



EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 6, Issue 3

EMPOWERING the CHURCH for the 21st CENTURY

April 30 - May 2, 2007 Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center, Seattle

Retool, Renew and Re-charge!



Rev. Leslie D. Braxton
Host Pastor

In this third year of this conference, we again are excited and ignited about what God is going to do in YOUR life, with YOUR gifts, and in YOUR place of ministry

Join us beginning April 30, 2007 when we kick

off Empowering the Church For The 21st Century with nationally renowned Guest Speaker, Joel Gregory.

Plan now to attend and register soon.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Kick-Off-Day Worship Service, April 29, 2007 ~ 7:30 & 10:45 AM, Lindbergh High School, Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Guest Preacher

Daytime Minister's Seminar, April 30 - May 2 ~ 3:00-5:00 PM

Re-Discovering Clergy Credibility, Rev. Dr.

Thomas G. Bandy
Preaching Through Conflict, Rev. Dr. Joel Gregory

Re-Discovering Social Conscience Preaching
Rev. Dr. William Watley, Sr.

Evening Seminars & Workshops: April 30 - May 2 6:00-7:20 PM

Developing Effective Leaders & Thriving Congregations, Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Bandy

Re-Discovering Congregational Singing
Min. Ramon Bryant & Min.

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PETER'S PERSPECTIVES

We are in the season of Lent. This has led me to look at the "mission" of Jesus. "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the

Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well," Jesus said, John 14:6-7, NIV. Apostle Paul wrote, "There is one



Rev. Peter Koshi, Chair,
Evergreen Association

God and one way human beings can

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Continue to Pray For...

- Barry Briscoe and Becky Jurewicz and their health concerns, their families, and the Burien Church Community
- Bountiful, Panther Lake, Mount Zion, Seattle First and Mountlake Terrace in their petitions for pastoral leadership.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

*******SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST** is offering a unique retreat opportunity—"What's Good About Good Friday?: A Reflective Exploration of the Death of Christ", March 16-.

For information call or email Catherine Fransson at 206 325-6051; cfransson@sprynet.com To register call 206 325-6051 and talk to Liz.

Rainbow Lodge, Friday night through Sunday lunch. Cost including meals: \$100 per person, dbl occupancy, and \$125 single.

*******UNIVERSITY BAPTIST** through its historic relationship with Haiti is willing to loan to interested churches a banner (approximately 6 ft. long x 3 ft. high) depicting the poverty and violence in Haiti with its central figure being the crucified black Christ. It's amazing and might be good for Lent. Contact Tim Phillips at 206-632-8638 or email: tim@ubcseattle.org

*******AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA 2007 BIENNIAL MEETING / CENTEN-**

NIAL CELEBRATION will be held at the Convention Center, Washington DC, June 29—July 2, 2007. The theme is "Arise and Shine". Begin to plan now to join the celebration. Information and registration online at: abc-usa.org or call the Evergreen office.

******MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH** Women with a Purpose Ministry is inviting all interested community members to
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TAKE YOUR PASTOR, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS TO THE BALL GAME!

The time's approaching for our annual "Take Your Pastor...to the Ballgame event. This year, for a few dollars more, you will have a new, more exciting view line of the game!

Plan to participate in the "Evergreen Family Night" by purchasing tickets to see the Seattle Mariners vs. Baltimore Orioles, Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7 PM. And don't forget to invite your pastor to enjoy an evening out with you, your family

and the entire Evergreen family.

Tickets are \$10.00 each on level 300. When placing your order, please send the completed order form (included in this newsletter on insert/page 8 and your check or money order to: Evergreen Association of ABC, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032.

Orders for tickets must be received in the Kent office by the **deadline: Tuesday, May 22, 2007.**

Evergreen at the Ball Game 2006



Thomas Cung Bik—Myanmar (Burma) theology student at Princeton was with us, too!



Evergreen Receives Thank You Notes

From **Campus Christian Ministry University of Idaho:**

"Your recent donation is very much appreciated. Your support allows us to be in mission to the students and staff at the University of Idaho. We appreciate your trust."

