



# Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 11, Issue 12

## Celebrating the Birth of Christ with you and your family this Season!

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship Service

The “beloved community” (that’s you, family and friends) is invited to join together for the Annual Martin



Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews

son Street, Seattle WA 98118, 6:00 PM on Monday, January 21, 2013.

Luther King, Jr. Day Community Worship Service to be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2801 S Jack-

Our preacher will be the Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews, Director of Clergy Organiz-

ing for the PICO National Network of California and former pastor of Evergreen member church, Grace Baptist Church - San Jose CA.

Come, bring a family member, friend or neighbor and let us worship together!

#### Inside this issue:

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#### Prayer Concerns

*Churches Seeking Pastoral leadership: Japanese Baptist Church, Filipino-American Christian Fellowship, Urban Grace-Tacoma*

*Preparation of hearts, desire and funding for the 2013 Haiti Mission Trip*

*Praise & Thanksgiving for the safe return of representatives who carried the message of peace to Hiroshima*

*That we continue turning to the Lord for the healing of our land*

### Open Letter of Gratitude for Your Faithful Support

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is past, yet I’m still in a spirit of gratitude.

I am grateful to God for so many things. Uppermost in my mind is the excitement from our Annual Meeting in October. Forgive me if I am

repeating myself, but I’m so thankful for the wonderful hospitality by Mount Zion Baptist Church, the hospitality of Seattle First Baptist Church, and to those who attended the Sacred Conversation (I’m grateful for the formal time of shar-

ing). I’m also grateful for all the many informal times of equally Spirit-led conversation that happened at our breaks and meal times. I am grateful for wonderful, inspiring preaching by Rev. Jacqueline Thompson. And I am

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Letter of Gratitude

*(Continued from page 1)*

grateful for and celebrating the addition of two churches to Evergreen: The Washington Chin Baptist Church, made up of recent refugees from Burma who have come to the Seattle area, and Eglecia Nueva Vida en La Aguadita, Venezuela. Nueva Vida (New Life) is the first Evergreen church to be located outside the U.S. and their joining with us also allows us to “formally” seat the Hispanic Caucus. To many of us, Nueva Vida represents a new phase of our Evergreen experiment. We are sure to learn a great deal from our fellowship with these Venezuelan Baptists. Thanks be to God!

As I think of this new member church, beyond our borders, I also give thanks for the work of long-time Evergreen churches and supporters which extends into other parts of the world. Thank God for folks like Yosh Nakagawa, Brooks and Corean Andrews, and Herb Tsuchiya, who traveled to Hiroshima, Japan, earlier this month to attend the dedication of the Floyd Schmoe Museum and carry our blessings and commitment to the work of peace. Wounds of the past are bound up for continued healing in acts like these and I am so glad that God has allowed us to be a part of this healing work.

I thank God, too, as I consider how Evergreen churches are involved in preparing us for being faithful to God’s calling into the future. Filipino-American Christian Fellowship and Japanese Baptist Church joined together with Chinese Baptist Church to sponsor the annual ABC Asian Caucus

Scholarship Fundraiser, helping our next generation of leaders. And Confraternidad Cristiana Eben-ezer brought together lay and clergy leaders from three local Hispanic congregations to learn from local and national authorities about leadership. Thank you, God, for leading us into the future!

I give thanks to God that our churches continue to work to bring shelter for the homeless, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and give hope to those in need. New Beginnings Christian Fellowship is working together with a coalition of Kent-area churches, Seattle Union Gospel Mission, Valley Cities Counseling and other local social service groups to form KentHOPE. With a goal of creating a homeless day center and overnight shelter in Kent, KentHOPE recently held a successful fundraiser at New Beginnings. And at the opposite end of the Seattle region, Shepherd’s Garden, the affordable housing apartments for seniors created by Good Shepherd Baptist Church, recently received national recognition as a Community of Quality. I give thanks to God for everything happening in all of our churches as we seek to do God’s work in the world.

