



# Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 13, Issue 1

## MLK Day Community Worship Service



On Monday, January 20, 2014 the Evergreen family and community will gather at Japanese Baptist Church, 160 Broadway, at 6:00 PM to worship and to remember the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the American Baptist preacher God gave us

for a season. The Rev. Dr. Albert P. Brinson, friend of the King family and ordained by then co-pastors, Martin L. King Sr. and Martin L. King, Jr. at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta GA, will be our preacher.

Dr. King's message of nonviolence and civil rights for all people is worth remembering—and even more



Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

so following the recent death of Nelson Mandela, another soldier for freedom and justice in South Africa.

Come, let us worship together.

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### Prayer Concerns:

- Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership: Urban Grace—Tacoma; Shell Ridge Community Church; Filipino-American Christian Fellowship
- Pray for continued healing for:  
Marcia Patton  
Bruce Chittick

## Meet Bob Sittig, Chair of the Evergreen Association



Bob Sittig, Association Chair; Mbr. Seattle First Baptist Church

I am both humbled and excited to be chosen as the Chair of the Evergreen

Board of Directors. I am following in the footsteps of some wonderful folks who have guided the growth of this organization over the past ten years. We have

come a long way over that period to establish Evergreen as a region that fits well into the future of ABC-USA.

(Continued on page 2)

## Events & Happenings Around the Association

### SAVE THE DATES:



March 19, 2014—  
Seattle Baptist Union  
(SBU) Meeting, Seat-  
tle First Baptist Church, 7  
PM. Be sure any grant appli-  
cations are sent to Rick  
Kernen, 409 Third Avenue S,  
Suite A, Kent WA 98032 be-  
fore the meeting. Contact  
Rick at [rkernen@nwfirst.com](mailto:rkernen@nwfirst.com)  
or 253-859-2226.



**Seattle First Baptist  
Church** invites you to  
calendar April 27-28,  
2014, when the *Romney Lec-  
tures* will continue with Ra-  
chel Held Evans, New York  
Times best-selling author and  
popular blogger, addressing  
the question of spirituality  
and social media.



August 19, 2014—Seattle  
Baptist Union Clergy/

Spouse Dinner Cruise.



**Evergreen Leaders:  
Caucus Leaders, Ex-  
ecutive Committee,  
Association Board, Minis-  
terial Standards & Con-  
cerns Committee are in-  
vited to the Leaders' Re-  
treat, March 21—22, 2014,  
Camp Burton.** RSVP to  
Clem in the Evergreen office.

## Meet Bob Sittig

*continued*

*(Continued from page 1)*

A quick peek into my past would show that after studying mechanical engineering I spent a thirty year career in industrial process equipment design, sales and management. After my first attempt at retirement I ended up with a general contractor's license and spent another seven years installing exercise pools and building structures to house them. After my second attempt at retirement, I accepted a temporary position to be the Church Administrator at Seattle First Baptist Church for six months. I'm presently in that job starting my fifth year. So much for retirement!

My religious life started out in a Congregational church in Mt Vernon, New York where

I grew up. After time in the US Army and following jobs in several locations, I ended up in Seattle in 1977. I'm married to my dear wife, Susan Dohrmann, who recently retired after a lengthy career as a Federal Prosecutor for the US Department of Justice. We presently have three children and seven grandchildren. The three will stay the same but the seven is subject to change! We started attending SFBC in the late 1980's and have been heavily involved in church life ever since. Over the years I have been the chair of Stewardship, Church Operations, Treasurer, Moderator of the Diaconate and, as mentioned above, am presently the Church Administrator.

I was particularly attracted to the American Baptist de-

nomination because of the Baptist Liberties. They are very important to my faith journey because they allow churches and individuals to follow the way of Jesus Christ in a manner that is the result of a relationship that each has with God. Respect and appreciation for all who are trying to follow that path, even when certain aspects differ, is a paramount value to me and one that offers a bright future in a world of cultural divisions. God's love for us and our love for God and each other, even with our differences, is indeed the hope of the world.

