



EVERGREEN NOTES

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship Service—Monday, January 16, 2006



Mount Zion Baptist Church

1634 19th Avenue

Seattle WA

Rev. Samuel B. McKinney, Pastor Emeritus

6:00 PM

Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr,
Preaching

Youth Groups from three member churches and the Evergreen Sounds will provide music during the worship service.

Trivia: Dr. King visited Seattle in 1961- also a year that began on a Sunday.

Events at Our Churches 2

Marcia Patton Costa Blessings 2

Inside this issue:

ABC Leaders Express Regret 4

A Declaration-War in Iraq Insert

Blessings from Costa Rica 5

Evergreen Vision Statement 7

GREETINGS IN THE NEW YEAR, 2006

By Peter Koshi



It is with appreciation and pride that I extend greetings to the Evergreen Association Baptist family: pastors, congregations, staff and friends of EBA. It is my hope to be able to

meet most of you during the year, and even to visit many of you at your place of worship and ministry. While many have been counting down the days until Christmas, Guess what? I've been counting the days until January 1st, the day I officially become your chair of EBA. Taking over

from Ken Curl is humbling and challenging, to say the least. Thanks, Ken for continuing with me as the past chair and for setting the course for the past two years, along with those who served with you. I will, with God's help, and support of EBA family, do my best to rise to the needs be-

fore us. In my Baptist experience of most of 75 years, I cannot recall a greater challenge nor a fellowship of Christians, that I would choose to serve in missional ministry, than with all of you! I am excited to become a part of the vision of EBA to be inclusive in relationship and service for Christ

Events at Our Churches

Come to a **White Cross Bandage Rolling Workshop for the Congo**, Tuesday, January 17, 2006, 9 AM to 2 PM, **Fremont Baptist Church**, 717 North 36th Street, Seattle (one block East of Fremont Avenue on 36th Street)

RSVP: Mabel Brockhoff;
206-632-7994; or
fremontbaptist@mindspring.com

Labyrinth Walk, every second Sunday night of the month at **Seattle First Baptist Church**,

January through June, 2006; 6 to 8 p.m. Come anytime until 7:40, stay until 8 p.m. Free. Fellowship Hall. Enter at lower Seneca doors.

Goodwill Baptist Church celebrates its **60th Anniversary**, Friday, January 20th—7 PM Sunday, January 22nd—3 PM.

Ordination Councils for Chris Boyer and Charlotte Keyes at

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Sunday, January 29, 2006, 3:00 PM

American Baptist Women of Evergreen and Puget Sound NW Conference, April 28-30, 2006, Moses Lake WA.

Ministering in the 21st Century Conference, May 9-12, 2006, sponsored by New Beginnings Christian Fellowship and Evergreen.

GREETINGS ...

(Continued from page 1)

as congregations of ABC, no matter the geographic distance between us, but close and one in the Spirit.

There is yet, much to be learned as we seek to work in and through caucuses and make decisions by consensus. You've already experienced greater openness and participation by congregations and their respective members. The promise for the growth of "the kingdom of God," at least in part, lies in these concepts in practice. Continue to be excited with me!

God bless you all in the NEW YEAR!

Peter Koshi

I wrote in my personal Christmas greetings of 2005 of how blessed I was by many things. As I remember my pre-Christmas Day trip to Hawaii was well mixed into those blessings. But one of the blessings was the joy I have in working with Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, all its leaders, pastors, members and friends. You are a blessing! One of the ways Evergreen has been blessed this past year is by those who have given over and above to Evergreen. We, just like every other non-profit organization, must rely more and more upon these over and above gifts. We reached our goal in 2005 of raising over \$40,000 in individual and

church gifts. On the next page you will see a thank you list of those individuals who helped us reach this goal.

Of course, we need to do the same thing in 2006 in order to maintain our staff and expand the ministries of Evergreen. As you plan your giving in 2006, please include Evergreen in the plan in a significant way, knowing that gifts are very much appreciated and carefully used.

Thank you for the privilege of working with you in accomplishing our work of *koinonia* in a lost and lonely world.

Marcia Patton

Thanks To Friends Sharing in the Support of EBA

We are blessed with special friends who have supported us throughout the year. We extend to them a special thanks.