Sometimes, it is not our Evergreen people but Evergreen’s money that is being put to work by God. Each year, in the budget approved at the Annual Meeting, we put aside money to go to ministries outside Evergreen where we believe work that is consonant with our own goals is being done in Jesus’ name. This year we’ve had reports of the difference made by our gifts to The Church Council of Greater Seattle, Faith advocacy Network (FAN) and to the Interfaith House at Washington State University. I thank God for these partners in ministry.

*continued*

But most of all, today, I am grateful to God for Evergreen’s partners in ministry who are closest to my heart: YOU, the donors. Throughout our national recession, you have been faithful in support to us. You have allowed us to grow our ministries and to expand our horizons. Without each of you, the many blessings I’ve listed above and so many others would never have been able to come to pass. I thank God today for YOU.

In fact, due to your faithfulness and God’s blessings of some unexpected bequests and donations, we look solidly positioned to finish this year in the black, financially! We are now praying for our usual end of the year “bump” in donations which will allow us to restore some of the money we have been draining from our savings. This will be yet another reason to be grateful to God as it will give us the cushion to handle an unexpected crisis or even to extend our ministries in new ways we’ve not yet imagined.

So, if you generally send a donation to Evergreen at this time of year, please go ahead and do so! Evergreen is on the brink of an exciting new time in our shared mission of building bridges, equipping the saints to share Christ’s love, and translating our ever-growing unity to the world. Thanks be to God!

With Thanksgiving and Thank you,




Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton,  
Executive Minister


Rev. M. Christopher Boyer,  
Minister of Development


## Events & Happenings Around the Association

 **Seattle First Baptist Church** invites you: Come share God's song of love at Christmas with a free concert featuring the 50-voice Sanctuary Choir, Children and Youth Choir, organ, harp, strings and other instruments on Saturday, December 15th, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 16th at 1:00 p.m.

 **Mountlake Terrace First Baptist Church** has launched a new pre-


kindergarten program for children ages 3,4, and 5. See page 10 of this newsletter for more details.

 **Evergreen Association welcomes Cynthia Hunter** to the staff with responsibility for the bookkeeping. We look excitedly to working with Cynthia who comes to us with a banking/real estate background.

 **Joyful! Noise** invites you to a Christmas Concert, Saturday, December 21st,

8:00 PM at Seattle First Baptist Church or Sunday, December 23rd, 3 PM at Northshore Senior Center, 10201 E Riverside Dr., Bothell.

Ticket info at <http://www.joyfulnoiseseattle.org>

 **Mountlake Terrace First Baptist** celebrates 60 years of ministry, December 8, 2012, 2 PM. RSVP at 425-778-2046 or [first-bap@firstbaptist-mtlkterr.org](mailto:first-bap@firstbaptist-mtlkterr.org) No cost; free-will offering.

## Perla's Pearls: Thanksgiving



*Rev. Perla Belo  
Association Chair*

We celebrated Thanksgiving Day with family and friends. However, I was born, grew up and went to school and university in Manila, Philippines where Thanksgiving Day was not a national holiday. As a Filipino, I did not eat turkey with stuffing and gravy, pumpkin and apple pies, cranberry sauce, biscuits, etc. growing up.

My first Thanksgiving Day celebration was in Pasadena, California among Filipino friends when I came to the United States to attend

seminary and train for ministry.

Thanksgiving Day is uniquely an American holiday. This holiday reflects the early forefathers' view regarding God almighty. The first thanksgiving observance designated by the new national government was issued by George Washington in 1789 with these words "general thanksgiving is to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of almighty God".

Thanksgiving is the act of giving thanks; a prayer expressing gratitude, a public

acknowledgement or celebration of divine goodness, according to the dictionary. As a Christian, the term "divine" refers to God. I do not know of any other divine being except God almighty. It is fitting that thanksgiving is offered to God alone who is our creator, provider, and sustainer.

The Lord Jesus in His priestly prayer said, "that they may know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent". To believe these words is truly a thanksgiving to God!

