



# EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 7, Issue 2

## Thank-You to Evergreen Churches 2007 TOTAL UNITED MISSION GIVING

The largest income line item in Evergreen's Budget is United Mission Percentage. Every dollar given to American Baptist United Mission is divided and Evergreen's return in 2007 was approximately 61.5% (our return in 2008 will be 62.5%). We decided at our annual meeting in 2006 that we would work to increase our United Mission dollars by

10%. As you can see by the total at the bottom, we failed to do that, in fact we went in the "other direction."

But 2008 is a new year, and we can make that increase this year! A huge thank you to the following churches that faithfully gave to United Mission in 2007. Your support of Evergreen Mission makes ministry happen not only for your

individual congregations but your sister congregations and indeed missions far and wide:

- 1 Seattle, First Baptist Church  
Euro \$52,698\*
- 2 New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Black \$24,000
- 3 Seattle, Japanese Baptist Church Asian \$13,766
- 4 Issaquah, Community Church Euro \$11,299

(Continued on page 8)

Yosh Nakagawa continues weekly chemo and daily radiation treatments. Pray. Pray!

### Inside this issue:

<i>Events &amp; Happenings</i>	2
<i>Paid Registrations for MTW</i>	2
<i>America For Christ Offering</i>	3
<i>Ministers Retreat</i>	4
<i>Blitz Build in Baton Rouge</i>	5
<i>Total AB Missions Support by Churches</i>	6
<i>AB Women's News</i>	7

### Pray for our churches seeking pastoral leadership

- Grace Baptist Church—San Jose
- Mount Zion Baptist Church
- Panther Lake Community Church
- Pullman Baptist Church
- Seattle First Baptist Church

## Curtis Comments On Love & Justice

... And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. — 1 Corinthians 13:13

Legend has it that St Valentine was a priest who lived during the reign of Claudius II in Rome. Apparently the Emperor decided that

single soldiers made better soldiers, so he banned marriage for young men. Father Valentine defied the Emperor and married young couples. The legend also says that Valentine, after being jailed for his good deeds, was visited by the jailor's daughter



Curtis Price,  
Evergreen Chair

with whom he fell in love. With his execution day eminent, he wrote a letter pro-

(Continued on page 3)

## Events & Happenings



### The Freedom of Limits: Accepting Life on Life's Terms—A

**Lenten Retreat for Men and Women**, Rainbow Lodge Retreat Center, February 29—March 2, 2008. For registration information go to [www.SeattleFirstBaptist.org](http://www.SeattleFirstBaptist.org) or call 206-325-6051.



### 2008 NATIONAL CLERGY RENEWAL PROGRAM

Applications, now being accepted, must be postmarked by May 14, 2008. For information: Visit website: [lillyendowment.org](http://lillyendowment.org), click on Religion, then on National Clergy Renewal Program, Request for proposals; or email: [clergyrenewal@yahoo.com](mailto:clergyrenewal@yahoo.com); or call 317-916-7302.



**Leland Ross** from Fre-

mont Baptist has begun work on a PDF-based hymnal supplement working-titled "*Evergreen Sings*", intended to bridge the gaps between the different hymnals and musical traditions of the churches and to provide a diverse repertoire for use when we worship together (or to enrich our local worship). He needs the input of pastors, musicians and worship leaders (and anyone interested in our congregational songs) from throughout the Region to make *Evergreen Sings* the best and most useful resource it can be. Please visit [Evergreen Sings: the Blog](http://evergreensings.blogspot.com/) <http://evergreensings.blogspot.com/> or contact Leland at [rosharuo@gmail.com](mailto:rosharuo@gmail.com).



**Memorial Service re-**

**membering the Rev. Dr. Leon C. Jones**, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church, 13611 SE 116th Street, Renton WA 98056, on Saturday, February 23, 2008, 3:00 PM. Sister Ruby Jones, widow and Sister Cathy Carver, daughter, both of Baltimore, will be in attendance.



