

# Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 11, Issue 5

## Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Fundraiser—May 5, 2012; 6 PM

**¡Fiesta!**

The newly formed Evergreen Hispanic Caucus invites you to its first event—A Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Fundraiser at University Baptist Church, 4731 15th Ave. NE, Seattle 98105; Saturday, May 5, 2012, 6:00 PM

Everyone is invited for this *dinner and dessert auction*.

**Cost? \$25 adult  
\$10 children**

Celebrate CINCO DE MAYO with your Hispanic sisters and brothers from Evergreen. Buffet style Latin food will be served!

**You are invited to donate a dessert for the dessert Auction.**

Limited parking is available on the lot across from the church.

Contact your Association Board representative; Clem in the Evergreen office (253-859-2226); or Pastor Manny at University Baptist Church (206-632-5188) for tickets.

Make checks payable to *Evergreen Association*, and note “Hispanic Caucus” on the memo line.

Hope to see you there!!

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### Remember in Prayer:

*Churches seeking Pastors:*

*New Community of Faith*

*Japanese Baptist Church*

*Burien Community Church*

*Wedgwood Community*

*Filipino American Christian Fellowship*

***Thank you for your prayers for the Evergreen Missionaries to Haiti. Our needs were met and we returned home safely. Praise be to God!***

## Perla's Pearls— Postethnic America



*Rev. Perla Belo  
Association Chair*


Several years ago while on the executive staff with National Ministries I read the book titled


“Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism” written by David A. Hollinger. The postethnic perspective recognizes that most individuals live in many circles

simultaneously and that the actual living of any individual life involves a shifting of division of labor between the several “we’s” of which the


*(Continued on page 2)*

## Events & Happenings Around the Association


 You are invited as **Seattle First Baptist Church** presents the Rev. Dr. Rodney Romney Lecture Series, Friday – Sunday, May 4-6, 2012 featuring **Dr. Robin R. Meyers** speaking on *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus*.

 **Seattle First Baptist Church** hosts LeAnn Snow Flesher (see article on page 3)

 **First Baptist Church of Berkeley** celebrates its 123rd anniversary and its new worship space at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Crouch Hall at 10 AM. On Sunday May 27th they will worship for the last time at First Congregational Church of Berkeley Loper Chapel.

 **Take Your Pastor /Leader/Friend/Family to the Baseball Game** - Seattle

Mariners vs. Oakland A's, Monday, June 25, 2012; 7:10 PM. Ticket information on page 6 of this newsletter.

 **Bar-B-Que Fundraiser**  
Sponsored by the Evergreen Black Caucus, July 14, 2012; Cedar River Trail Park in Renton. Tickets remain \$20 each; and there will be an expanded auction of baked goods and other special items such as one week at a cabin on Ocean Shores.

## Perla's Pearls

*(Continued from page 1)*

individual is a part.

This view seeks a wider “we” attitude that is not limited to one primary ethnic grouping and to stretch the circle and test its limits in terms of its capacity to include more “we” groups. This is a centered set view.

The bounded set is a “set of people clearly marked off from those who do not be-

long to it.” (Frost & Hirsch, *The Shape of Things to Come*). In Evergreen we are a bounded set marked by our various ethnic caucuses. In the centered set, “rather than drawing a border to determine who belongs and who doesn't, though some people are close to the center and others far from it, everyone is potentially part of the community and its broader sense” (Frost & Hirsch),

continued

We at Evergreen combine the bounded set (ethnic caucuses) and the centered set through our core values (mission statement). There will come a time when Jesus Christ truly becomes our center, and then the boundaries will go. Until then, we continue to live out our Evergreen life in our ethnic caucuses and centered set through our mission statement.

## Baptists Lunching Together (BLT)

From the PCBA Notes, May 2012:

May 12—**PCBA Spring Conference** at the Alameda First Baptist Church. The keynote speaker will be Jennifer W. Davidson, Ph.D. She will explore the theme, “Why Worship Matters”. Con-

ference registration is \$30. A coffee gathering time begins at 8:30 AM.

**BLT 12 Noon:** Grand Lake Gardens, 401 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland

June 13—Harold Davis, “Living in Two Worlds:

Church and Community”

September 19—Robert Wilkins

October 17—A Panel: “Gay Clergy”; Jim Hopkins, Moderator; Esther Hargis, Wally Bryen and Rick Mixon, panelists.