*Perla*

**FEBRUARY 22, 2003—Evergreen Association Adopted its Bylaws.**

## Anita Pittman Memory Book

Dear Friends,

We had a fairly quiet but wonderful time on Thanksgiving Day at Olympia First Baptist Church. It was so good to share cooking in a big kitchen with friends and great to share a meal together. We even read bits and pieces of some of the stories we've collected. What fun! We really do miss Anita's humor and hospitality.

Once again two favors:

1) We are continuing to gather stories and pictures (especially pictures—Anita was

down right camera shy—or something else) for Anita's memory book. If you can forward them to Kathleen Rambo ([dkrambo3@gmail.com](mailto:dkrambo3@gmail.com) 714 Dundee Rd NW, Olympia, WA 98502) before December 15, we would really appreciate it. We've received some wonderful stories already, but can always use more. And we need pictures!

2) Please pass the word along to others you know who knew Anita. We talked a bit about people who might share, some knew how to reach these folks, but

don't assume I do. I probably don't.

It has been a real joy to read others' remembrances and I'd like to include as many as possible...ask folks and include yours.

If you send Kathleen pictures, she can scan them and get them back to you...we need pictures!!

Thanks for your help. Have a most blessed Advent.

Grace and Peace,  
Marcia

## Showers for the Homeless at Grace Baptist Church—San Jose

Article excerpted from *Bay Area News*:

Imagine hunting for a private moment at a public faucet instead of relishing the simple, unhurried purity of washing off your day in a steamy, pulsating jet of 108-degree water. The Greeks and Romans understood this joy, as well as the hygienic benefits of regular showering.

Lisa Blevins understands it, too. That's why the director of the city's Grace Community Center got an idea when she happened upon three shower heads sticking out of the wall in what has become a grimy storage area next-door at Grace Baptist Church, which works with the city to provide a host of services for San Jose's mentally ill.

With the generosity of Wish Book readers, Blevins and the Rev. Daryl Lavway, [pastor of Grace Baptist Church,] have set out to transform that long-forgotten locker room into a shower and laundry area for some of the city's long-forgotten residents. [Readers are invited to] help to raise the \$10,000 needed to fix up the showers, as well as supply shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, towels and laundry supplies.

Pictured above are Dr. Lisa Blevins and Pastor Daryl Lavway in the shower room at Grace Baptist Church in San Jose. Grace Baptist Church has four showers that can be used by the Commu-



Photo by Patrick Tehan/Staff

nity Center clients, but they need to build another shower for the live-in custodian to use.

Read the entire article at [http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci\\_22083700](http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_22083700)

**[Update:** Just prior to press time we learned that an anonymous donor was touched by the article and called Pastor Lavway to donate \$10,000 toward the project!!!! What a blessing! ]

## ABHMS Calls for Letters of Intent for 2012 Palmer Grants

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is calling for letters of intent from those interested in applying for American Baptist Foundation-administered 2012 grants from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

With the theme of "Discipleship: Engaging the 18 to 29 Year Old Community," this year's grant cycle seeks to fund special projects of American Baptist

Churches USA-related colleges, universities and institutions. Individuals 18-29 are in the "black hole" of church attendance, according to the Barna Group, while, at the same time, struggling with critical life decisions regarding higher education, military service, marriage, procreation, parenting and faith. As the foundation for this and future generations, this age group must not be ignored.

*The deadline for letters of intent is Dec. 14, 2012.*

Please do not submit a full grant application at this time. Those who submit a letter will be notified by January 13, 2013, as to whether to complete an application packet.

For additional information, download the "**Request for Letters of Intent**" booklet or call the foundation office at 1-800-222-3872,



## 2013 Mission Summit/Biennial Promotional Video

The Mission Summit/Biennial promotional video is now ready for distribution. Churches and individuals are encouraged to use the video in churches and in whatever other venues are appropriate to promote the Mission Summit.

[http://youtu.be/ZQ3SPK\\_f5nw](http://youtu.be/ZQ3SPK_f5nw)

There are "new" church registration rates (meaning if more than one person attends from a church, registration rates can be far less)—check this out on the website below:

[www.americanbaptists2013.org](http://www.americanbaptists2013.org)

Evergreen is happy to report that Sam Braxton and Pharez

Keys, our 2011 Biennial Youth Reps made the cut and appear in the promotional video!