Thanks to friends who gave \$10—\$99

Terie Akada
Laura Balcom
Belva Baxter
Mary Clare Benson
Virginia Bishop
Joyce Carter
Karen Carter
Carol Demise
Georgene Haley
Harold & Mary Ellen Harris
Glenda Hawley
Yoshiko Ishimitsu
Steve Ishimitsu
Janice Jackson
Ellis and Karen Keck
David and Pat Kile
Noriko Kussman
George & Ann Lockman
Andrea McGuire
Patricia Moore
Pam Nomura
Dan Peterson
Kathleen Southwick
Lily Wan
Helen Watkins
Ingrid Welti
Sarah Welton
Akio Yanagihara

Thanks to those giving \$100- \$249

Wally and Joy Bartlow
Howard Bess
Richard and Arlene Birdsall
Catherine Fransson
Anne & David Hall
Walter and Evelyn Heyman
Patricia Hunter
Akira Ishimaru
Stephen and Jan Jones
Sylvia Luckie-Benefiel
Gladys MacKenzie
Thomas Nielsen
Virginia Nielsen
Jeananne Oliphant
Chellie Rowland
Yukio and Maki Sakiyama
Charles & Pamela Scalise
Charles Z. Smith
John and Sandy Stice
Shirley Wilkinson

Our gratitude to those giving \$250-\$499

Paul and Gail Aita
Judith and Ronald Bartels
Betty and Doug Bates
Jim and Charlotte Erickson
Rodney and Beverly Romney
Douglas and Michelle Holmes
Dave and Terri Simpkins
Herb Tsuchiya
Marian Voge

Special thanks to those giving \$499-\$999

Ken and Gila Curl
John and Coralea Doty
Roxanne Fowler
Gay & Phyllis Hasselblad
Wiley and Nancy Kehrlie
Ronald Kirstein
Peter Koshi
Marilyn Marston
Walter and Marilyn Pulliam
James Winbush

The thanks of the Association to those giving \$1000-\$2,000

Robert and Almarie Burchell
Julian Hunter
Angela Farrar
Marcia Patton
William and Sarah Patton
Curtis Price
Carol Tamparo

A very special thanks for gifts over \$2,000!

Mabel Brockhoff
Roy Johnson
Yosh & Sue Nakagawa
Larry & Fran Nelson
John & Maxine Sondericker

ABC Leaders Express Regret, Concern Over PSW Recommendation

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)—American Baptist leaders have responded with profound regret and concern over the recommendation issued on Dec. 8 by the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest to withdraw that region from the denomination's Covenant of Relationships.

A regional meeting of its churches to advise the leadership is tentatively scheduled in May 2006. After that meeting, the Board will make its final decision. If approved, the recommended action would effectively remove the region from a formal relationship with the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

"American Baptists are deeply disappointed at the decision of the leadership of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest to recommend a break-away from the denomination," General Secretary Dr. A. Roy Medley said today.

The conflict American Baptists find themselves in is sometimes described as a liberal/conservative division over the issue of homosexuality. In reality,

American Baptist statements on human sexuality and marriage have consistently been conservative, evangelical and traditional. We all hold biblical authority as primary for Christian discipleship and church life—but we have always respected dissent in interpretation.

When the proposal was first made to break Covenant, one of the region's own Board members wrote, "I voted against withdrawing from the ABCUSA because I do not agree with the idea of requiring uniformity in the matter of interpretation of scripture, in this case, in the area of human sexuality. If there is one principle that drew me to become an American Baptist, it was the belief that each person can read the Bible and form his or her own conclusions without any imposition from others. As Baptists, we agree on a number of central Bible doctrines but still affirm the freedom of each individual to interpret scripture for himself or herself, under the leading of the Holy Spirit."

Even though Baptist churches have been organized in America from the 1600s until the present, it wasn't until 1907 that the Northern Baptist Convention, now American Baptist Churches in the USA, was formed. In structuring a national denomination, these Baptists were careful to safeguard the primacy of the local church so that the national body could not

usurp the rights and privileges of the local congregation to exercise authority over them. These basic principles were derived from the Bible and represented early Baptist desire to properly reflect the New Testament teaching concerning the nature of the church. The principle of the primacy and autonomy of the local church is reflected in the name—the denomination is not the American Baptist Church—it is the American Baptist Churches.

"Because schism in the church is grievous to our Lord, we have done—and will continue to do—everything we can to maintain the unity of the Body of Christ, which is so clearly taught in scripture," Medley emphasized.

In order to clearly understand the concerns of the Pacific Southwest, and in the hope of maintaining the desired unity of Christ's Body, many national and regional officers and staff have devoted extensive energy, time, resources and prayer in continuing dialogue with the region. In addition to previous visits by the President, the General Secretary, and the National Executive Council, Dr. Dale V. Salico, Executive Minister of the Pacific Southwest, has had multiple opportunities to speak to the concerns of the region, including meetings with the Regional Executive Ministers Council, the General Board Executive Committee, and the full General Board—the denomination's governing body.

