



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 7, Issue 3

Community Easter Sunrise Service

Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held

Easter Sunday
March 23, 2008
7:30 AM
St. Ignatius Chapel
Seattle University
901 12th Ave S
(Just off 12th Ave at the 900 block)

The messenger of the morning will be the Reverend Paul Ed-

wards, Associate Minister at Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Evergreen Churches leading in the service will include Japanese Baptist, Mount Zion Baptist and Seattle First Baptist. And representatives from Seattle University and the ecumenical and interfaith communities of First Hill,

Capitol Hill and beyond will also participate in the worship service.

Let us greet Easter morning 2008 together—"CHRIST IS RISEN; HE IS RISEN, INDEED!"

Contact Rev. Peter Koshi, Past Chair of Evergreen Association at 206-417-3084.

Inside this issue:

<i>Events & Happenings</i>	2
<i>Share A Witness</i>	2
<i>Evergreen Leaders Retreat</i>	4
<i>American Baptist Women's News</i>	5
<i>Influx of Karen & Chin Refugees</i>	6
<i>Evergreen Reps at the New Baptist Covenant</i>	7
<i>ABWM/PNW Conference Registration Form</i>	8

Curtis Comments: What Have You Done for Me Lately?

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." - Matthew 11:4-6

In my conversations with people about Evergreen I occasionally get asked, "What has the region done for me?" This is a legitimate question to ask, and the

answers are numerous. However, the most exciting and interesting things happening within the Evergreen association have little to do with the mundane judicatory obligations of a Region. In truth, a better question would be, "What are we doing?" It is not inaccurate to see a region as a structure and an organization that is there



to service the churches. Nor is it unusual to view the executive as a regional ambassador and facilitator when a staff position is vacated. Yet these as-

(Continued on page 7)

Continued Prayers for our churches seeking pastoral leadership:

- Grace Baptist Church—San Jose
- Pullman Baptist Church
- Seattle first Baptist

Events & Happenings

 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church** celebrated its 31st Church Anniversary, Sunday, February, 24, 2008.

 **University Baptist Church** (4554 12th Ave. NE, Seattle 98105) has decided to sell its building following a two-year discernment period.

 **Annual Reports 2007** will be due by April 30, 2008. **Pastors, Treasurers,**

Church Clerks, Moderators: Please look for the forms in the mail soon, or go online to annualreport.abcis.org, use your church PIN and the leadership ID number of one of your professional staff to log on. You may contact the Association Office for the Region PIN to use in place of the Leadership ID.

 **Washington Baptist Convention (WBC) Biennial Breakfast Meeting**

will be held in Richland WA on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

 Mark your calendars for the **6th Annual Meeting of the Evergreen Association—ABC**, October 10—11, 2008, New Hope Baptist Church; Rev Ken Fong, Pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church, Los Angeles CA, keynote speaker.

Share A Witness: How have you seen the heart of God through Evergreen?

You are invited to write and submit a 150—200 word essay in response to the question, “How have you seen the heart of God through involvement in/with Evergreen?” to be published in future Evergreen Notes.

So if you’ve been a part of events, interactions, formed meaningful relationships, etc.

as a result of being a part of Evergreen, we want to share your “story”, your “witness” with the rest of the Evergreen family and friends.

Send your ‘witness’ to the Evergreen Association—ABC, 409 Third Ave. S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032 or email it to clemeba@comcast.net

Pictures or other accompany-

ing graphics are appreciated.

“How have you seen the heart of God through involvement in/with Evergreen?”

Volunteer Videographer Needed Immediately!

We are seeking a skilled videographer to assist in the development of an Evergreen video project.

The videographer will make recordings at several events over the next year, and will assist in editing the final

video product. Completion of the project will likely involve some travel which may be reimbursed.

Please contact James Winbush at 425 277-0050 or the Evergreen office (253-859-2226) for further details.

Be “Surprised by God’s People”—July 18-20, 2008 Medford Oregon



International Ministries ABC joins with American Baptist Churches of Oregon to present and invite you and your congregation to the World Mission Conference. This is an opportunity for West Coasters to meet with the

missionaries listed below. Information and Registration: Call 541-779-7831 or go to www.internationalministries.org

Some of the missionaries currently expected to attend the conference include:

- Gary and Mylinda Baits (Costa Rica)
- Dan Buttry, global consultant on reconciliation and economic development

- Mike Lawery (The Congo)
- Karen Smith (Thailand)
- Duane Binkley works with Refugees in northern Thailand.