We are anticipating an extraordinary celebration in Overland Park June 21-23, 2013. Plan to attend.



## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Evergreen will host an appreciation luncheon as a thank you to the volunteers who throughout the year have given of their time, talents, and energy to do the work which supports the many ministries of the Association. Without them, much that we easily take for granted would not be possible.

So, with grateful hearts we say thank you to:

Barbara Sloan  
Betty Bates  
Bill & Virginia Thompson  
Bruce Sagor  
Carol Sutton  
Charlotte Scherer, Coordinator  
Cherie Vivolo  
Cora Lea Doty  
Gay & Phyllis Hasselblad

Karyn Akishin  
Lynn Pulliam  
Lynora Reeves  
Marilyn Pulliam  
Roxanne Fowler  
Ruth Hunter  
Stephanie Commandest  
Terri Simpkins

We are indeed indebted to each of you!

## General Secretary Roy Medley Gives an Update on His Ministries

From an email dated November 27, 2012:

It has been awhile since I last wrote. My apologies since so many of you have expressed appreciation for these emails.

So let me begin with now and work backward and forward from here. These past two Sundays I have been visiting churches in NJ and Metro New York affected by Sandy. Next Sunday I will do the same in CT. I am deeply grateful for the pastoral care our executive ministers and staffs in these regions have been giving to our churches and their communities. Vicki Goff of ABHMS has been helping coordinate volunteer teams coming to the area, and OGHs funds are being distributed. It is hard to imagine the scale of damage on the Jersey shore and in places like Staten island and the Rockaways. The damage by the full moon high tide coupled with the surge has meant the loss of entire sections of communities. In NJ some towns were almost wiped off the face of the earth. I am especially taken by the steadfast care being offered by our pastors and congregations. In Belmar, NJ Calvary Baptist is the only undamaged Protestant meeting house in the town. They have invited First Baptist and First Presbyterian to

share their facilities until they can return to their buildings. Other ABC churches have offered shelter, served as food stations and sent volunteers.

This week I will be meeting in a two- day retreat [*Editor's note: Marcia Patton is one of these officers*], with the REMC officers followed by the second national Baptist-Muslim dialogue on the theme, "Loving God and Pathways to Peace". We have also seeded regional dialogues with the Sam Proctor School of Theology, Central Baptist Seminary and American Baptist Seminary of the West.

As I write, I am on the train returning from DC where I was part of an interfaith group meeting with government staff on the issue of torture. As far back as 1979 the General Board spoke against torture in its statement on Human Rights.

On December 9, I will co-lead with Stan Noffsinger, General Secretary of Church of the Brethren, a 14 member group from our two boards to visit Israelis and Palestinians. We pray that this trip will not only communicate to those we visit our sincere desire for peace and successful negotiations for a two state solution, but also teach us

more about the complexities of the situation. I highly recommend the book, "Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict" edited by Daniel C. Kurtzer. It points out what many of us know: the window of opportunity for a lasting peace is closing and the US has a significant diplomatic role to play to bring the parties together to hammer out an agreement that will be just and sustainable. The role of the US religious community is huge in this!

While at this meeting I met the white house staffer who handles the administration's concern for human trafficking. I was able to spend about 15 minutes with him talking about our work in this arena especially through Lauran Bethell which led to his asking how could he get in touch with her.

Earlier this month we had an excellent BGM meeting. ...Highlights for me included: working on further defining a working relationship with the American Bible Society; holding conversations with the Gen Secretaries of the Chin Baptist Churches in America and the Karen Baptist Churches in America about



(Continued on page 7)

# Roy Medley Update

(Continued from page 6)

the relationship between them and ABCUSA. BGM also has a portion of its members that review progress with Transformed. By the Spirit. There is great support by BGM for this effort and its future as an instrument of congregational renewal.

The National Nominating Committee has nominated Don Ng for president, Judy Fackenthal for vice-president and Paul Higgins for budget review officer.

