically for “Nzunga—Eye Clinic Generator”.

Remember: As of January 2010, Mission \$\$ will be sent through the Evergreen Association—Your new ABCUSA Collection Agency!

Mission Giving: Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO), established in 1977, is the means through which American Baptist congregations continue to say thank you and respond in a tangible way to emergency

REMEMBER with **LOVE**
GIVE with **GRATITUDE**

and/or financial needs of the denomination’s retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses.

The RMMO is usually received by ABC congregations in December each year.

Thank you for the part you do to remember and lift up those who’ve committed their lives to ministering to others.

Salt Lake City AB Girls Join in National Ministries' Penny Project



The youth/AB Girls of First Baptist Church, Salt Lake City have collected 37,900 pennies to date. Their goal is 94,000, wherein each penny represents a child in Utah living at or below the poverty level.

The Penny Project, sponsored by National Ministries has a goal to raise 14 million pennies by April, 2010. The goal of 14 million pennies represents the number of

children in the United States and Puerto Rico living at or below the poverty level.

We need you to join in this effort to raise or collect a penny for each child in your city or state or community living at or below the poverty level.

You, your youth group, your church, etc., can log onto the National Ministries website to sign up and participate at www.nationalministries.org/

[CIP/penny project](http://www.nationalministries.org/)

And the project asks that you give the funds you raise to a charitable organization working with children in poverty in your local area ! Please go to the website for info and join in with Salt Lake City First Baptist and others around the US and Puerto Rico.

Thanks, Karen Carter for your work with youth/AB Girls at SLC First Baptist!

SAVE THE DATE

Join Us to Lift Every Voice on **FAITH ADVOCACY DAY**

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At the State Capitol in Olympia

Begin the day at United Churches in Olympia.

Move to the State Capitol for lunch and legislative meetings.

Meet your legislators and voice your concerns.

For more information, contact: Washington Association of Churches, (206) 625-9790, the Lutheran Public Policy Office, (206) 464-4133 or Church Council of Greater Seattle (206) 525-1213

2010–2011 American Baptist Directory Planning Calendar Available



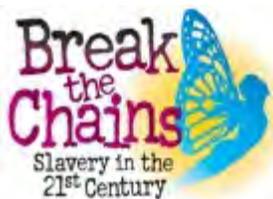
The 2010-2011 American Baptist Directory & Planning Calendar is now available on the web!

As is implied, the calendar also contains information for contacting ABC programs and individuals we may need as resources for

our ministries. Go to www.abc-usa.org and download the calendar.

You are invited to make copies and use the calendar to coordinate your church's calendar with that of the denomination.

Grants Available for New Ministries Supporting Break the Chains Initiative



Since American Baptist (AB) Women's

Ministries launched its Break the Chains national mission project in June 2007, more than \$400,000 have been given in contributions, far exceeding the initial two-year goal of \$250,000.

A portion of the contributions

received by AB Women's Ministries for Break the Chains is being made available for grants to be awarded in 2010 to new ministries that support the purpose of the Break the Chains initiative. American Baptist individuals, churches and/or American Baptist-related entities are invited to apply before March 31, 2010.

Grant application guidelines

and form are available on AB Women's Ministries' Break the Chains website at

www.abwmbreakthechains.org

The latest grant awards totaling \$28,341.37 were distributed in August 2009 to six American Baptist-related ministries dedicated to ending human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Relief for El Salvador Flood Victims

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/18/09)—One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has released \$6500 in emergency relief funds to International Ministries' (IM) partners in El Salvador to meet the immediate needs of the people following the massive flooding and mudslides there on November 8. At least 130 people have died and over 13,000 have been left homeless. The country's president has declared a

state of national emergency.

International Ministries missionary Kim Kushner has taken part in the relief efforts there. She traveled to the town of San Martin where she had spent a week the previous month assessing their recovery from an earthquake that leveled the town in 2001. The town had almost completely recovered from that disaster when this disaster

Kim Kushner .. had spent a week the previous month assessing their recovery from an earthquake that leveled the town in 2001.

hit.

The Baptist World Alliance reports that the First Baptist Church of San Vicente collapsed following heavy showers and flooding.

Transformed By Love: The Spiritual Journey of Paul M. Nagano

The autobiography of Paul Nagano, former pastor of Japanese Baptist Church has been published. Dr. Nagano is easily among the most widely known and beloved Japanese clergy in the Northwest. He is conspicuous in serge after serge of the move-

ment of the Holy Spirit in the Japanese—American community.

In this book he bears witness to God's grace which makes sure we are not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

Copies of the book may be purchased from Japanese Baptist church, 206-622-7351: \$12 for paperback and \$24 for hardcover.

Proceeds go to the Council for Pacific Asian Theology (CPAT).

Official Invitation and Response Regarding a Mission Trip to Haiti

Invitation dated November 18, 2009:

Dear Dr. Marcia Patton,
May the peace of our Risen Lord be with you and your entire team. I would like to introduce myself as Reverend Dr. Emmanuel Pierre, the general secretary of the Haitian Baptiste Convention.