I look forward to working with all associated with Evergreen as we go forward together as God's hands and feet on this planet.

## My Evergreen Story: Peter's Ponderings

Having had a part in the early years of the Evergreen Association I have most recently followed her work and witness through the monthly newsletter. The newsletter is a resource through which I connected with many of you during my term as chair. I have followed your faithfulness in participation, support, and financial giving.

It is pleasing to me to know that most of the member churches and pastors are supporting the Association. .. It is my hope and prayer that ... this become consistent throughout the region.

As churches are serving their many communities, my hope and prayer is that we all carry the One Message, as

the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:4-6, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, on faith, one baptism, one God, and Father of who is over all. "(Pardon my preacher instinct to quote Scripture in support the point I'm making.)

Word regarding Evergreen's influence across the American Baptist Denomination is gratifying, especially her influence on the forward movement of the caucuses

And a personal update: I have physically declined, it seems especially since passing my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. I am now getting around using a four wheeled walker. My doc-

tor advised me to stay off a wheelchair as long as I can. I realize that aging is a process we all must experience. I was hoping to get to the barbeque, but the heat got to me.



Finally, a blessing: May Evergreen continue her Mission with the support and prayers of members and friends.

With appreciation and love, I remain a faithful follower of Christ,

Rev. Peter Koshi  
Japanese Baptist Church

## Haiti Mission Trip2: March 28–April 5, 2014

*"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion..." (Philippians 1:6)*

Evergreen's second trip to Haiti now consists of 13 confirmed servants. Hallelujah! Thirteen willing hearts have agreed to go to Haiti.

The Evergreen's Got Talent Event which so many of you supported will offer some funding to purchase construction supplies and materials for continuing the building of

the school facility there. Thank you for your support.

*The next big date in the preparation for this trip is the **final payment due in the Evergreen office by January 15, 2014.***

There is still time to join the group. Act quickly!

And remember your financial support, prayers, collection of eye glasses for the eye clinic and any lap top computers with French language capa-

bility are all appreciated. Help us be good missionaries of Christ sent by you to walk along side the people of Cap Haitien, Haiti.

QUESTIONS? Contact Keith Madsen ([drkmad2006@yahoo.com](mailto:drkmad2006@yahoo.com) or at The Community Church of Issaquah (425-392-6447), or Clem Winbush ([clemeba@comcast.net](mailto:clemeba@comcast.net) or 253-859-2226).

# Thank You! Thank You!! Thank You!!!

Evergreen has many friends and supporters. We count on many of these for financial support. Once again in 2013, we were blessed with generous people who gave over and above, directly to Evergreen. Join us in a prayer of thanksgiving for these dear saints: We also thank those who gave anonymously.

## **\$1—\$99**

David & Jennifer Ankcorn  
April Braxton  
Carole Cornell  
Rebecca Davis  
Alvin Y Mary Fischer  
Rev. Dr. Judy & Leonard Gay  
Rev. Sarah Halverson  
Daniele Hansen  
Glenda Hawley  
James & Karen Hopkins  
Sharon & Ron Hunter  
Yoshito & Yoshiko Ishimitsu  
Rev. David & Mrs. Pat Kile  
Cassandra Lee  
Jim & Marjorie Leggett  
Chaplain Lynne Lohr  
Frank & Priscilla Lowe  
Keith & Cathryn Madsen  
Neil & Iris Manning  
Thomas & Marilee Nielsen  
Pam Nomura  
Mark O'Deady  
Gina Patton  
Carl & Marilyn Potts  
Rev. Janet Roberts  
Dr. Paul Roby  
Chellie Rowland (Estate)  
Robert Sittig  
Bill & Barbara Sloan  
Rev. Linda Smith

