



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 6

Black Caucus Bar-B-Q Cook Off Fundraiser



Bring your family for an outdoor meal sponsored by the Black Caucus of Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Saturday, July 18, 2009

Hours: 12 Noon until 6:00 p.m.

Location: Cedar River Trail Park, (between Boeing and the Renton Airport near Renton High School Stadium, Renton, WA)

Ticket Cost is \$20

Meal Choices: BBQ Pork Ribs, BBQ Chicken, Smoked Beef Brisket or a Combination of all 3

Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available from your church's Association rep by June 10, 2009, or call the region office at 253-859-2226.

Grace—San Jose Presents Glynis LeBarre



Saturday, July 18, 2009, 9 AM-2:30 PM, Grace Baptist Church hosts an *Introduction to Missional Church*

Learning Communities. The

Rev. Glynis LaBarre, Transformation Strategist, National Ministries, will facilitate this five hour workshop which includes the definition, exploration of the markers, and an historical perspective of missional church. Churches are encouraged to send at least 3-4 people.

Grace Baptist Church is asking a donation of \$10 per person to cover the cost of lunch (included). Please register attendance by contacting Dennis Glover at dennis.glover@gmail.com This is well worth the trip to San Jose! For overnight accommodations on Friday, please contact Dennis.

There is still time for you to register for the Biennial, too!

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For Your Prayerful Consideration

- Yosh Nakagawa is healing slowly, following another surgery.
- Keep churches seeking pastoral leaders in prayer: Grace-San Jose, Salt Lake City, Moscow, University and Community Church of Issaquah

Biennial Corner Final for 2009

(see Curtis Comments on page 3)



If you are going to be at the Biennial, get an

Evergreen Packet so you can help us keep

track of our 500 Conversations.

My colleague, Rev. Dr. Alan Newton from Rochester Geneva region recently wrote an email answering some ques-

tions about the by-law changes. For this last Biennial Corner I thought part of his words

(Continued on page 2)



Burma Refugee Services Coordinator

Sometimes you can almost “see” God work. Paul Aita, pastor of Japanese Baptist Church, has over the past several months called together an ad hoc group of people in the Greater Seattle Area to respond to the growing number of people from Burma, being resettled here.

At the last meeting, we wondered if Companis

(Seattle First Baptist’s wonderful organization which puts volunteers in non-profits where there are not yet the dollars to pay for positions), might have a volunteer to coordinate between the churches and the refugee people. Companis Director, Craig Darling, was called and was right on it.

So in less than a month we have Paul Roby, an

experienced Companis worker and organizer, ready to get to work. If you are in the Seattle Area, you may expect to meet Paul soon if you haven’t already.

We’ll write more about his responsibilities in the next newsletter.

Welcome Aboard, Paul!

Marcia

Biennial Corner Final

continued

(Continued from page 1)

would make a good review (I’ve edited for space).

1) The Mission Summit tied to the Biennial will generate greater response from those who are able to attend. The summit process will generate new ideas from the grassroots thereby helping to shape the mission of the ABCUSA. (And we will experience that work in LA.)

2) The Mission Table, while top heavy with denominational leadership, has the function of helping to organize and implement the input of the Mission Summit. This is not a governance body but focused primarily on mission and ministry.

3) The National Leadership Council has expanded what has been the General Executive Council thereby gaining greater input. This is the place where covenantal issues will be addressed as it is the one place where covenanting partners have a place and opportunity to meet.

4) The Leadership Pool where regions suggest 5 names for consideration for national board leadership will have a better chance of having a broader more representative board which is more reflective of who we are as American Baptists.

5) The smaller National Ministries and International Ministries boards which are more in-line with the way many

non-profit boards operate will provide greater assurance of board members with passion who have the gifts and skill sets needed for these boards will add to efficiency and effectiveness.

6) The Bylaws provide for Public Witness statements which must have a greater viewing and higher threshold for approval will retain the prophetic voice and safe guard from statements being approved on a simple majority basis.

If you have any questions about the ABCUSA new structure, please let me know.

