



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 9, Issue 12

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship Service

In celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Evergreen Association invites you, your family and friends to join with us in worship on **Monday, January 17, 2011 at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard, at 6:00 PM.**

Through this celebration of the life of Dr. King, - an American

Baptist preacher/pastor/civil rights activist—among other attributes, we are reminded of the faith and devotion which permeated his message of non-violence and freedom for all people. That same message is as relevant today as in the 1960's.



Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton, Guest Preacher

Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Braxton, organizing pastor of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship (NBCF) of Renton WA.

Join with us on Monday, January 17, 2011 at Seattle First Baptist Church, where the Rev. Tim Phillips is lead pastor.

Inside this issue:

<i>Events & Happenings Around the Association</i>	2
<i>Wow! November: Opps & Challenges</i>	3
<i>Ned Parker Installed as a Pastor at SFBC</i>	4
<i>Planning Evergreen Get-Together after Biennial</i>	4
<i>Would MLK, Jr. Be Proud?</i>	5
<i>Baptist Women's Day of Prayer in Haiti</i>	6
<i>Cynthia Clawson Benefit Concert Enjoyed</i>	7

Prayer Concerns:

- Anne Briscoe, wife of Barry Briscoe, who is facing the pain of a curvature of the spine.
- Marcus Walker combating Melanoma Cancer
- Churches seeking pastoral leadership: Wedgwood, New Community of Faith—San Leandro CA, Community Church of Issaquah, Ebenezer Confraternidad and Burien Community

I'm So Thankful



Ken Curl, Evergreen Chair

Why is it that we hu-

man beings often wait until the holiday season to look back and give thanks? Is it human nature? Well, since it is the season, I'll take this opportunity to

share some of my thankful Evergreen thoughts with you.

I am so thankful for Jesus Christ our Lord

(Continued on page 2)

Events & Happenings Around the Association



SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

invites you to join with them on **Monday January 24th at 7 p.m.**, as they host the service celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Seattle University. A service where the community comes together to be reminded of that essential oneness Dr. King preached and lived. The SFBC choir will sing.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER CAUCUS LEADERS

are invited to **RETREAT**, at Camp Burton on Vashon Island, February 11—12, 2011 to begin planning. Youth Leaders are invited to participate as well.



NEW WALK CHRISTIAN CHURCH wants you to **SAVE THE DATE**—March 6, 2011 to join

them for their 6th Year Anniversary Celebration. More details as the date draws nearer.



BIENNIAL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.

Register to attend the American Baptist Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 24-26, 2011. Go to www.abc-usa.org and click on the “Celebrate 2011” logo on the left of the screen.

Thankful

continued

(Continued from page 1)

and Savior.

I am so thankful that I am American Baptist.

I am so thankful that I am part of Evergreen Association.

I am so thankful for the Caucuses.

I am so thankful for Reverend Chris Boyer's Beef Brisket.

I am so thankful for the voice of Cynthia Clawson.

I am so thankful for Marcia's apple pie.

I am so thankful for Seattle Baptist Union.

I am so thankful for the New Churches that joined Ever-

green in 2010.

I am so thankful for American Baptist Missionaries.

I am so thankful for Individual Giving.

I am so thankful for the Annual Minister's Cruise.

I am so thankful for our connection with the Kaleidoscope Institute.

I am so thankful for Clem's new grandbaby.

I am so thankful for Curtis Price's call to Salt Lake.

I am so thankful to Pastor Carey and the MLK Family.

I am so thankful for all of your support.

I am so thankful to each and

“...I'll take this opportunity to share some of my thankful Evergreen thoughts with you.”

every one of you.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season. Look back and take this opportunity to give thanks, it's only human.

Ken

Your Gifts to United Mission Support Evergreen Association and all the American Baptist Family and Ministries.

Wow November: Opportunities and Challenges

What a privilege to be the Evergreen Executive Minister! This past month has been so filled with wildly different experiences! I'll try to highlight things so if you don't have the time to read everything fully you can get a sense of the breadth of the month. I started by being the presenter at **BLT (Baptists Lunching Together)** with our friends in the greater Bay Area. The connection seemed to really take hold when I spoke of the experiment that Evergreen is—our caucus structure which has its challenges. Yet the benefits of giving everyone voice is worth it, and so far the experiment is working.