(Continued on page 6)

Christmas Blessings from Costa Rica - 12/14/2005

On behalf of the Baits family, I want to let you know that we have been blessed by your presence in our lives. Your ministry of service to Christ and care for us speaks each day of the gift of your friendship and love.

Thank you for the little as well as big things you do for us and on our behalf and for the unnoticed care you take in making sure we can function on the field. Thank you for your servant heart and tireless and often unappreciated efforts that we couldn't survive without. You are the unsung heroes in our world and ministry.

- We pray in the days to come for rest and relaxation, for breezes of the Spirit to whisk you away from the worries of deadlines and too many details to keep track of, and for the touch of grace to fill you with God's good news in Christ.

- We pray for hopeful celebrations and contented calm. We pray for special moments with your families and quiet moments with God.

Please know that not only in this season, but in our everyday, we give thanks to God for you and for all you do.

In the name of the Christ who came to be with us, blessings y bendiciones,

Gary, Mylinda, Jamie and Micah Baits

NEW LIFE 2010 – Request For Continued Prayer

As we close out our fifth year of the vision God gave American Baptists in 1998, and subsequently adopted by all boards of the ABC, we are seeing the fruition of years of prayers and efforts in unprecedented baptisms, new church starts, renewed established congregations, and community impactful ministries.

As has been our practice, we ask you to pause at 10 AM OR 10 PM, or even 10 AM AND 10 PM, but please pause and pray at least at either time. Just imagine what God would continue to do as He saw the seriousness and sincerity of a million and a half American Baptists.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of the Gospel...transforming congregants, congregations, and communities for Christ across America and beyond!

Dr. Jeffrey A. Johnson
National Coordinator of Evangelism, National Ministries

PHOTOGRAPHER EXTRAORDINAIRE

While we are spending time in this newsletter giving thanks to individuals. We especially want to extend our thanks to one more. Someone who gives to us by serving as a photographer—one

who gives us pictures (great ones—you've seen just a few here) without cost to us! For helping us keep our history and put names to faces, thank you

Akio Yanagihara!!



ABC Leaders Express Regret...

continued

(Continued from page 4)

One result of these meetings was a decision by the General Executive Council to send a delegation to meet with the appropriate leadership groups of the region. Dr. Alfred Fletcher of the American Baptist Churches of Maine and Dr. Desmond Hoffmeister of the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains, were appointed and made themselves available for whatever meetings would be most helpful to the region leadership. They spent six hours of discussion with the five-member Executive Committee. There was a meeting of the full Board that followed, to which the two Executive Ministers were not invited.

Fletcher and Hoffmeister, in their meeting with the Executive Committee, expressed the deep care and concern of all mission partners in the denomination toward what, for over 100 years, has been one of the strongest regions in the denomination. They reported: "We made a pastoral and passionate appeal on behalf

of the GEC for PSW to remain at the ABCUSA table. We challenged some of their assumptions, were surprised by some of their assertions, and they were surprised by some of the information that we shared. They were encouraged by the fact that we represented all the covenanting partners. Notwithstanding the positive tone of the meeting, we left feeling that it will take a monumental effort to reverse the advanced and propelling momentum of their intended process."

If the region withdraws, it will assume control of the disbursement of mission money historically given by the churches in support of American Baptist missions. In 2004, that amount was over \$2.9 million. At the same time, as the region is distancing itself from the denomination and expressing the intent to formally break covenant, the Pacific Southwest is negotiating ways to continue doing ministry with American Baptists—specifically the pension/benefit and mission boards of the denomination.

In the final analysis, each of the 300 churches in the Pacific Southwest will make its own decision regarding its continuing relationship with ABCUSA. Each church—in the Baptist way of decision making—will have the opportunity to choose for itself.

"Regardless of the region's decision, there will be a continuing American Baptist presence in southern California," Medley said. "Every effort will be made to enable and support churches wishing to remain in covenant with us."

In addition, Medley stated, "The Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society, one of the most racially and ethnically diverse evangelical mission organizations in the nation, is a cooperating American Baptist region, and has given us assurances through its Executive Minister, Dr. Samuel Chetti, that it will stay at the table."

In reflecting upon his visit to southern California, Fletcher said, "Hope keeps bringing us back."

Medley added, "And in that hope we press on."

The 2006 American Baptist Planning Calendar

Is now available online and can be downloaded at the web addresses below...