For the first time in my ministry, I visited Rainbow Acres,...and served as the keynote speaker for their Family and Friends Day. It is so heartwarming to see the wonderful care rainbow acres affords its ranchers.

Prior to that, I was in Sioux falls and Burke South Dakota where I had a wonderful time speaking and meeting with the folks of the Burke and Lucas churches (a yoked parish) in ranch country. I was struck by the wonderful age

range in each and their involvement in their communities. Their pastor is doing great work in this rural community.

We continue to make progress with re-creating the NCC. We have agreed to 4 major tables around which the member communions will work: theological, interfaith, peace and justice, and leadership/Christian formation. Just this week we finalized the agreement with Bible Gateway to offer electronic versions of the RSV and NRSV which the NCC owns.

Three weeks ago, we were asked by the WCC to co-sponsor a consultation on statelessness that will bring in people from around the world to address the growing numbers of people forced from their homes and native lands by war, famine, poverty, and climate change. This invitation followed up conversations Rothang and I had with WCC staff at the

*continued*

Sept meeting of the Central Committee.

Earlier in October I was asked to help set up and attend a meeting between BWA and ISNA staff about the violence between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria. Dan Buttry will be leaving this week's Baptist-Muslim dialogue to go to Nigeria in first efforts to

help establish some breakthroughs here for peace. ISNA has helped identify Muslim

leaders in Nigeria who will be supportive of this effort.

I continue to work with the MMBB search committee as we choose its next director. Sumner will be missed.

That's enough for now. I hope each of you had a great Thanksgiving.

Blessings as we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Roy

*"For the first time in my ministry, I visited Rainbow Acres,...and served as the keynote speaker for their Family and Friends Day..."*

**Merry Christmas**  
From your Association Staff

Clem

Chris Boyer

Cynthia Hunter

Guadalupe Vasquez

Marcia

# IM Sends Additional Tuition Assistance to College Students in Haiti

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/5/12)—Financial aftershocks from the massive January 2010 earthquake in Haiti are still being felt by students whose education was interrupted when their colleges in the Port au Prince area were destroyed or severely damaged in the aftermath of the quake. American Baptist Churches and individuals continue to provide much needed assistance to these students as they study to become Haiti's future leaders.

...This tuition assistance was made possible by Haiti relief funds raised by churches and individuals through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and approved by American Baptist International Ministries (IM).

In October 2012, IM approved tuition grants totaling \$122,880 to provide tuition assistance for 49 college students over the next two academic years. The stu-

dents, now mostly college juniors and seniors, are the future leaders of Haiti. The completion of their studies in theology, business administration, agriculture and agronomy is critical for Haiti's long-term recovery and sustainability.

American Baptist Churches (ABC) has been a partner with Haitian Christians for 89 years. The Université Chrétienne du Nord d'Haiti (UCNH) was founded in 1947 as the Haitian Baptist Theological Seminary by ABC missionaries, Harold and Ivah Heneise. In 1993, the seminary became an interdenominational Christian university, integrating the seminary into a new school of theology and offering an affordable baccalaureate education with four majors.

As of October 2012, churches and individuals have given \$2.9 million for Haiti Relief through

IM and One Great Hour of Sharing. \$1.6 million has been provided for relief and rebuilding. An additional \$1.3 million has been committed for multi-year projects related to Haiti rebuilding. Christian brothers and sisters in Haiti are grateful for the prayers and financial support given through the American Baptist Churches.

For more information, contact Catherine Nold:  
[catherine.nold@abc-usa.org](mailto:catherine.nold@abc-usa.org)

Read the article in its entirety at:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/Resources/AmericanBaptistNewsService/tabid/79/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/507/IM-Sends-Additional-Tuition-Assistance-to-College-Students-in-Haiti.aspx>

## Schedule Retreats or Events at Camp Burton

Camp Burton on Vashon Island, WA invites churches and other non-profit organizations to consider making the camp your retreat or event destination.

The camp is able to provide your group with accommodations for 10 to 180 people.

The Orchard House sleeps 13 with private meeting space and kitchen. The Retreat Center sleeps 36 with private meeting spaces. The Main Camp sleeps 130 with private meeting spaces.