Nancy Smith  
Bonnie Sutton  
Rivian Smith  
Leota Stanley  
Kathleen Swan  
Ethelmae Walter  
Helen Watkins  
**\$100 - \$249**  
Dr. Paul & Mrs. Gail Aita  
Mrs. Terie Akada  
Rev. Richard & Mrs. Arlene Birdsall  
Barry & Anne Briscoe  
Raymond & Karen Carter  
Jane Cho  
Rev. Ken & Mrs. Gila Curl  
Horacio & Rev. Liliana Davalle  
Jim & Charlotte Erickson  
Bob Fukano  
Dr. Sam Hochstatter  
Rev. Patricia Hunter  
Marilyn Hunwick  
Diana James  
Rev. Richard Johnson  
Darby Lockett  
Dr. William Malcomson  
Albert & Mildred Matthews  
Rev. Samuel B. McKinney  
Rev. Tim Phillips & Mr. Patrick Green  
Renna Pierce  
Marilyn Pulliam  
Mrs. Ernestine Robinson  
Bruce & Candice Sagor  
Rev. Yuko & Mrs Maki Sakiyama  
Drs. Charles & Pam Scalise  
Eldora Sloan  
Rev. Warren Stewart, Sr.  
Mr. John & Mrs. Sandy Stice

Rev. Carol Sutton  
Marian Voge  
Rev. Patricia Walker  
**\$250—\$500**  
Mabel Brockhoff  
Daryl Johnson & Barbara Bryant  
Lloyd & Margie Burns  
Craig & John Darling  
Mary Ellen Harris  
Rev. Gay & Mrs. Phyllis Hasselblad  
Dean Ishiki  
Dr. Akira & Yo Ishimaru  
Wiley & Nancy Kehrl  
Sylvia Luckie-Benefiel  
Rev. Manny & Ferneli Santiago  
Rev. Guadalupe & Mrs. Francelina Vasquez  
**\$501—\$999**  
Wally Bartlow & Family  
Rev. Christopher & Mrs. Constance Boyer  
Ms. Roxanne Fowler  
Keith & Bonnie Harding  
Mr. Douglas & Rev. Michelle Holmes  
Rev. Ellis & Mrs. Karen Keck  
Willie C. & Faye Stewart  
**\$1000 or More**  
Mr./Mrs. Roy & Carol Johnson  
Dr. Yosh & Mrs. Sue Nakagawa  
Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton  
Mr./Mrs. William & Sara Patton  
Rev. John & Mrs. Maxine Sondericker  
Dr. Carol Tamparo  
Mr. Herb Tsuchiya

## 2014 Missionary Speakers

As you plan your 2014 church calendar and determine your need/desire for missionary speakers, the following excerpts from an email received from Ruthie Stevenson, December 17, 2013 may prove helpful:

...All...mission personnel will be at Green Lake in July to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society during the World Mission Conference.

International Ministries' current deputation policy for missionaries on official US/ Puerto Rico assignment: Because of budget reductions, IM no longer cover missionaries' local travel costs (mileage or car rental/gas for short distance trips within their re-

gion of residence or to nearby states). In these cases, missionaries would appreciate receiving a financial gift from the inviting churches/groups to cover those costs.

When deputation assignments require travel by air (or air travel is a less costly option than driving a longer distance), IM still covers the cost of the airfare for the confirmed speaker. *However,...if a spouse is invited, the cost of the second ticket is the responsibility of the inviting group.*

All travel expenses within the host region (airport pickup, lodging, meals and ground transportation between assignments) is still the responsibility of the host churches/

regions as has been the policy for many years.

Additionally, email addresses for all IM staff changed at the beginning of December; addresses are now [firstname.lastname@internationalministries.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@internationalministries.org).

If you have any questions about the deputation policy or specific questions about any mission speakers, please [contact Clem at 253-859-2226 or [clemeba@comcast.net](mailto:clemeba@comcast.net) ].

## Interfaith Advocacy Day—January 30, 2014

Thursday, January 30, 2014 is Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD) in Olympia at United Churches (110 11th Ave. S.E.). Follow this [link](#) if you'd like to register now. Be sure to get more information on the website, and feel free to print out and distribute [these](#) flyers.