Dr. Sharon Kehoo____

Director

From **Koinonia House Common Ministry Washington State University**

"Thank you so much for your gift...so we can continue our ministry ...developing faith and leadership in WSU students... [and] working ...throughout our community to bring about faith and justice. Blessings to you—"

Gail J. Stearns, Director

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2007, WEDGWOOD, 9 AM
BE SURE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE PLANS TO ATTEND.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER PATTON JOINS “BAPTIST BLITZ BUILD” IN LOUISIANA

Dear Evergreen Family,

Just wanted you to know that I am joining the Baptist Blitz Build done in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and National Ministries in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for

those who were victims of Katrina.

I will leave on Sunday, April 22 and return the 29th. Below is information about the program. We also ran an invitation in the January Ever-

green Notes.

If you'd like to join me, I can forward registration materials, schedule, etc. to you. I appreciate your prayers and support.

Marcia

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge Presents.....*Your Vacation Destination*

Not sure where to vacation this spring?

Want to make a difference in the lives of 12 hurricane-affected families?

Interested in meeting other volunteers and members of the Baptist community from around the country?

If so, Save the Date!

Baptist Blitz Build April 23-May 5, 2007!

- skilled *and* unskilled volunteers to come down to Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- build 12 houses in 2 weeks! alongside 12 hurricane-affected families to build homes and communities.
- need over 325 volunteers per day in all areas of construction, hospitality, landscaping, painting, and others, and a couple of days or the whole two weeks

Please note: There will be a one-time fee made payable to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge of \$100/person which will include 2 meals each day and lodging. If you do not use our lodging facilities, then the cost is \$50 per person.

Building Houses, Building Hope

To receive an informational volunteer packet with more details and how to sign up, contact Victoria Goff, National Ministries, ABC USA, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851 Phone: 1.800.ABC.3USA, ext. 2449 E-mail: vgoff@abc-usa.org

Web site: www.nationalministries.org

Empowering the Church

continued

(Continued from page 1)

James Connor

Answering The Call

Rev. Dr. Patricia Hunter

The Next Generation: Who, What, Where

Rev. Tracy Little

Mission Strategies For The 21st Century

TBA

Nightly Worship Services at 7:30 PM

Monday & Tuesday

Rev. Dr. Joel Gregory, Guest Preacher

Wednesday

Rev. Dr. William Watley, Guest Preacher

Registration \$100

Includes all conference workshops, seminars and nightly worship

More info on the Web at:

www.empowermentconference.org

or ww.thenbcf.org

or NBCF, PO Box 940, Renton, WA 98054 or telephone: (253) 520-6673

Evergreen Volunteers & Leaders at Christmas, 2006



Chellie



Terri, Betty, Charlotte, Virginia
& Bill, Phyllis



Stephanie



Yosh and Larry



Karen

2007 MLK Day Celebration



Dr. Clinton McNair

Rev. James Broughton

Rev. Dr. Wallace C. Smith (center)



Seattle First Baptist Choir



Recognize anyone?

PETER'S PERSPECTIVES

continued

(Continued from page 1)

reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus, who is himself human," I Timothy 2:5, NCV.

What an awesome thought! Jesus Christ is our "bridge" to Father God!

What an awesome concept, a maxim, for Evergreen! Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, our Region, "intentionally" set out to "span" barriers of differences and diversities so as to be not divisive but inclusive.

We realize that for some folks their "comfort zone" is to be right and separated. But for Evergreen the comfort zone is to be united in love as Jesus loved.

Knowing what it means to be "cut off", set aside, because of being different I can not in (good) Christian conscience do what I felt to be wrong, unjust, unloving to those who are not like me. Can I be right

and also be righteous in all instances? (A thought for another time)

In this Lenten season who and what are we called to be? Apostle Paul had couple of reminders: "But the only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves! ...Clearly you are a letter from Christ prepared by us. It is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on stone, but on human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:2,3 NLT; "Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were making an appeal through us, we beg you

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EVERGREEN CHUCHES OUTSTANDING NATIONALLY IN UM GIVING

Terri Simpkins returned from an American Baptist General Board Executive Committee (she serves on that Committee as current President of American Baptist Women) beaming because Evergreen Churches were noted in the giving report by Rev. Dr. Leo Thorne.

There were **two Evergreen**

Churches among the Top 5 Churches in ABC/USA in Increased Giving: #4 New Beginnings Christian Fellowship and #5 Wedgwood Community Church.

We had **one church in the Top 5 African American Churches in United Mission Giving: #3 New Beginnings**

Christian Fellowship.