### Community Easter Sunrise Service

Chapel of St. Ignatius, Seattle University, Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008, 7:30 AM. Evergreen Churches leading in the service: Japanese Baptist, Mount Zion and Seattle First Baptist. And Seattle University will also lead in worship. Contact Rev. Peter Koshi, Past Chair of Evergreen Association at 206-417-3084.

## Paid Registrations Available for More Than A Week—AB Youth Gathering



Evergreen Association has targeted 2008 to be the first year we send youth from our churches to the National Gathering of American Baptist Youth at Estes Park Colorado, July 5—11, 2008.

During this “mountain-top” experience, our youth will...

- Connect with other young

American Baptists through worship, Christian education, and recreation

- Strengthen their faith through empowering speakers and workshops
- Explore ways to live their faith and make a positive difference in the world.

Please identify interested youth in your congregation

who will be able to “Raise Da Roof” during five days of praise and worship that feature a house band at Bible study and worship services, and American Baptist musicians such as The Katinas, Da’ T.R.U.T.H. and Stellar Kart.

A limited number of registrations will be paid by Evergreen. Call 253-859-2226 or email [clemeba@comcast.net](mailto:clemeba@comcast.net)

## America For Christ Offering Time



The America for Christ offering through National Min-

The United States is the third largest mission field on our planet. We have millions of people right here, on the doorsteps of our churches, our homes, our schools, who have deep hunger—and not just for food or education or a warm bed, but also for comfort, hope, and the assurance that someone, somewhere cares.

istries and regions including Evergreen, serves to bring Christ-centered transformation to individuals, churches and communities across our country and Puerto Rico.

National Ministries has sponsored hundreds of volunteers who traveled to the

Gulf Coast to help rebuild homes and lives following Hurricane Katrina.

- Your contributions have helped to resettle more than 96,000 refugees since World War II.
- American Baptist chaplains, endorsed through National Ministries, serve on the battlefield in Iraq as well as in hospitals and prisons.
- The American Baptist

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Curtis Comments On Love and Justice

*continued*

*(Continued from page 1)*

claiming his love for the jailor's daughter which he signed, "love, your Valentine".

What I love about this legend is that it reminds us that love at its best stands up to injustice. In the case of Valentine, love inspired him to defy the Emperor's injustice. Our faithful Christian witness cannot be limited to personal moral piety; there is an obligation to a social morality as well. This is the same movement of the love that inspired Paul to reach-out to and advocate for inclusiveness in the Christian faith when faced with a group that wanted to keep Christianity exclusive to Jews. It is the same love that inspired people like Father

Batolome' De Las Casas to stand up for the Native Americans when the Conquistadors tried to enslave them. Las Casas wrote letter after letter demanding that the church and the government treat Natives as equals. It is the same love that opened up Walter Rauschenbusch's eyes to the injustice of poverty and made him ask, "Is not the gospel more than just going to heaven?" This love inspired the social gospel movement and broadened a lot of the ways in which people think of the mission of the church. It was this same love that brought Martin Luther King Jr. from behind the pulpit and into the streets of Birmingham. Faith-inspired love goes far beyond a romantic affection; it is a love that

*"...love at its best stands up to injustice"*

is deeply moving; that always reaches out to the other; and always stand up against injustice. As we reflect on the holiday named for this saint, let us remember that what made him a saint was a love that demanded justice; and that we, as the church and as a region, are called to a love such as this.

Grace and Peace,

Curtis Price

## Ministers Invited to Retreat at Camp Bethel March 31–April 1

The Evergreen Ministers Council announces a gathering of clergy colleagues for rest and renewal at the Retreat Center of Camp Bethel on the lovely Olympic Peninsula. This retreat is free and is supported by your local and national Ministers Council resources.

Beginning with lunch on Monday, March 31, and ending at lunch on Tuesday,

April 1, the retreat will include time for individual rest and collective reflection led by the Rev. Margaret J. Marcuson, leader of leaders, ordained minister, and teacher and student of human systems who has studied with Edwin Friedman, author of "Generation to Generation," a seminal work on congregational life. Margaret is on the faculty of the Leadership in Ministry workshops and was,

for 13 years, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Gardner, Massachusetts. Her new book "Leaders Who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry," will be published by Church Publishing in 2009.