Interested? Contact Kathleen at 206-463-2512 or [campburton1@centurytel.net](mailto:campburton1@centurytel.net)

### 2013 Summer Camp Dates

July 7-11 Junior - Grades 3-5

July 14-19 Jr. Hi—Grades 6-9

New Horizons (Sp needs)  
ages 16-24

Jul 28-Aug 1 Sr. Hi—Gr 9-12

August 4-10 Family Camp—  
all ages



# Learning to Baptize

Missionaries Nzunga & Kihomi



Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings. This Monday November

19 was a memorable day in the life of our theological senior students. During their four years of studies at this university, they have learned many things and many theories. Today they started to test some of what they learned. It was a baptism practice. They have been baptized and have

seen people being baptized but they have not had the feeling of baptizing themselves. They have no idea of how a person being baptized weighs in water or how that person resists getting in cold water.



It was fun but it was also an important learning experience.



Now they have a clear idea of what they observe other pastors do. Two by two, they were baptizing each

other under my supervision. For many of them, this is a life time opportunity to learn the real baptism.



Please let us be praying that this exercise will become a reality in the life of these young seniors as they prepare themselves for the ministry of tomorrow Haiti.

Yours in Haiti  
Nzunga & Kihomi

## Trinity Lutheran College Seeks Nominations for \$56,000 Youth Ministry Scholarships

Do you know someone who would make an exceptional leader in youth or children's ministry, community social services, camping leadership, or pastoral ministry? Trinity Lutheran College's Children, Youth & Family Studies program is recruiting top-notch students through recommen-

dations from church leaders and pastors. Referrals to the program serve as nominations for several scholarships – worth up to \$56,000!

Students are also eligible to participate in Trinity's free January Term international

travel program.

For more information (or to submit a referral), visit [www.tlc.edu/next](http://www.tlc.edu/next) or contact Professor Mark Jackson at [425.249.4721](tel:425.249.4721).

## American Baptist Seminary of the West Says Thank You

We are in receipt of a letter from Dr. Paul M. Martin, president of ABSW which reads, in part:

"...I acknowledge that we are in receipt of your very generous gift of \$546.55 which serves to en-



hance the ministries that we provide to the students who have invested their preparation for ministry in our seminary.

I personally thank you for your prayers of encourage-

ment for the work that we are doing as we engage our students in theological education. We are moving ahead by the power of God's Holy Spirit...

...thank you for this generous gift in support of our school..."



## RMMO 2012 Materials Available Online

Since 1935, American Baptists have contributed to special offerings received in their churches for retired ABC ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this tradition of thanks.

The offering supports those who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year. We hope you are inspired to make RMMO and its culture of gratitude a tradition in your congregation. Please feel free to download or print from the PDFs pro-



vided or contact Judson Press at 800-458-3766 for hard copies of the materials.

Thank you for...your support.

## Inter-Faith Advocacy Day—February 20, 2013 (Save the Date) And Lift Every Voice!

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches partners with Faith Advocacy Network (FAN) a combination of the Washington Association of Churches and the Lutheran Public Policy Office, to sponsor and participate in an interfaith gathering where members learn about advocacy and current legislation,

and have an opportunity to advocate in Olympia—Washington State's capitol.

All faith communities are encouraged to participate.

In 2012, all three Abrahamic traditions were present and participatory — Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. And of the Christians, 11 denomi-

nations were represented, including American Baptist, Christian Reformed, Community Christian, Disciples of Christ, ELCA Lutheran, Episcopalian, Free Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and Roman Catholic.

For more information email [fan@fanwa.org](mailto:fan@fanwa.org) or call 206-625-9790.

Stepping Stones Pre-K  
where children  
Play,  
Learn  
and  
Grow...  
Together!  
425-778-3642  
Sister Program of  
"Wings To Reading"  
Foundation for Success  
Sponsored by The First Baptist Church of Mountlake Terrace, WA  
Now Enrolling Ages 3, 4, & 5!