And of the **7 Regions that increased in Total United Mission Giving, Evergreen had increased by the greatest percentage—33.99%.**

Thank you to all our Evergreen Churches for your faithful support!

Worship Style, Websites, & Absence of Conflict Affect Growth in Congregations

Contemporary worship, geographic location, a website and the absence of conflict are key factors in why some congregations in America are growing, according to the latest national survey of U.S. faith communities.

The survey, sponsored by the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership, found that wanting to grow is not enough. Congregations that grow must plan for growth: "Congregations that developed a plan to recruit members in the last year were much more likely to grow than congregations that had not."

The survey findings are available in a newly released report, "**FACTs on**

Growth." The data was taken from the Faith Communities Today 2005 (FACT2005) survey of 884 randomly sampled congregations of all faith traditions in the United States. The survey updates results from an earlier survey taken in 2000, and is the latest in CCSP's series of trend-tracking national surveys of U.S. congregations.

[This report] tests the continuing salience of long 'taken for granted' principles of growth (e.g., location, conservative theology) as well as the more recently proposed (e.g., contemporary worship, spiritual practices and purposefulness)."

"Perhaps most importantly, it sug-

gests several newly emergent dynamics to consider (e.g., the potential for growth in downtown areas and within multi racial/ethnic congregations). It is a helpful and important follow-up to the "[Pockets of Vitality](#)" analysis of the ground breaking FACT2000 national survey," said David A. Roozen, Director of the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership and Professor of Religion and Society at Hartford Seminary.

You can download "[FACTs on Growth](#)" (written by C. Kirk Hadaway, Director of Research at the Episcopal Church Center in New York) in .pdf format.

PETER'S PERSPECTIVES

(Continued from page 4)

on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20 NAS.

(Our ministry in Evergreen is one of reconciliation is it not?)

"Bridge Over Troubled Water," by Art Garfunkel has become a part of me:

When you're weary, feeling small;
When tears are in your eyes,
I'll dry them all

continued

I'm on your side,
Oh when times get rough
And friends just can't be found;
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Friends, do I ask too much
to ask you to join me in Evergreen
to BE "bridges over troubled waters?"
Maybe Jesus calls us during Lent to
"FOLLOW ME."

I appreciate all of YOU,
our readers. Thanks for being
you and part of us.

Your Chair,

Rev. Peter Koshi

Events & Happenings continued from page 2

its Annual Health Fair. The Health Fair will take place at the church on Sunday, March 11, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Highlights will include information presented by health professionals on topics of interest such as prostate cancer, diabetes, depression/suicide, HIV/AIDS, stroke and heart disease, and "Science on the Go", for youth. Please mark your calendars for this important event.



NATIONAL MINISTRIES PRESENTS THE BLACK CHURCH EDUCATION CONFERENCE, April 19—21, 2007, at the Midwest Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus Ohio.

- pre-conference event—connecting through intercultural ministry
- Bible Study Leader—Dr. Marvin A. McMickle

- Preachers—Dr. Charles E. Booth, Dr. Otha Gilyard, and Dr. Edward L. Wheeler
- American Baptist Extension Corporation (ABEC) Facilities Planning Skills Shop

Continuing Education Grants available for eligible church leaders. Call Lynne Eckman, 800-ABC-3USA for application.

Online registration :

www.makingnewconnections2007.org

Common Ministry at WSU Receives MLK Distinguished Service Award

Edited excerpt from a letter dated February 12, 2007 by Bill Johnston, President of the Common Ministry Council and Jack Alexander, Chair, Endowment Campaign Advisory Board

Common Ministry at Washington State University (WSU) was the recipient of the 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr Distinguished Service Award given by the Pullman Chamber of Commerce. Nominators notes that he Common Ministry has provided forty years of service to the Pullman community, often addressing the needs of marginalized groups.

In keeping with this award, Fritz Hughes, Director of Pullman's Chamber of commerce said, "The Common Ministry

has worked tirelessly and professionally with the students at WSU and the community, adding greatly to the quality of life in our region."