Labyrinth Offerings at Seattle First Baptist Church

The labyrinth project at Seattle First Baptist Church will be led by the Rev. Carolyn Shimabukuro, a member at Japanese Baptist Church. She is a trained spiritual director and leads retreats that often include labyrinth walking and prayer.

A special **Maundy Thursday labyrinth evening** is offered on Thursday March 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Enter at the rear glass

doors off the parking lot any time for soup and bread in



Fridell Lounge, and a labyrinth walk by candlelight in the clois-

tered hall; partake of communion, and light candles for your own prayers.

The regular **second Sunday labyrinth** continues to be

open from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each month** in Fellowship Hall at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard, Seattle 98122.

Park on the street and enter the lower Seneca doors. Free. Contributions welcomed.

Calendar the remaining dates for this spring: March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8.

Tent City 4

Tent City 4 (TC4) has been very short on evening meals and the fall-back resources in the kitchen tent are depleted.

All help will be greatly appreciated! If you have canned

goods, especially things like cans of chili that you want to donate, such as non-perishables, just drop them off at the Community Church of Issaquah office anytime.

If you would like to do a meal

Elizabeth Maupin

at another time, check out the calendar at

<http://prem.calendars.net/tcmeals/d01/03/2008?display=M&style=B&positioning=A>.

Just click on the month you are interested in and note the empty spots.

Evergreen Leaders Retreat at Camp Bethel February 15–16 2008

The Evergreen Leadership has identified two new goals for 2008. They are, in no particular order:

- **GOAL:** The leader group will each have told why he/she is excited about Evergreen so that at least one person per leader is added to the faithful (participating body).. And
- **GOAL:** In the most culturally appropriate way, each caucus will identify a church with a need, and the people of the association will rally around to help address that need by the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Pictured L-R:
(Top Row)
 Cathy Fransson,
 Marcia Patton;
(Middle Row)
 Doug Holmes,
 Walter Heyman,
 Curtis Price,
 James Winbush,
 Clem Winbush,
 Marge Burns;
(Front Row)
 Jon Peterson,
 Ken Curl, Perla
 Belo, Angela
 Farrar, Bev
 Spears, David
 Kile, and Eric
 Law, facilitator.



The Church Council of Greater Seattle (one of the largest ecumenical organizations in the U.S.) Seeks A Director.



For additional information including a complete job description, visit <http://www.thechurchcouncil.org/subpages/employment.html>

The 25th Annual McKee Consultation February 5–8, 2008 Miami FL

Pictured here are some of the Black Executives representing



national and regional agencies in the American Baptist Churches who gathered for the “Silver Moment: Celebrating Roots and Possibilities” at

the 25th McKee Consultation. Members of the McKee Consultation (named in honor of its founder, Bill McKee) in past years have convened annually for personal spiritual and professional growth.

However, beginning with the 2007 consultation, and coming to fruition around the denomination’s look at restruc-

ture, McKee has focused its attention on completing a Call to Action Plan. The intent of the plan is to work within existing structures and take into account proposed structures to assure the voice of the black church is heard, since the latest figures suggest that black churches are 24% in number, yet 48% of the members in ABCUSA.



Terri Simpkins
National President
American Baptist Women

Did you know that **every day** in America: 4 children are killed by abuse or neglect;

5 children or teens commit suicide; 8 children or teens are killed by firearms; 77 children die before their first birthdays; 906 babies are born at low birth weight; and the list goes on? This information was compiled by Matt Rosen, Deputy Director of Religious Action for the Children's Defense Fund's National Office in Washington D.C. and was published in the Spring 2008 edition of *The Children's Corner*, a newsletter published by National Ministries, ABC-USA.

AB Women's Ministries has partnered with National Ministries to promote the issue of Children in Poverty. Now you have the opportunity to learn more about how you, and your church, can help fight poverty, by attending the North Puget Sound Spring Rally, Saturday April 5 at Burien Community Church and AB Women's Conference April 18-20 in Yakima at the Clarion Hotel.

The NPS Spring Rally, Saturday, April 5th from 9am-2pm will be held at Burien

Community Church. The theme will be "Love for the Joy of Others" and the speaker will be Dorian Mendez-Vaz, from National Ministries. She is the National Coordinator for Children & Intergenerational Ministries, and she will be talking about Children in Poverty.

On April 18-20 the Pacific Northwest Women's Conference missionary speaker will be Victoria Goff, she is also a member of National Ministries staff where she serves as Overland White Cross Coordinator and National Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries. As a staff member, she works with a team that educates women (and men) in ways that they can better serve Children in Poverty.