# New Mission Summit/Biennial 2013 Registration Changes Announced



The Mission Summit/Biennial Planning Team, with approval from the Board of General Ministries Executive Committee, has announced a *new registration policy* now available to make it easier for individuals to attend Mission Summit 2013 in Overland Park/ Kansas City, KS, June 21-23, 2013.

Churches are invited to register for the 2013 event. Once a church has registered, an unlimited number of members from that church may register to attend the Mission Summit/Biennial at a reduced

rate of \$35 per person. This new registration policy will also include eligible delegates, not affecting the number of delegates each church is eligible to send.

Church registration for the Mission Summit/Biennial will be based on average worship attendance for each church, as follows:

1. Churches with average worship attendance of less than 100 will pay a registration fee of \$200
2. Churches with average worship attendance of 101-200 will pay a registration fee of \$350

3. Churches with average worship attendance of 201-500 will pay a registration fee of \$500
4. Churches of more than 500 will pay a registration fee of \$650.

**Please note:** Individuals must wait until AFTER their church has registered to be able to sign-up and pay a reduced individual registration rate of \$35. Individuals from non-registering churches are still eligible to register at the full registration fee of \$150 for the entire event or \$50 for a single day. The \$150 fee is similar to the fee for individuals at past Biennials. If you are a supporter of ABC, but don't have an ABC church in your area, contact Beth Fogg at [Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org](mailto:Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org) to see if you qualify for discounted registration.

## High School Juniors and Seniors Can Win Up to \$2,000 for College

Entries are now being accepted for the 2013 Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest, which offers more prize money than ever before!

The grand prize for the 2013 contest is \$2,000 and a trip for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is \$1,000, and third prize is \$250.

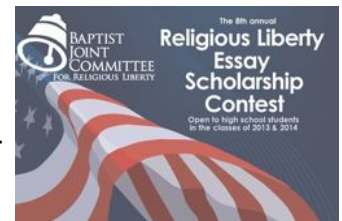
All high school juniors and seniors in the graduating classes of 2013 and 2014 are eligible. There are no other requirements involving GPA, faith, activities, etc.

To enter, students have to write an essay of 800-1,200 words on the following topic: The United States of America was religiously diverse at its

founding. Its population included numerous Protestant groups, small Catholic and Jewish populations, those who practiced traditional Native American religions as well as those who practiced African religions. The United States has become even more religiously diverse, yet Christianity has remained the majority faith tradition since the country's beginnings. Today, some Americans assert that the country was founded as a "Christian nation" while others contend that state-ment is a myth. **Using the Constitution and writings of the Founders, research and evaluate the claim that the United States was founded as a "Christian nation." Include a discussion of the cur-**

**rent implications for religious freedom for**

**all people in a democratic country in which the majority rules in elections and ballot initiatives.**



Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2013.

[Click here](#) to download the rules and entry forms (pdf document).

For complete information, prize details, and entry forms, visit [www.BJOnline.org/contest](http://www.BJOnline.org/contest)

## Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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at [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org)

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly.

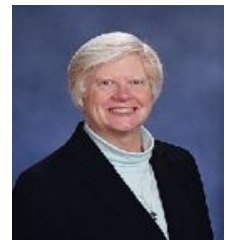
Please submit articles by the **24th** of the month prior to expected publication.

You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles.

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
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US  
PAID  
Kent WA  
Permit No. 451



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton  
Executive Minister

## Calendar of Upcoming Events


**SAVE THESE 2013 DATES:**  
**January 21, 2013—MLK Day Worship Service, Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews, preaching, Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 2801 S Jackson Street, Seattle 98118, 6:00 PM**

**February 10, 2013—Leaders' Retreat (Day to be determined)**

**February 20, 2013—InterFaith Advocacy Day, United Churches of Olym-**

**pia, 110 11th Ave. SE, Olympia WA 98501**

**March 31, 2013—Easter Community Sunrise Service,**

 **June 21-23, 2013 – Mission Summit, AB-CUSA Biennial, Overland Park, Kansas (Rev. Dr. Braxton is on the Program Planning Committee.)**

**October 10 –12, 2013 Evergreen Annual Meeting**

## 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.