Marcia

Curtis Comments on Stokin' the Fire



Robbin and I got a fire pit for our porch last year and with the warmth finally arriving it has been perfect for enjoying the evenings on the deck roasting marshmallows and relaxing by the fire. After building a fire the other night I noticed that the wood I was using flamed-up very quickly, got very bright and then burned up fast. Soon I had to pick up another log and throw it on. However, this one was a very hard wood that burned very differently. It didn't make big flames, and it burned very slowly yet produced a lot of heat. I marveled at the difference between the two and the kind of fire each produced. The first log was much more exciting to watch, and it certainly was easier to get going. But the second log lasted and was able to produce more warmth for a longer time.

So it is with a ministry like the one we have in Evergreen. There have been in our time

together many events and ideas that quickly ignited our passions and burned brightly for a while. They were inspiring and exciting, yet that excitement was difficult to maintain and the passion quickly waned. Then there are the meatier core values that guide who we are as a community of churches that are much less exciting, yet they last and they produce the real heat.

In my time with Evergreen I have often been on a quest for the big idea that would ignite people's passions and draw them into relationship with this wonderful organization, but more and more I am realizing that what truly inspires commitment is the solid foundational ideals and concepts that take time to convey and understand. *It is our commitment to equitable community, our focus on relationship and trust, and our common desire to see each other produce good fruit that will hold us together.* Consensus, the Caucuses, the Respect Guidelines, all of these are the tools we use to lift-up these ideals,

but it is the ideals themselves that are compelling, and those ideals have to be experienced to really grasp them. We have struggled to find easy ways to tell our story over the years and the truth is that any way we come up with to convey who we are in a short document or presentation will always pale in comparison to immersion in the culture of Evergreen.

What this has produced is a much smaller, leaner group of dedicated leaders who carry the fire with them. We still need those big "flame-up" events and ideas. They provide some of the best moments in our journey together. But we must always return to the core values that have inspired many to be so dedicated to the Association for so long.

Grace and Peace,

Curtis

ABSW President for the Interim Becomes President

Dr. Paul M. Martin, currently President for the Interim of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, has been asked to become president as of July 1, 2009.

In a letter dated May 28, 2009, Dr. Martin "solicit[s] your continued prayers for the seminary, faculty, staff

and students".

He also acknowledges receipt of Evergreen's "very generous gift of \$655.74 to the Annual Fund of ABSW. This gift [he continues] will serve to enhance the ministries that [ABSW] provide[s] to the students who have invested their preparation for ministry

in [ABSW]".

Martin thanks you for your support in the theological education of students at ABSW.

Note: *Evergreen's Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, serves on the ABSW Trustee Board and as Chair of the Academic Committee.*



Panther Lake Hosts Worship for Refugees from Hakah, Capitol of Burma's Chin State



Panther Lake Church hosted a group of 42 people from Hakah, the capital of Burma's Chin State, to a worship service in their own dialect that some of them had planned.



Some of our churches have invited groups of people from Burma to participate in their worship services or to use their facilities.

On a Sunday evening in March 2009, for example, the



Stan Smith, Panther Lake's

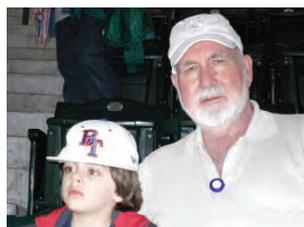
pastor, welcomed the group, and members of the church served refreshments afterward. Paul Aita of JBC preached the message, translated by Clifford Kim, one of the Chin men.

Evergreen Family at the Mariners' Game—May 18, 2009

For the third year, Evergreen invited its member churches to attend a Mariners game together at Safeco Field as a time to enjoy both the game and the fellowship with one another.

Among the many pastors, lay-leaders and other Evergreen family attending the Mariners' game on Monday,

May 8th were guests representing a Karen congregation and a primarily Chin congregation which both meet in Kent. So this game was an opportunity to expose these new friends to our "national sport" as well as to introduce them to some members of our sister churches.



EVERGREEN "INVADES" DISNEYLAND

Disneyland Evergreen—
young and older plan to enjoy
a day at Disneyland on Mon-
day, June 29th, following the

Biennial. All those attending
are invited to make arrange-
ments and we'll all have some
family fun.