Christian formation of college students is central at the K-House. [Through K-House students can become involved] in mission, racial justice programs, Aids awareness, and other issues complement the active interdenominational Christian activities including weekly suppers, worship, Bible studies, faith development, and retreats. Students will be going to New

Orleans for Katrina Relief Work

...mission, racial justice programs, Aids awareness, and other issues complement the active interdenominational Christian activities ...

over spring break and to Taize, France in May. The trips will be funded solely through designated funds and gifts, and students are right now enthusiastically engaged in fund-raisers.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED IN THE REGION OFFICE

We can use help to

- collate, fold, stuff envelopes, label envelopes, put on mailing labels for the newsletter/other mailings; make copies, file, etc.

As Spring approaches

- planting, pruning, post-storm cleanup and other yard work are needed.

Whether you choose to give a few hours, a day, or an occasional gift of your time, it is greatly appreciated. Call Clem at 253-859-2226 or Betty at 206-363-3689.

JACKSON, LOCAL MEMBER OF MMBB BOARD OF MANAGERS SPOTLIGHTED



Debbie Jackson, as a member of the MMBB Board of Managers monitors and approves key MMBB functions in-

cluding budgets and audits, benefit plans and staffing.

Evergreen is excited to pass along this brief sketch taken from the MMBB newsletter, "Tomorrow", which demon-

strates the breadth and depth of expertise Debbie Jackson brings to her service with MMBB.

Debbie R. Jackson retired vice president/controller, with Quadrant Corporation in Bellevue WA. B.S., University of Washington; M.S., Golden Gate University in San Francisco. Member, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.

**PASTORS, CHURCH
CLERKS,
TREASURERS,
MODERATORS...**

**Look for your 2006
Annual Report Forms
in the mail soon.**

**Due Back in the Region
Office by April 30, or
ASAP**

NAKAGAWA'S WORK ON MINIDOKA PROJECT SPOTLIGHTED

Dr. Yoshitada (Yosh) Nakagawa, in cooperation with the National Park Service and the American Baptist Historical Society will present an historical exhibit during the American Baptist Churches USA Centennial Biennial in Washington DC.



The exhibit, according to the AB Historical Society publication, "Primary Source", will tell some of the story of removal of Japanese Americans from the Seattle area to their internment in Minidoka, Idaho—the camp to which members of Japanese Baptist Church (our own JBC) were sent.

Stories about ministry in these camps will also be on display,

including stories provided by Dr. Nakagawa and our own Rev. Brooks Andrews, son of Rev. Emery Andrews who was pastor of Japanese Baptist Church in 1942 when the relocation to Idaho occurred.

Be sure to stop by the biennial exhibit during this 100th year celebration of American Baptist Churches, USA.

LOVINGLY USED ROBES AVAILABLE FOR THE PRICE OF SHIPPING

St. Luke's Episcopal Church would like to donate robes to a church that can use them, for the cost of shipping from Vancouver, WA.

- 30 green academic-style robes in good condition.
- 7 black academic-style robes, most in good condition.

- 19 plain blue children's robes in good condition
- 18 plain red children's robes in good condition
- 29 plain black children's robes in good condition
- 17 red and white reversible yokes

- 14 green and purple reversible yokes

For further information, please contact Tim Drewes, 503-236-8281.

EVERGREEN LEADERS RETREAT WITH ERIC LAW

The Executive Committee, TEAM and Caucus Leaders retreat with Eric Law at Camp Bethel was a hard-working event! We met on Friday at the office parking lot and sort of followed one another south and east to Camp Bethel. Several cars took circuitous routes to the camp, but eventually all arrived "safe and sound" to an excellent lunch. And then we began work, with community Bible Study and singing. And we continued work, singing, Bible Study and eating throughout Friday and Saturday, returning after one last good meal Saturday evening. (The food at Camp Bethel is one of the reasons to return!)

The results of our work will be seen all year. We share the current results, in the spirit that we want everyone to know what we are doing. You may see a lot you do not understand, we ask you to seek out someone who was there and ask questions.

What we share is "in process." There is much yet to do on these goals, so expect more and ask for clarification if you need.

We looked at Evergreen's history and shared our gifts. Out of that we identified some concerns and the issues under those concerns. From the issues we developed goals. We have set out some action plans, but will not list them since they are still being developed. We had three groups working, hence three issue and goal statements.

ISSUE: Some churches inside and outside EA have never gotten beyond "Welcoming and Affirming."