Both of these are "must attend" events! You will find women like yourself that want to know more ways to help children today. Don't forget, the great fellowship with old friends; maybe make some new friends, and of course, there will be lots of great food.

For more information regarding Children in Poverty, you can go to www.abwministires.org and click Ministry Areas; next click Personal Development and at the bottom of the page

click the word resources, and there you will find a list. Click Children in Poverty. Check out the Bible Study Series that can be used with your local women's group. Another option is to go to www.nationalministries.org and click on Children in Poverty to check out the resources available there.

While attending a workshop on Children in Poverty at the New Baptist Covenant last month in Atlanta, one of the panelist said, breaking the cycle of poverty begins with taking seriously the Bible, people in need and the church's call to respond—reminding us that poverty is

"You will find women like yourself that want to know more ways to help children today."

not optional for Christians and churches that are serious about following Christ. There are ways that you can help curb the growth of poverty.

So, I invite you to come, share what is happening in your church, and glean some new ideas from your sisters in Christ.

See you soon,

Terri

The Influx of Karen and Chin Refugees



The challenge and opportunity brought to American Baptists by the recent influx of Karen and Chin refugees from Burma (Myanmar) coming to the United States under the U.S. government's Refugee Resettlement Program were reiterated in a letter from Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Director of National Ministries, ABC.

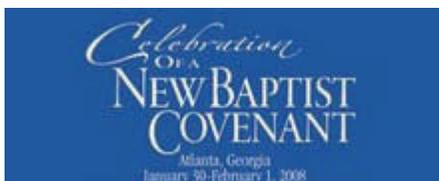
Churches in Evergreen are encouraged to

- Get Informed: Contact Florence Li, National Ministries (Florence.Li@abc-usa.org, 800-222-3872 x2468) and Duane and Marcia Binkley, IM missionaries reassigned to work with the this new population at www.karenkonnection.org or (dmbink@pobox.com, 330-699-4174)
- Contact the resettlement agency near you:

www.refugees.org/blog/themes/USCRINetwork/network/resources/FY2004VolagDir.pdf

One Seattle agency listed is Refugee Assistance Program; Edward Esparza, 4250 S Mead Street, Seattle WA 98118, T: 206-725-2090 x11 Fax: 206-725-9046 eduarde@ccsw.org

- Support the effort through mission giving to Giuffrida Burmese Refugees Fund
- Pray. ... Pray the Karen & Chin find sanctuary among us.



The New Baptist Covenant—Reflections

“...As I reflected on each presenter’s words, I could not help but feel hope and expectation that a unified mission effort will, indeed, emerge from our conversation. Baptist clergy and lay servants from around the country shared insights from their experiences welcoming the stranger. And all of us were seeking to better understand the challenge of how to extend meaningful hospitality to the African, Burmese, Haitian and Latino immigrants who have come to this country seeking refuge and a better life.”

Halliburton
Coordinator for Inter
Ministries, National

Brenda
National
cultural
Ministries

“...If we had not taken this initial step there would be no potential for shared mission and ministry across some traditional "human built" divisions. I celebrate The New Baptist Covenant Celebration. My prayer would be that within our own ABCUSA family we would discover anew the joy and necessity of dwelling together in the presence of God and one another that we might be energized for mission and ministry in our time.”

Arlo R. Reichter
Executive Minister
ABC of Wisconsin

“...I wonder if we might all learn to adhere to the charge given us by former President Carter in his closing remarks: “Love God and love the person who is standing in front of you at any

particular time.” Perhaps that is what this wonderful conference has been about—challenging us to move beyond the borders of

Read more reflections on the web at www.nationalministries.org

our personal comfort. Perhaps the challenge before us is to move collectively closer to the cross until, even as the eyes of the world are upon us, we become the image of the serving, suffering and triumphant Christ....”

Marilyn Turner
Associate Executive Director,
National Ministries ABC

Curtis Comments

(Continued from page 1)

pects of the region are not what get my blood flowing. We have taken on the historic designation of “association” rather than “region” because ultimately we wish to be together based on a deeper bond than just structural affiliation. Our “association” is one built on relationship, mission and being the community of God.

For us relationship is foundational to our life together. First there is the relationship of our commonality in Christ and in our Baptist heritage. And even more importantly is the relationships that have been built because people of good-will said “there is something to be gained by being in a trusting relationship for which I have to work”. In Evergreen I see two things happening that I have never seen before. The first is that people are in friendships (not just task forces or committees – real friendships) that if not for Evergreen, would probably not even know each other. The people who are most excited about the Association are the people who have found these kinds of

relationships. The second thing I see happening is, people have to work at being together in this association. We are not just a natural affinity group; in fact it is just the opposite. We have to really work to be together and the rewards are always greater when you have to work for it.