The program at this retreat is titled, "May I Help You: What Really Helps People Grow," offering ways to deal with stress in ministry (and other)

*(Continued on page 8)*

## America For Christ Offering

*(Continued from page 3)*

Children in Poverty initiative is working to transform the lives of children with limited resources.

And National Ministries' evangelism training is making a difference in sharing God's Good News by transforming regional and church

leaders' understanding of evangelism—which in turn is transforming the leadership of those American Baptists they train in their regions and associations.

The America for Christ Offering funds all this important, Christ-centered work and more.

The America For Christ (AFC) offering usually collected during the month of March in our churches is one of four American Baptist offerings taken during the year. Thank you for your contributions.

## WANTED: YOU!!!

Who has more fun than a group of people getting together and doing something that is important and just a good ole time together. This type of thing goes on at least once a month at the Evergreen Regional Office in Kent as we gather to prepare the monthly newsletter for mailing. It only takes about 1½ to

3 hours.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month and some times the last Wednesday of the month. The schedule currently works out to be about 3 - 4 times per year for each volunteer. And then at Christmas we have a wonderful luncheon/party together.

We could really use some extra hands.

If you are interested in being a part of this volunteer endeavor (the Lord's work), please call Betty Bates at 206-363-3683 or Clem Winbush at the Region Office, 253-859-2226.

## MLK Worship Service Held at Peoples Institutional—January 21, 2008



## New Volunteer Opportunity! The 2008 Blitz Build—Your Help Needed!

National Ministries, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, will partner with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge in spring 2008 to build five homes for families that have permanently relocated to Baton Rouge, following displacement by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The build will take place April 28-May 17, 2008. During that time, we will work together to build five homes in south Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Beginning with the blessing of the five homes and the raising of walls on Monday, April 28, 2008 more than 150 volunteers will be needed the first week to frame exterior and interior walls, raise roof trusses and roof decking and install windows, doors and vinyl

siding. The second week (May 5-10, 2008) will be dedicated to subcontractor work.

During the last week (May 12, 2008) more than 150 volunteers will again be needed to finish up the vinyl siding, tape and float sheetrock, paint, do trim work, install cabinets and landscape. The build will end on Saturday, May 17, 2008 with a dedication of each home.

More than 150 volunteers are needed each week. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age, and no construction skills are required, but any knowledge of or experience with construction is appreciated. Skilled laborers, such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters are especially critical, along with skilled

individuals who can serve as house leaders. The cost to participate is \$100 per volunteer. This fee includes housing provided by Habitat, as well as lunch, snacks and drinks daily. Should you prefer alternative housing, discounted hotel rooms are also available. Volunteers must also provide their own transportation.

You can find additional information and all registration materials (7 PDF documents) on the National Ministries website at [http://www.nationalministries.org/caring\\_ministries/vim/](http://www.nationalministries.org/caring_ministries/vim/) or call with any questions at 1.800.ABC.3USA, Ext. 2449. The deadline to register is April 1, 2008. Hurry though, Habitat housing is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

## 2007 TOTAL AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT

American Baptist Mission Support includes United Mission plus all the other offerings and targeted gifts given through American Baptist Churches USA. As you can see we have some very faithful mission-giving churches. These dollars literally went around the world. Thank you for all you did. Let's do even more in 2008!