Please get this info into your worship bulletins, e-newsletters, websites, etc. The day starts at 8am and concludes at 3pm. There is an early bird registration of \$15 until January 15, and then \$20 until January 30. Our goal is to pack United Churches with 300 or more faith

advocates – with your help and this growing network of now over 70 faith communities we can!

Also for Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD), runners and walkers of faith will show the state of Washington that they are willing to go the extra mile to make background checks on all gun sales law. Those gathered for the advocacy day will assemble on the front steps of the legislative building to greet finishers who have walked or run distances ranging from 5 kilometers to a full marathon. The marathon will follow a route

Office Manager Position  
Common Ministry/Interfaith  
House at WSU—Contact  
Lorraine at 509-332-2611 or  
[office@interfaith-house.com](mailto:office@interfaith-house.com)

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**  
*A Partnership for the Common Good*

that goes from one faith community to the next in Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater to represent the unity of people of all faiths and persuasions in supporting background checks. For more information, visit [www.runnersforbackgroundchecks.org](http://www.runnersforbackgroundchecks.org).

If you have any concerns/questions please contact Paul at [benz@fanwa.org](mailto:benz@fanwa.org) or 206-390-4133. See you on January 30, 2014 at our state capital!

-Paul Benz-

Dear Friends,

Christmas greetings to all of you. The month of December can rightly be called the month of weddings in Haiti. There are more weddings during this month than in any other month in the year. The idea is that this month brings special blessings to the newlyweds.

Today, December 3, 2013, we attended the wedding of Rose-Laure and Mr. Aniel. It is a special wedding



for us because Rose-Laure is an orphan whose mother died while carrying her eighth child. [Some of you will] re-

member seeing Kihomi going on foot for 2 hours up a mountain will know she went to visit Rose-Laure's family.

After the death of the mother, Kihomi helped to place the three youngest children in one orphanage in the city of Limbe. Rose-Laure, who was the oldest child, was already staying in another family as a "REST AVEC" or STAY WITH. In Haiti a rest avec is a child who has been placed in another family with the hope that the host family will feed him/her and help the child go to school. A rest avec will execute most of the family chores for whatever service she/he gets in that house.

Rose-Laure has lived it all, the ups and downs of not having her own family, of being poor and working hard. While a rest avec, Kihomi accepted to pay for her education. Rose-Laure was lucky to



*Kihomi (center) poses with the newlyweds*

get to sixth grade in elementary school at 20 years old. The host family let Rose-Laure go and she did not know where to go. Kihomi found her a job and a place to stay in the orphanage where her three brothers were staying. While working as a child guardian, she met a man who loves and married her.

Many girls are not as lucky as Rose-Laure. Let us remember them in our prayers.

In Haiti,  
Nzunga & Kihomi

## Schedule Retreats or Events at Camp Burton on Vashon Island

Many friends of Camp Burton may not realize the camp is rented to non-profit organizations year round. Churches in the Evergreen Association are eligible to rent accommodations for 10 to 180 people depending on availability. The Orchard House sleeps 13 with private meeting space and kitchen; the Retreat Center sleeps 36 with private meeting spaces; and the Main

Camp sleeps 130 with private meeting spaces.

Camp Burton is accredited with the American Camp Association (ACA) which signals that the camp complies with up to 275 professional camp standards. The ACA standards establish criteria for \*Emergency preparedness; staff training; personnel; living areas; food service; developmentally appropriate ac-

tivities; health care; transportation and administrative procedures.

And among the latest news from the camp: As of December 2013, "real" twin mattresses and new twin bed frames were installed in the main camp cabins! Now there are no excuses! Contact Kathleen at 206-463-2512 or [campburton1@centurytel.net](mailto:campburton1@centurytel.net)

## Take Your Pastor/Lay Leader/Family/Friends to the Ball Game



If you are local to the Seattle area, Evergreen Association invites you to "Take your pastor, lay leader, family member(s) or friend (s) to the Seattle Mariners vs. Boston Red Sox baseball game on Monday, June 23, 2014 at Safeco Field.