Hope to see you around the

fountain or in Small, Small
World, or at the Matahorn...

Evergreen Third Highest Registrations to Biennial—Pasadena CA

A May 11th report of regis-
trations for the 2009 AB-
CUSA Biennial in Pasadena
CA, June 26-28th shows Ev-
ergreen ranked third in regis-
trations among regions, pre-
ceded only by Metro New
York and West Virginia.

To-date the following persons
are registered:

Aita, Paul and Gail
Carter, Karen
Chelsea-McCarty, Esther
Chilton Thompson, Jeff &
Amy
Curl, Ken and Gila

DeWeese, Karen
Green, Patrick
Hardwick, Paul
Harris, Harold & Mary Ellen
Hettinger, Charlene
Heyman, Walter, Jr. & Eve-
lyn
Holmes, Douglas & Micky
Lowe, Frank & Priscilla
McKinney, Samuel
Phillips, Timothy
Plourde, Dennis & Diane
Price Curtis & Robbin
Sakiyama, Yukio & Makiko
Sandberg, Ted & Charlene
Scalise, Charles & Pamela
Stice, Sandra

*Burnett, Thomas
*Chaney, Matthew
*Reyes, Abby
Patton, Marcia
Ice, Richard
Hannis Gerfen, Joan
Hannis, Betty
Hardwick, Linda Rae
Winbush, James & Clem

* denotes regional youth dele-
gates

Thank You Note From SHARE/WHEEL

We are in receipt of a thank
you note from SHARE/
WHEEL for the gift of \$805
(the entire proceeds from
Godspell), which reads in
part:

"As a community we sincerely
appreciate your contributions
to our program which help us
maintain the weekly opera-
tions—laundry, sanitations,

recycling, honey buckets
for the tent cities and bus
tickets. We believe in the
future that we can con-
tinue to work together so
that we can get through
these difficult times and
reach a solution to home-
lessness.

Thank you,
Share Community

Matthew Spork ST JOHNS
Hodan Dabu safe Haven
Ellen Bl. Rose O.F.B.
James Roodman Maple Leaf
Savitha George CALVARY LUTHERAN
Bevered DATHIS UNIVERSITY FRIENDS
JST TCS
Sean Ryan TCS
Bruce BHD
Kristina Herbert Breakhouse Nights
Paul Kelly CEE

Keep Up the Good Work!

As of the end of April, Evergreen Churches are over \$3,000 ahead of our 2008 United Mission Giving! Keep up the good work. Continue to remember your Mission Giving during the summer months.

Keep in mind that support of Evergreen Association depends on local church giving to United Mission. Over 50% of United Mission comes

directly back to Evergreen and 4% goes to American Baptist Seminary of the West.

ABSW Sends a Note of Thanks

[On file is a signed letter dated 5/12/09, from Vice President, Michelle Holmes.]

“At a recent gathering of alums, I was struck by the diversity of ministries represented in the group...senior pastors, camp directors, chaplains, and seminary professors...all were speaking of their calling and the lives they were touching. As I reflect on this wonderful experience, I do so with gratitude for all who have contributed to the development of these men and women.

On behalf of our current students whom you are supporting, I want to express appreciation for [your recent] gift of \$476.65 to the Annual Fund through Evergreen Association.

On May 16th we [graduated] 16 men and women from our

seminary.

Like the graduates from previous years, these students will lead a variety of ministries and each will have an impact in our world for the Gospel. Your support means a lot not only in the lives of our students, but also in the lives of those they will serve.

On June 28th, the seminary community will gather for dinner at the ABC/USA Biennial in Pasadena. I hope you will be able to join us for this event where you will have opportunity to meet our newly elected president, Dr. Paul Martin, share with friends and hear of how God is working in the life of ABSW.

Sincerely,

Michelle”

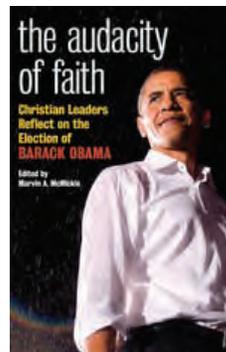


Camp Judson on Lake Erie— PA Seeks a Managing Director

The Camp Judson Board is actively pursuing the call of a full-time Managing Director.