GOAL: By 2008, Evergreen will have dialogue with the church leadership (Pastors/Officers) of 5 non-participating Evergreen churches that Evergreen Association is **more** than "Welcoming and Affirming."

ISSUE: Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches lacks full participation of its member churches because we all project our old fears and attitudes (about regional/denominational activities) onto new opportunities.

GOAL: By February 2008, 10-15 people from Evergreen member churches with low or no participation will have the opportunity to explore old attitudes and fears and experience the opportunity that is Evergreen.

ISSUE: We need to articulate and live out effectively who we are through relationships, affirming Baptist liberties and equal voice for all cultures.

GOAL: All Caucus will articulate relationally by February 2008 a clear expression of who they are as Evergreen Baptists with equal voice and empowerment that will be received and affirmed by the other caucuses.

You are invited to **Take Your Pastor, Family &/or Friends to the Ball Game!**

Here's how it works:

- A member of an Evergreen church buys as many tickets as needed at \$10.00 each for pastor, family members, other board members or friends, etc..
- Attend the Ball Game: Seattle Mariners vs. Baltimore Orioles, Monday, June 4, 2007, 7 PM

Simply complete the order form below, enclose your check or money order for the number of tickets ordered and send to: Evergreen Association of ABC, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032.

Take Your Pastor, Family & Friends to the Ball Game Order Form

Layperson's Name _____ Telephone _____

Pastor's Name _____

_____ @ \$10.00 each = _____

tickets purchased

Amt Enclosed

Additional names may be written on the back of this form.

All Orders must be in the Evergreen Office by the **DEADLINE: May 22, 2007**



American Baptist Women's Ministries Conference

Moses Lake, April 27-29, 2007

Mission Project

The Mission Project for ABW Ministries Conference to be held at Moses Lake, April 27-29, 2007 will be twofold: support of the Women's Development Center in Yangon, Myanmar and support of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Myanmar Baptist Women to be held in Patheingyi, Myanmar in October, 2007.

I. The Women's Development Center is part of the Myanmar Baptist Women's association of the Myanmar Baptist Convention. Its major goal is to teach young women skills that will enable them to support themselves and to help their families out of abject poverty. WDC offers a safe place to stay (shelter, food, and emotional support) as well as teaching them skills in health care, sewing, and computers.

II. In October, 2007, the Myanmar Baptist Women's Association will be celebrating 50 years of existence under the Myanmar Baptist Convention. Over 1000 women are expected to join the celebration, many of whom will be walking for days in order to get to Patheingyi. They have already started making handmade crafts in order to earn money for their trip.

Specific Needs

Women's Development Center—Monies for:

1. New health carts (materials and equipment to teach).
2. New health packs (equipment to take back to the villages: blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, medicines, bandages, etc.).
3. Sewing equipment (machines, scissors, thread, material, patterns).
4. Computer upgrades and software.

Golden Jubilee Celebration—Monies for:

1. Total cost of retreat is \$30,000
2. Conference subsidies for individual women
3. Support of various Bible Study and workshop leaders.

Mission Speaker

Rev. Angela Pun is President of Myanmar Baptist Women Department which is part of the Myanmar Baptist Convention. She is a teacher at the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Insein, Yangon, Myanmar. At MIT Rev. Pun teaches Christian Education classes and is in charge of many of the student relations. She is also a full time pastor at the Lahu Baptist Church in Insein.

We are eagerly looking forward to her coming to Moses Lake in April to be our Mission Speaker. Please pray for her to be able to obtain her visa, for good health, and for things to go smoothly as she plans her trip to the United States.



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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Email: eba@ea-abc.org

WEB ADDRESS:
ea-abc.org

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 and/or reprint information and articles.



Building Bridges Between Communities

Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 24 [NOTE DATE CHANGE] - Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM

APRIL

- 16—18 Ministers Retreat, Camp Bethel
- 20—21 ACT Weekend
- 30—May 2 Empowering the Church for the 21st Century Regional Conference

MAY

- 19—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM
- 19—Musical Festival (Time/Place—TBD)

JUNE 29—July 2
Biennial Meeting/
Centennial Celebration,
Convention Center, Washington
DC

AUGUST

- 25—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM

OCTOBER

- 12—13 Annual Meeting, Japanese Baptist Church, General Secretary ABCUSA, Roy Medley, Key-note Speaker

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.