Then I was off to Valley Forge for the **ABC Conversation on Immigration**. The news was discouraging in that with the change of representatives in Washington DC there isn't much hope of work being accomplished during the next two years. However, there was a call for all our churches to do something to educate our people about the depth and many aspects of the immigration conversation. The ABC web-site has resources about immigration and there are other resources and links at Church World Service. There is a New Year's Resolution Site suggesting you make a New Year's resolution to advocate for fair immigration reform. Will you plan to learn something about the issues surrounding immigration? I hope so.

I had a brief break while in the East so I visited my sister and her family and went to Washington DC to see a friend and her 2-year-old son. We went to the Native American museum, and I learned a few new things there, too! My learnings included a few things about two year olds and that one can get good food at the Native American museum. But other learnings were far more profound. I worshiped at First Baptist Church

in DC. - another blessing.

Then I was off to the **National Council of Churches Assembly (NCC)**, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the ecumenical movement. The Assembly met in New Orleans. I was reminded that Baptists really have a lot to offer the ecumenical community: both our willingness to step up to offer real help in things like refugee resettlement and post Katrina rebuilds, and our polity that affirms our beliefs and also allows for the beliefs of others to get God's work done. While I didn't get much New Orleans fare, the last night we had a banquet at the first Greek Orthodox Cathedral in the US and enjoyed a scrumptious meal. NCC is now moving to Biennial meetings and most likely this was my last opportunity to serve as a delegate. It has been a privilege.

On my stop at home I was at the Seattle Baptist Union meeting and at the **Cynthia Clawson concert**. While I regret that the concert did not raise any money for Evergreen, I know that those who were able to come to the concert were very blessed! What a voice both Cynthia and her accompanist, Bruce Greer have! What a blessing to hear them. Maybe somehow we can bring them back when everyone can have the opportunity to be blessed.

Then I went back to Valley Forge for **General Board** and General Executive Council meetings. The General Board did a bit of work on the proposed by-law revision for the ABC Governance Restructure to be presented at the Puerto Rico Biennial. Are you going? Puerto Rico is planning a great time for all American Baptists who come. I urge you to look for airfare bargains. Registration is up and running at www.abc-usa.org. On Sunday morning, **Jim Wallis**

(Executive Director of Sojourners) spoke—challenging us to keep up the work, knowing that the world has changed from what it was, so our work has to be done in new and innovative ways.

Because of weather, I managed to get home six hours after landing at Sea-Tac airport on Monday, November 22—better than my colleague Charles Revis who got close to home but was diverted to Minneapolis and took another 24 hours to get home. I went to two churches on Sunday, November 28, **Burton Community Church** and **Eben-ezer Confraternidad**. **Marcus Walker** is preaching excellent sermons these days. The church is delighted that his energy allows him to continue to worship with

“Will you plan to learn something about the issues surrounding immigration?”

them. Eben-ezer has the possibility of finally getting a Spanish speaking pastor. They may need our help to pull this off, but after over 3 long years, it would be a blessing.

As I look forward to a much less hectic December, including a vacation trip to Hawaii, I remain ever thankful for the wonder of Evergreen and those who make up this unique organization.

May your advent season be blessed, and may each of you have a Christmas filled with Hope, Love and Peace.

Marcia

Seattle First Baptist Installs Rev. Ned Parker as Pastor for Children, Families and Young Adults



Ned Allyn Parker

Seattle First Baptist Church has installed Rev. Ned Parker as its Pastor for Children, Families and Young Adults. Ned comes to Seattle First from Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS). The preacher for the day was the current President of Andover Newton, the Rev. Dr. Nick Carter.



The "laying on of hands" by the youth, pastors and Congregation; Ned Allyn Parker (kneeling center)

Seattle First Baptist Church with invited representatives from sister Evergreen churches joined together during 11 a.m. worship at Seattle First Baptist on Sunday, November 21st for worship and the installation of Ned Allyn Parker as their Pastor for Children, Families, and Young Adults.

Greetings from the Evergreen Association were brought by Clem Winbush in the absence of Executive Minister, Rev.

Dr. Marcia Patton who was attending the ABCUSA General Board meetings.



Congregation Vice President, Margaret Norton-Arnold (left) and President Jim Segaar (right), Ned Allyn Parker (center)

Ned's parents, both American Baptist pastors from the East coast, also participated in the service.

We're Planning an Evergreen Get-Together Following the Biennial



The Rev. Manny Santiago, Pastor of University Baptist

Church invites the Evergreen Family to join with him and explore the city of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Ponce is about a 2 hour drive from San Juan. We will likely visit the museums, its

historic cathedral and castles.