1	Seattle, First Baptist Church	Euro	\$66,403*
2	Seattle, Japanese Baptist Church	Asian	\$27,931
3	New Beginnings Christian Fellows	Black	\$24,000
4	Issaquah, Community Church	Euro	\$15,285
5	Chico, First Baptist Church	Euro	\$14,450
6	Seattle, Wedgwood Community Church	Euro	\$11,711
7	San Jose, Grace Baptist Church	Euro	\$10,488
8	Mountlake Terrace, First Baptist	Euro	\$7,912
9	Seattle, University Baptist Church	Euro	\$7,756
10	Palo Alto, First Baptist Church	Euro	\$7,379
11	Seattle, Burien Community Church	Euro	\$6,138
12	Walnut Creek, Shell Ridge Community	Euro	\$6,919**
13	Kent, Panther Lake Community Church	Euro	\$4,611
14	Seattle, Fremont Baptist Church	Euro	\$4,283
15	Pullman, Pullman Baptist Church	Euro	\$3,599
16	Costa Mesa, Fairview Community	Euro	\$3,506
17	Bountiful, First Baptist Church	Euro	\$3,502
18	Salt Lake City, First Baptist Church	Euro	\$2,862
19	Lynnwood, Good Shepherd Baptist	Euro	\$1,695
20	Renton, M L King Jr Mem Bapt Church	Black	\$1,023
21	Seattle, Mount Zion Baptist Church	Black	\$707
22	Seattle, Oak Lake Baptist Church	Euro	\$690
23	Wasilla, Church of the Covenant	Euro	\$489
24	Seattle, Greater New Bethel Baptist Ch	Black	\$300
25	Burton, Burton Community Church	Euro	\$200
26	Lynnwood, Filipino-Am Christian Fellow	Asian	\$110

**TOTAL FOR 2007 \$231,954    Total for 2006 \$245,675    Dollar Difference \$13,721**  
**Percent Difference -5.59%**

**\*All numbers are rounded to nearest dollar**

**\*\*Shell Ridge Walnut Creek sent a check of \$2000 directly to Evergreen at the end of 2007 that is reflected in the amount listed here.**

On my wall I have a cross-stitched picture that I made years ago of a bird sitting on a window sill, with the words "When God closes a door, He opens a window". As I look at it today I know the wisdom of this saying.

I was scheduled to leave on October 15 to go to Burma to join the Baptist women in celebrating 50 years of Baptist Women's ministries. Three weeks prior a civil disturbance began and the ruling government set a mandate that there could not be a gathering of more than five people in one place. The Jubilee Celebration was expecting 2000 women from all over the country to come to Rangoon. The door was suddenly slammed shut not only for them but for me also. It was not only unsafe to travel there but the celebration would be canceled.

What to do?

First thing Monday morning I talked to Virginia, she asked if I had thought of going to Bangkok (my flight changed planes in Bangkok)? No, I hadn't thought of any alternative at that point! Next I called Angela at Inter-

national Ministries; I think she was expecting my call! "How would you like to go to Bangkok?" she asked. God was opening the window. The wheels began rolling very fast and on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> I flew to Bangkok.

Yes, it was a long trip for five days, but it was worth every minute of it. I arrived late Tuesday night (Bangkok time) and found my way to NightLight Designs before noon on Wednesday. NightLight Designs is a business that was developed to employ women who want to leave prostitution. They begin with a worship service at 9 AM, before they start their work day. Of course, I missed the service the first day, but I made it on time after that!

Each day I was privileged to be able to work with the ladies, counting and stringing beads, cutting string for bags, and pricing the end product for sale. What a humbling experience. Even though I could not understand their words, I could understand that they were happy and had a good time working together.



Terri Simpkins,  
National President,  
American Baptist Women

On Friday and Tuesday night volunteers meet at 6:30 for prayer before they go out in teams 3-4 to minister to women who "work" in the bars. I was able to go with them on Friday

night. What an experience! One girl we talked to was 13 years old and worked in this place only 10 days. She was obviously scared and came to talk to us; she was told how to get in contact with NightLight, now she has to take the next step. Please keep her in your prayers. And remember she is just one of many that need our help and prayers.

I would be happy to tell you more about my experience, give me a call 206-243-2252 and we can set a date. You can get more information about NightLight by going to [nightlightbangkok.com](http://nightlightbangkok.com) or you can find useful resources at [abwmbreakthechains.org](http://abwmbreakthechains.org). It is the goal of American Baptist Women's Ministries to raise \$250,000.00 in the next two years to begin new ministries at home and abroad to stop sexual trafficking.