Calendar

[Http://www.abc-usa.org/resources_old/abcpc2006.pdf](http://www.abc-usa.org/resources_old/abcpc2006.pdf)

Directory

[Http://www.abc-usa.org/resources_old/abcd2005.pdf](http://www.abc-usa.org/resources_old/abcd2005.pdf)

**ABC POCKET
CALENDAR 2006
WILL NOT BE
PRINTED!!!**

Evergreen Vision Statement

Our vision can be summarized:

Our goal is to encourage every Evergreen church to move forward in creative partnership with other churches and the Association.

Through the love of God in Christ and the shared life of the Holy Spirit, we seek to empower every Evergreen congregation to become a vital missional church. We will lead our congregations in Spirit-directed transformation—expanding in

vision for ministry, engaging our local communities, and creating healthy congregational systems including: worship, study, decision-making, stewardship, fellowship and outreach.

In particular, Evergreen desires:

- a. to help every pastor build bridges from the isolation of ministry to the companionship of *koinonia*
- b. to assist every congregation to enter into cross-cultural partnerships

- c. to encourage every Evergreen church to be engaged with other churches in active ministry networks
- d. to welcome new congregations in the discovery of profound mutuality of ministry with other Evergreen churches
- e. to continually ask our Association: "How can we deepen *koinonia* among our churches?"

NATIONAL MINISTRIES RECEIVES GRANTS FOR EVANGELISM AND TRANSFORMATION

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS)- The **Frank E. Clark Charitable Trust** awarded National Ministries \$75,000 to support small American Baptist congregations in small communities. The second grant of this kind to National Ministries, the Clark Trust funding will assist congregations become healthier and vibrant, enabling greater ability to impact their surrounding communities. As these renewed churches live out faith commitments, they bring American Baptist Churches USA closer to its NEW LIFE 2010 goal of reaching 1,000,010 new disciples by 2010.

"We are leveraging these funds by making grants to a group or cluster of churches who are geographically close and can do this work together in what we call learning communities," said Dr. David Laubach, associate executive director for New Churches, Evangelism and Transformation.

Grants from the previous Clark Trust funding helped about 140 churches in seven regions achieve

goals for strong mission engagement. "Our region was able to increase ministry to our leadership transformation groups, which helped about 17 churches with stewardship, and with vision and mission planning," said Ed Merrill, coordinator of Leadership Transformation Groups for American Baptist Churches of Maine.

Other regions implemented the Natural Church Development (NCD) program recommended by National Ministries. This gave them an opportunity to assess their congregational life and take steps to improve in areas such as discipleship, use of gifts for ministry, community involvement and youth ministry.

Additionally, the **Palmer Trust**, administered by the American Baptist Foundation, granted \$10,000 to the National Evangelism Team (NET) for enhanced *Got Style?T* training. That funding aims at promoting further excellence where regional partners - called "NET associates," already competent in presenting the *Got*

Style?T strategy - help churches identify personality styles in their congregations for reaching others with the gospel.

Funding will enable selected NET associates to train new associates, who in turn teach churches the *Got Style?T* approach. Close to 20 percent of American Baptist churches throughout the United States will receive training in the next five years, helping them move closer to the NEW LIFE 2010 disciple-making goal.

NET associates are a diverse group of lay and clergy church leaders, as well as regional American Baptist staff and ministers. Regional and national workshops broaden their reach for evangelism coaching and training.

For information regarding small church grants contact David.Laubach@abc.org. Interested in Individualized *Got Style?T* consultation or to become a NET associate, contact Jeffrey.Johnson@abc-usa.org.

**Evergreen Association of
American Baptist
Churches**

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Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for the 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

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Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton, Executive Minister

**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.**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY, 2006

- **6—7 ACT Weekend**
- **10—Evergreen Sounds Rehearsal, Japanese Baptist Church, 7 PM**
- **13-14—EBA Staff/ Executive Committee Retreat, Camp Burton**
- **16 MLK Day Worship, Mount Zion Baptist , 6:00 PM**
- **21—Ministerial Standards Committee, Japanese Baptist Church, 9 AM**
- **29—Ordination Councils for Chris Boyer and Charlotte**

Keyes, Good Shepherd Baptist Church, 3 PM

FEBRUARY

- **3-4—Euro Caucus Sponsored Workshop TBA**
- **10-11—ACT Weekend.**
- **18—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM**

MARCH

APRIL

- **17—20 Wait on the Lord Spiritual Formation**

Conference, Orlando FL

- **28—30 PNW AB Women's Conference, Moses Lake WA**

MAY

- **6—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM**

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

- **26 Association Bd Meeting Wedgwood**