We are excited to have been able

to secure 60 tickets as the Mariners face the 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox. Save the Date and begin determining how many tickets you will need at \$16 per ticket

Just send your check or money order made payable to Evergreen Association ABC to 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent

WA. Seats located along the first base line near home plate will be assigned on a first come-first served basis.

If we need to order more tickets, the sooner we know, the more likely we can keep the whole group together.

Be sure your church is well represented among the crowd.

## Baptist Joint Committee Invites High School Students in the Graduating Classes of 2014 & 2015 to Submit Essays

WASHINGTON— High school juniors and seniors can win up to \$2,000 for college in the 2014 Religious Liberty Essay Scholarship Contest, sponsored by the Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee. Essays [should address] whether religious references should be allowed on banners at school-sponsored events, such as cheerleaders' banners on the field at public school football games.

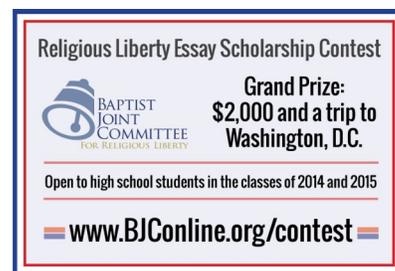
[As in past years, this] contest engages high school students in church-state issues [challenging] students to express a point of view on a religious liberty topic. The grand prize is **\$2,000** and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is **\$1,000**, and third prize is **\$250**.

High school students in the graduating classes of 2014 and 2015 can enter the contest by writing an essay between 800-1,200 words addressing the following [issue]:

*In many public high schools, cheerleaders and other students display banners for student athletes to run through at football games. In some schools, the messages on the banners have included Bible verses or other religious references. In response, some high school administrators have banned the use of these "run-through" banners out of concern these messages might convey that the school is promoting religion. In several instances, students have argued that the banners are expressions of their personal religious beliefs, asserting that they have the free exercise right to display religious messages at school events.*

**Should religious references be permitted on student banners used at school-sponsored events? Why or why not?**

*Write an essay in which you discuss both the students' rights and the school administrators' responsibilities in the public*



*school setting. In order to support your point of view, articulate your understanding of the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause in the First Amendment and their relationship to each other. Discuss what you believe is the best solution to the controversy over school banners with religious messages. Be sure to explain how your outcome helps to defend and extend religious liberty for all people.*

Entries must be mailed and postmarked by **March 7, 2014**, to be eligible. Click here to download contest forms and complete details...

For complete contest rules visit **www.BJOnline.org/contest**

Questions? contact Charles Watson Jr. at 202-544-4226 or by email at [cwatson@BJOnline.org](mailto:cwatson@BJOnline.org).



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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

Phone: 253-859-2226  
E-mail: eba@ea-abc.org

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Return Service Requested

# Be Blessed in 2014!

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 **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



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton  
Executive Minister

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**January 20, 2014 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Worship, 6 PM**, Japanese Baptist Church, 160 Broadway, Seattle 98122. Speaker: Dr. Albert Paul Brinson, contemporary of Martin L. King and friend of the King family.

**March 21-22, 2014: Leaders' Retreat, Who: Caucus Leaders, Executive Committee, Association Board, & Ministerial Standards & Concern Committee**, Camp Burton.

**March 28 - April 5, 2014 Haiti Mission Trip 2.** You're invited. (See page 3 for how you can help.)

**April 27—28, 2014—Romney Lectures** features Rachel Held Evans, New York Times best-selling author and popular blogger, , *Seattle First Baptist Church*. **SAVE the DATES!**

**April 20, 2014—Community Easter "Sunrise" Service**, St. Ignatius Chapel, Seattle University, 7 AM

June 23, 2014—Take Your Pastor/Lay Leader to the Ball Game. Mariners vs. Red Sox, 7:15 PM. Tickets \$16 each.

**October 9—11, 2014: 11th Evergreen Annual Meeting**, host: Seattle First Baptist Church

## 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.