### 2008 ABW Ministries/PNW Conference

Clarion Hotel, Yakima WA, April 18-20, 2008 For registration info  
contact Nadine at 253-761-1081 or by email at [edandnadine@msn.com](mailto:edandnadine@msn.com) or  
[nadineg@uwpc.org](mailto:nadineg@uwpc.org)

## Thank-You: 2007 Total UM Giving

continued

(Continued from page 1)

5 Chico, First Baptist Church

Euro \$9,703

6 Seattle, Wedgwood Community Church

Euro \$9,653

7 Seattle, University Baptist Church

Euro \$5,112

8 Mountlake Terrace, First Baptist

Euro \$4,645

9 Seattle, Burien Community Church

Euro \$3,888

10 San Jose, Grace Baptist Church

Euro \$3,782

11 Seattle, Fremont Baptist Church

Euro \$2,975

12 Salt Lake City, First

Baptist Church

Euro \$2,500

13 Kent, Panther Lake Community Church

Euro \$2,487

14 Palo Alto, First Baptist Church

Euro \$2,200

15 Costa Mesa, Fairview Community Church

Euro \$1,335

16 Bountiful, First Baptist Church

Euro \$1,294

17 Walnut Creek, Shell Ridge Community Church

Euro \$908

18 Seattle, Mount Zion Baptist Church

Black \$708

19 Seattle, Oak Lake Baptist Church

Euro \$550

20 Renton, M L King Jr

Mem Bapt Church

Black \$410

21 Seattle, Greater New Bethel Baptist Church

Black \$300

22 Lynnwood, Filipino-American Christian Fellowship

Asian \$110

23 Lynnwood, Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Euro \$100

**TOTAL 2007 = \$154,421**

**Total 2006 \$167,156**

**Difference \$12,735.**  
percent difference **-7.62%**

\*all numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.

## Ministers Retreat

continued

(Continued from page 4)

relationships that make you a truly helpful leader while avoiding over-responsibility. What kind of 'helping' creates dependency and what kind doesn't?

While the two program times

for the retreat are scheduled after lunch and after dinner on Monday, participants are invited to arrive as early as Sunday evening, March 30, and stay through Wednesday lunch, April 2. This extended time will provide opportunity for individual rest and informal conversation.

For more information about the retreat or to register, contact Rev. Tim Phillips at University Baptist Church, (206) 632-5188 or by email at [tim@ubcseattle.org](mailto:tim@ubcseattle.org). To see the accommodations at Camp Bethel, go to their website at [www.campbethel.net](http://www.campbethel.net).

**2008 American Baptist Women in Ministry (ABWIM) Conference**  
Hilton Hotel, St. Louis International Airport, April 16-19, 2008  
For info contact Joyce Lake—1-800-ABC-3USA , ext. 2058

409 Third Avenue S, Suite A  
Kent WA 98032-5843

Phone: 253-859-2226  
Fax: 253-859-1537  
Email: eba@ea-abc.org

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

**Visit us on the Web  
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 25th 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 Between Communities

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

- 15—16 TEAM, Executive Committee & Caucus Leadership Retreat, Camp Bethel
- 23—Memorial Service for Rev. Dr. Leon C. Jones, Martin L. King, Jr, Memorial Baptist Church, 3:00 PM

### MARCH

- 3—Joint Baptist Committee Religious Freedom Essays Due
- 15—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM
- 3/30—4/2 Ministers Retreat, Camp Bethel
- 23—Easter Sunrise Service, Seattle Univ., 7:30 AM

### APRIL

- 18—20 PNW AB Women's Conference, Yakima
- 27-30 J. Alfred Smith, Sr./Raymond Bakke Empowerment Conference, Seattle Airport Hilton

**NOTE: Registrations for More Than a Week Youth Conference due BY MAY 1, 2008!**

### MAY

- 31—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM

### JULY



- 5—11 MTW—national youth gathering, Estes Park CO

## 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.