On behalf of our Executive Committee, our governing body, I would like to invite you and the members of your Evergreen Baptiste Association to visit us next year at your earliest convenience. Our denomination is made up of 115 churches spread throughout the country of Haiti. Our headquarter is located in the city of Cap-Haitien, the second largest city in the country.

Our goal is to show you the different ministries we are involved in around the country, to get you involved in a

concrete way in the ministry of the eye clinic.

In spite of the hardship of the country, we are very hospitable people and we want to share our joy of life with you

Since I am too busy, I would recommend that you correspond directly with our missionaries Nzunga and Kihomi who are now in the States. They will let me know whenever it is possible. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Haiti. I wish you God's blessings as you head up the Association.

Truly yours,

Dr. Emmanuel Pierre
General secretary of CBH
Response dated December 1, 2009:

Dr. Pierre:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and may the hope of peace brought by Jesus' coming into the world

be experienced by you and all of the country of Haiti especially in these days approaching Christmas.

I am most happy to accept your kind invitation to visit Haiti and your churches. We are considering the early fall of the year 2010, September most likely. We will work with Nzunga toward making more specific arrangements.

Meanwhile we are raising moneys for a generator for the eye clinic. I look forward to the hope that a strong delegation will be able to meet you and visit your churches and country next year.

Grace and peace,

Marcia

Rev. Marcia Patton,
Executive Minister
Evergreen Association of
American Baptist Churches

Reminder: Judson Press Continues Regional Rewards

Remember when you order from Judson Press to select your region, EBA or Evergreen from the pull down menu at checkout in order for Evergreen to receive 10% of your total purchase!

Many of you have remembered to check Regional Rewards over the year, and we're grateful for the checks

received from Judson.

Thanks again for your partnership.

**Mount Zion Baptist Church's
Music Ministry Is
Singing Carols for Our
Community**



**Come Join us
Sunday, December 13th
at 3pm
To share the Good News and
holiday cheer
Come help us celebrate the Reason for
the season. It's gonna be fun!**

Burma Refugee Update: Family Night for ELL

An edited excerpt from an e-letter update from Rev. Dr. Paul Aita dated 11/18/2009

During the annual Family Night at Kent Meridian High School for English Language Learners (ELL), the classroom was packed to overflowing. Presentations made by school staff members were translated into Swahili, Somali, Russian, Spanish, Karen, Burmese—and new this year, Arabic and Nepalese.

After the initial presentations, we were divided into three groups and sent to different rooms. Gail and I stayed with a group primarily comprised of people who spoke Karen and/or

Burmese, but also included those who spoke Karenni (another completely different language from Burma) and Arabic.

First the group moved to hear a presentation about expectations of students, and then to another classroom to hear about graduation requirements.

Our third session was the most interesting and even inspirational. This session was a series of talks by ELL students, introducing themselves, telling something about their personal goals and how the ELL program is helping them. The first of the five talks was given by a young

Russian lady, who also spoke Turkish. The other four were given by young Karen ladies. Though their English was not perfect, it was entirely understandable, quite fluent, and even animated. All four spoke of wanting to help others. Three specifically said that they wish to return to their native countries to help their people—two as doctors and the other as a nurse. All of the speakers expressed thanks to their ELL teachers and to everyone who came for the evening meeting. One of them added her hope that God will bless everyone present.

Baptist Joint Committee Scholarship Contest 2010



The Religious Liberty Council of

the Baptist Joint Committee announces the 5th annual [Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest](#), which is open to all high school students in the

graduating classes of 2010 and 2011. This year's contest will commemorate the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's landmark speech about the relationship between his religion and his politics and the separation of church and state.

The scholarship contest offers

a grand prize of \$1,000 and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is \$500, and third prize is \$100.

Complete information on the contest can be found online at www.BJOnline.org/contest

Seasonal Spotlight from Church Mutual: Combat Frozen Pipes with Prevention

Maintain an appropriate interior temperature...Keep all building temperatures at 50 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer...

Isolate, shut down and drain the water from pipes in buildings and

other areas not commonly used [including] outdoor water systems.

Take care of pipes in exterior walls...

Protect fire sprinkler pipes...

Take immediate action if a leak or break is discovered...

For more information on preventing frozen pipes, visit www.churchmutual.com, click on "Safety Resources", and select "Protection Series" for the "Weather Protection For Your Ministry" booklet.



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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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.

Merry Christmas

Building bridges, resourcing churches & translating our unity



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton
Executive Minister

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

18—**MLK Worship Service, Dr. Paul Martin, preaching, MLK Baptist Church, 6 PM (see front pg. article)**

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

Christian Fellowship, 9 AM

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

30—**Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM**

FEBRUARY

12—13 Leaders Retreat, Camp Burton

16—Faith Advocacy Day, Olympia WA (pg. 3)

27—**Building Bridges Educational Event, Brad Berglund—Special Guest, Seattle First Baptist Church, 9 AM**

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.