Manny points out that Ponce is the site of the first protestant church in Puerto Rico and the Second Baptist Church in Puerto Rico is also there.

The actual details of our visit will be worked out as we determine the number for which accommodations will need to



be made.

So when you make your reservations for the Biennial, plan to spend at least the Sunday night and Monday (June 26-27) in Ponce!

More information will follow as you notify the region office of your plans.

We'll have a great time—join us!

WOULD MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BE PROUD?

Article from the Seattle First Baptist *Spire*, December/January issue

As we head into January's celebrations of the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I wonder if Dr. King would be proud of the activities done in his name. Knowing the value of humility, I suspect this question would not have crossed his mind. It does cross mine. A colleague once reminded me that the dominant culture seems to have very selective – and convenient – memory of Dr. King's legacy. We will celebrate his day with platitudes about peace and racial harmony, but we will conveniently forget the work of political advocacy, community organizing, and the cost of non-violent resistance. Certainly Dr. King's spirit transcends any particular action. But that is different from simply ignoring the actions that embodied that spirit then – and might inform our actions now.

On **Monday, January 17 at 7 p.m.**, we will host the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches' celebration of the legacy of Dr. King. We will celebrate as one of the most *intentionally* diverse regions of our denomination. Anyone who has been part of our regional American Baptist life knows that this intentional diversity is not easy – nor should it be. Yes, sometimes we devolve into platitudes. But we also keep working at relationships that continue to shape us as individuals and a community. I also like to remind folks that Dr. King was an American Baptist and his home church, Ebenezer in Atlanta is still an American Baptist church.

A week later, **Monday, January 24 also at 7 p.m.**, we will host the service celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle and Seattle University. It is an honor to

be asked to host this event as the community comes together to be reminded of that essential oneness Dr. King preached and lived and I am proud that our choir will sing at this event.

So I wonder if, in all humility, Dr. King would be proud? Perhaps the answer to that question has to do with where

"...Anyone who has been part of our regional American Baptist life knows that this intentional diversity is not easy – nor should it be."

we show up and how we embody his spirit. It is my prayer that we would, in all humility, be proud bearers of his memory and active agents of his message in January -- and beyond.

Rev. Tim Phillips

PCBA News—Baptists Lunching Together

Three BLT Luncheons in Oakland at Grand Lake Gardens
401 Santa Clara Avenue

Lunch -12 Noon/Program-1:15

***Wednesday, December 8:**

Dr. J. Alfred Smith

"Changes in the Black Church"

**Advanced Reservation
Required**

***Wednesday, January 12:**

Dr. Joe Kutter

Director of ABC Minister's
Council, Valley Forge PA

"Ways to Help Pastors"

***Wednesday, February 23:**

Dr. LeAnn Snow

Now Dean and since 1994,
Old Testament Professor at
ABSW

"Update on Seminary News"

Lunch costs \$8.00

Please call Joan Thatcher at
501-350-7008 or email
joanthebaptist@gmail.com
to make your reservations.

Baptist Women's Day of Prayer in Haiti



Dear Friends,
Peace and Christmas blessings to all and to each and every one of you.

The year 2010 started with a tragedy and it ends with another tragedy: The devastating earthquake, followed by hurricane Tomas, and now it is cholera. Each event affects the country in its own way. The cholera disease has brought fear that has invaded our hearts and our minds.

In spite the broken hearts, Haitian women are still committed to the Lord. They say nothing will separate them from God,... and continue the activities in their churches.

In October we had a grieving ser-

vice with women in Port-au-Prince.

In November women celebrated the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer (DOP). In the Baptist church of Haut-Limbe, over 80 women, some men and children gathered for that event. Madame Dessaline, a woman board member whose husband died in the earthquake encouraged us all saying we all have problems. We Haitians are not the only ones to have problems. Problems are all over and each person needs to learn how to bear his/her cross. There is no need to blame God for our failures.

She continued saying that we are all sinners, and we need to continue our journey with Jesus, commit ourselves to God, obey His word and do His will so we can become like Jesus. As Christians, ours suffering should make us strong and faithful. This means, we have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back.

It was a big day when we prayed for one another and for our

sisters around the World. We are blessed to know that so many sisters and brothers all over the World are praying for us.

We appreciate your prayers as we are struggling to fight the cholera epidemic.