Evergreen is the intersection of our communities' passions.

We are a missional organization and what that means to me is that we exist not as a self-perpetuating entity, but as one that is driven by the mission of God. This “mission” finds its expression in the work of the local church. Evergreen is the intersection of our communities’ passions. Through the association we extend the invitation to be a part of what God is doing in our churches. The ministry of the local church then becomes the ministry of the association. It is not about the services provided, but about the connections being made. It is about doing together what we cannot do alone.

continued

Finally, being in association is about being faithful. Jesus Christ lived out a new way that confounded the world. We are called to no less today as we struggle, trying to live out the Kingdom of God that Jesus describes in the gospels. It is hard because it is revolutionary.

Our association together depends on these things. But, beyond that, it is driven by the passions and resources of the people within it. The region is whatever we, together, make it. We are empowered to shape this association and with empowerment, comes responsibility. It is fair to continue to ask me, “What is the region doing for me?” However, don’t be surprised if within my answer comes back the question, “What are *we* doing together?”

Peace,



Evergreen was well represented by the following known attendees at the New Baptist Covenant Gathering in Atlanta:

- Chris Boyer—Good Shepherd
- Leslie Braxton—New Beginnings
- Emma Cotton—Mount Zion
- Elma Horton—Mount Zion
- Gwen Howard—Mount Zion
- Clara LaSane—New Beginnings
- Georgia McDade—Mount Zion

- Samuel B. McKinney— Mount Zion
- Rick Mixon—Palo Alto
- Marcia Patton—Executive Minister—Evergreen
- Charlie Scalise—Good Shepherd
- Terri Simpkins—Burien
- Josephine Stokes—Mount Zion
- Scott Weisser—Salt Lake

ABW Ministries / PNW Conference

April 18 – April 20, 2008

Clarion – Yakima, WA

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please Print)

NAME (as you would like it on the name tag): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FIRST TIME ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE? YES ___ NO ___

CHURCH YOU ATTEND: _____

Please send in this registration form, and **TOTAL PAYMENT**, by April 10th. It is very helpful if you find your own roommates; however, we understand this is not always possible. We will do our best to help you find a roommate (s); you must be able to accept the selected roommate. It may not be possible to put you in a room for the number of people you request. Depending on the amount you send in, you may owe more money, or we may need to refund some of your money. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

The following fees are **per person**, and due with the registration form. Please circle the room setup you desire. (Includes Meals & Registration)

One Person 1 Bed . . . \$244.

Two Persons 1 Bed . . . \$162. Two Persons 2 Beds . . \$172.

Three Persons 2 Beds . . \$141. Four Persons 2 Beds . . \$126.

Saturday Only: . . . \$50.00 (Registration, Lunch, & Dinner)

Full-time - no overnight: . . . \$80.00 (Registration & Meals)

Roommate Names: _____

of roommate (s) needed: _____

Special Needs:

Handicapped Room? _____ Most rooms are located on the first floor: Rooms are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Handicap-accessible rooms are usually filled by the middle of March. You must get your registration in **EARLY**.

Diabetic? _____ Food Allergies? _____

We understand that there are dietary needs, but please remember we try to pick meals that most people should be able to eat. Our cost is based on the meals we pick; we need to stick to those meals, if possible.

Please make your check payable to ABW/PNW. Send your check and registration form to:

Nadine Glass – 919 South Monroe, Tacoma WA 98405 – Contact Nadine at: (253 761-1081) or by email at: edandnadine@msn.com or nadineg@uwpc.org.

Bringing Chemo Hats? If yes, complete this statement: The Chemo Hat (s) is/are in honor of _____.

If you have any other questions about conference, please contact Gail Aita at: 253 -813-5399.



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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:
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

MARCH

- 8—Black Caucus Meeting, New Hope Baptist Church, 124—21st Ave S, Seattle 98122, 9 AM
- 15—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM
- 23—Easter Sunrise Service, Seattle Univ., 7:30 AM
- 3/30—4/2 Ministers Retreat, Camp Bethel

APRIL

- 5—NPS ABWM Spring Rally, Burien Church
- 18—20 PNW AB Women's Conference, Yakima
- 27—30 J. Alfred Smith, Sr./Raymond Bakke Empower-

ment Conference, Seattle Airport Hilton

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

MAY

- 17—WBC Biennial Breakfast Meeting, Richland WA
- 31—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM

JULY



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

AUGUST

- 19—Minister & Spouse Cruise. More info to come.

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.