Interested? More information is available by emailing Marcia at marcia@ea-abc.org or email Dr. David Tompkins at dgt92036@velocity.net

Audacity of Faith



Take some time to thoroughly consider the election of Barack Obama as the 44th

President of the United States of America with the new Judson Press book, [The Audacity of Faith](#). This compilation of sermons and essays includes words and wisdom penned by Gardner C. Taylor, Tony Campolo, Leslie Callahan, Marvin McMickle, Philip Yancey, Gina Steward, Leonard Sweet and more. The racial, political and theological diversity represented in this book is bound to stretch your perspective.

JBC's Sukiyaki Dinner

A reporter from the North American Post (a Japanese language newspaper published in Seattle) attended JBC's annual Sukiyaki Dinner held on Saturday, April 25th. In gathering information for the article, he asked many people how long JBC had been putting on this particular event. No one seemed to know the answer, so some research into the church files revealed that



JBC began the sukiyaki dinner in 1960, and has had one every year except 1984, when the church was in the midst of remodeling. This means that the tradition is almost 50 years old!

The sukiyaki dinner has served many important functions. In addition to celebrating Japanese culture (often with a program and food), it has provided an opportunity for fellowship between JBC members and the wider community. It has also



been a fundraiser for a number of different causes. In early years, the money raised helped purchase a bus for the church's nursery school, fund scholarships for school and summer camps, and contribute towards the church's building fund. Beginning in 1979, proceeds from the dinner were distributed to a number of charitable organizations that provided various kinds of service to the community.

Judson Press Celebrates 185 Years in 2009!

In 2009, Judson Press celebrates its 185th year of Christian publishing. Currently a ministry of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), Judson Press was founded as the Baptist General Tract Society in 1824 and later renamed the American Baptist

Publication Society. The Judson Press trademark was born in 1922 in honor of Adoniram Judson—to preserve both denominational and missionary spirit.

For more information on the year-long celebration, go to www.judsonpress.com or call 800-458-3766.

*From the Finance Team:
Have you made and
mailed your pledge to
Evergreen Association this
month? If so, THANK
YOU; if not, WILL YOU?*

Summer Camp Opportunities 2009 at American Baptist Camps

Camp Bethel (Hoquiam WA)

Junior Camp (grades 5-6) July 19 – 25

Junior High Camp (grades 7-9) July 12 - 18

Senior High Camp (grades 9-12)

July 26 – Aug 1

Middler Camp (grades 3-4) Aug 2 - 6

Family Camp Aug 29 – Sept. 1

Camp fees vary.

For costs/registration form contact Camp Bethel at 347 Kirkpatrick Road, Hoquiam WA 98550, by calling the camp at 360-389-3444 or online at <http://www.campbethel.net/>

Camp Burton (Vashon Island)

Junior Camp (grades 3-5) July 5 - 9

Junior High Camp (grades 6-9)

Aug 16 - 22

Senior High Camp (grades 9-12)

July 12 - 18

Family Camp August 2 – 8

For additional information and/or registration form for Camp Burton call 206-463-2512 or visit their website at www.campburton.com.

(Thanks, Grace Baptist Church, Tacoma)



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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

Please submit articles by the 25th of the month prior to expected publication.

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



Building Bridges Between Communities

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JUNE



• 26-28—**ABCUSA Biennial, Pasadena CA**

• 29—Evergreen at Disneyland

JULY

- 11—Black Caucus Meeting, Kent Office 9 AM
- 18—Bar-B-Q Cook Off Fundraiser—Renton Cedar River Trail Park, Picnic Shelter (between Renton Airport and Boeing Plant)
- 18—Introduction to

Missional Church Learning Communities at Grace, San Jose

AUGUST

- 4—Clergy Cruise
- 8—**Association Board Meeting**, Wedgwood Community Church, 9 AM
- 10—13 Kaleidoscope Institute Northwest (Contact Marcia for info)

OCTOBER

- 9—10 **EVERGREEN ANNUAL MEETING, First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace**

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.