For the women in Haiti,
Rev. Kihomi Ngwemi

*Dear Supporters,
Kihomi is correct about the year Haiti has had. Now rioting over the election has started in the some cities. It seems to never end.*

However we know that God has not forgotten them and hears their cries. As we go into our holiday season and gather with friends and family let us be aware of our blessings and redouble our efforts share our resources with those with so little.

If your church is doing their budgeting for 2011 please remember Kihomi's and Nzunga's ministry.

*Dennis Shewell
MPT Convener*

Seattle Baptist Union Annual Meeting A success

A quorum of American Baptist churches "*within the geographic boundaries of Seattle WA: 128th SW in Snohomish County in the North; east to the Redmond/Carnation ridge, including Maple Valley and Issaquah; south to include the Kent School District and Federal Way; and west to*

Puget Sound, to include Vashon Island" met at Panther Lake Community Church for a time of fellowship, a review of the state of the organization and election of officers on Friday, November 12, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

Entertainment by a jazz trio from University Baptist

Church—David Spears on tenor saxophone, Rev. Diane Schmitz on piano and Martha Bean, vocalist was enjoyed.

Rick Kernan, Business Manager shared that the organization remains healthy with a net worth that since 2004 has held steadily at about 1.3 million dollars.

Cynthia Clawson Benefit Concert Enjoyed

Rev. Chris Boyer

A small crowd gathered at Seattle First Baptist Church on Saturday, November 13, to hear a concert featuring Grammy-winning singer Cynthia Clawson. But what the crowd lacked in numbers, Ms. Clawson and her colleague Bruce Greer more than made up for in artistic and spiritual fireworks.

The audience of approximately 150 departed the concert excitedly talking about how they'd been blessed during the ninety-minute-plus event. Many queued up for the opportunity to meet Cynthia and Bruce in person and tables that had CDs for sale from the two artists were swamped. "When

that welcomed homosexual persons as members. She has also lacked the backing of a major recording label since that time and has slowly regained the rights to her recordings to release on her own label, Calla Lily Productions.

"Her performance is truly a ministry," was another comment made by Evergreen members as they departed. Indeed, Ms. Clawson is a minister and a minister's daughter. Growing up the daughter of a Baptist pastor in Texas, she and her husband, poet/playwright Ragan Courtney, have recently retired as co-pastors of Tarrytown Baptist Church in Austin, which was renamed The Sanctuary Church during their tenure. Likewise, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Bruce Greer, who accompanied Cynthia in

the concert, is Minister of Music and Worship at First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. After the concert, Mr. Greer's CDs were every bit as much in demand as Ms. Clawson's.

The performance was



L-R: Tim Phillips, Cynthia Clawson, Marcia Patton, Bruce Greer

typical of Cynthia Clawson's career for the last several decades. A mix of well-known hymns, contemporary songs of faith and meaningful jazz standards, the songs were woven together by Bruce Greer's soaring tenor voice, piano and wind instruments. Ms. Clawson also took advantage of the fine acoustics at Seattle First to sing several songs *a cappella*. She also moved the audience both to laughter and tears with stories and comments between numbers.

"When will she come back?" It's too early to tell, but for those who attended the November 13th concert, it cannot be soon enough. For those who missed the concert, you can find her recordings at www.cynthiaclawson.com. There is now a small but vocal group of new Cynthia Clawson fans who will be glad to tell you just what you missed at the Evergreen benefit.



L-R: Clem Winbush, Cynthia Clawson, Chris & Connie Boyer, Bob Sittig, Marcia Patton

will she come back?" was an often-heard question.

As attested in newspaper coverage of her career, Ms. Clawson's award-winning music disappeared from most Christian radio stations after she began singing in 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 **23rd** 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, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Calendar of Upcoming Events

DECEMBER
1— Evergreen Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 12:00 Noon
2—Executive Committee Meeting, Bush Garden, 5:30
24 Christmas Eve—Office Closed
31 New Year’s Eve—Office Closed
JANUARY 2011
14—Executive Committee Meeting, 5:30 PM
17—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship, Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111

Harvard, Seattle, 6 PM
22—Association Board Meeting, 9 AM
FEBRUARY
11-12—Leaders’ Retreat, Camp Burton
MARCH
17—Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia
JUNE
24-26—American Baptist Biennial, San Juan Puerto Rico
OCTOBER
14-15 - Evergreen Annual Meeting 2011

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.