# Japan Earthquake: Reflections, Observations and Hope—One Year Later

News by Catherine Nold

**Thank you** for your gifts of more than **\$460,000** to One Great Hour of Sharing “Japan Relief” to help [our] Japanese brothers and sisters in Christ after the 8.9 earthquake struck on March 11, 2011, followed by a devastating tsunami along the coast.

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) missionaries who have been involved in relief and rebuilding efforts are sharing their reflections and photos of the last 365 days. In these personal accounts, you can read about the successes and surprises, and how God is working to restore lives and hope. To see the first-anniversary collection, go to

[http://www.internationalministries.org/topics/japan\\_relief](http://www.internationalministries.org/topics/japan_relief)

IM missionary **Roberta Stephens** recalls, “The first [financial] installments sent soon after the disaster struck were used as initial ‘condolence gifts to Baptist related families who lost loved ones and whose

houses were partially or totally destroyed. This was money that helped many to stand on their own feet again.”

IM missionary **Lee Ann Hwang** comments about life today in the disaster-affected areas [saying], “When we visited the temporary housing locations in Minamisanriku, 2 hours north of Sendai... the broken buildings and debris left by the tsunamis have been consolidated into neat mountains of garbage, piles of tires, and neatly stacked ruined cars. The city has been replaced with....nothing. While earthquake survivors were able to rebuild their homes and businesses, tsunami evacuees (and radiation evacuees in other areas) struggle with the big question mark of their future.”

“Pastors from Okinawa Baptist churches,” recalls IM missionary **Leslie Turley**, “went on a mission to Northeast Japan in June 2011 to encourage and comfort the survivors of the March 11<sup>th</sup>

*“American Baptist International Ministries (IM) missionaries who have been involved in relief and rebuilding efforts are sharing their reflections and photos ...”*

disaster.” She remembers how an elderly woman in a homeless shelter was comforted by the hymn, “His Eye is on the Sparrow.”

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The Committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work, and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received by churches. Learn more: <http://www.abc-oghs.org/>

## SFBC Hosts ABSW Professor Snow Flesher—Alums & Friends Invited

Alums and Friends of the American Baptist Seminary of the West (ABSW) are invited to a dessert reception with Dr. LeAnn Snow Flesher, Professor of Old Testament and Academic Dean at ABSW, on Saturday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Seattle First

Baptist Church. No RSVP is necessary. Meet Dr. Flesher; hear about what is happening at ABSW; and enjoy an evening with friends and colleagues.

Dr. Flesher will also present her book, *Left Behind: Facts Behind the Fiction* (Judson,

2006), during the 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning session at Seattle First Baptist on Sunday morning, May 27th. And she will preach at the 11 a.m. Pentecost Service. All are welcome.

# HAITI MISSION TRIP 2012



L-R: Pharez, Angeline, Toni, Mary, Keith, Susan, Michael, Judy, Clem, Ron



*The school—day one*



*Kihomi translates Gen. Sec. Mano's message*



*The school work continues*



*Lifting & carrying cinder blocks*



*Reflection time at the end of the day*



*There is much work to be done.*



*The Eye Clinic waiting room*



*Truck loaded with purchases from the Dominican Republic*



*Nzunga distributes care packages to the little ones*

Start planning now to be a part of the 2013 Haiti Mission Trip. Or plan to help someone else be a part of the 2013 group. Watch this newsletter for articles and other pictures. On the Evergreen web page at [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org) under Evergreen in Action, you can find Susan's almost daily notes about our trip experiences. Invite one or two team members to share with your congregation. The possibilities are endless...

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. [The Lord] asked me, ‘Son of Man, can these bones live?’ I said ‘O Sovereign Lord, you alone know...’ – Ezekiel 37:1-3 (NIV)

As I experienced the poverty of Haiti this past week, the above Scripture came to my mind over and over. We used it as part of our evening reflection one night. Even though we went primarily to a part of Haiti less affected by the earthquake, the poverty and suffering was all around us. As we heard about the causes of the Haitians’ struggle from missionaries Nzunga and Kihomi Mabudiga, the sense of despair started to creep in for me. Haiti no longer has any products which can provide income by export. Their government leaders allowed a devastating destruction of Haiti’s trees which has led to massive soil erosion, and a greatly limited ability to grow crops. Garbage and pollution was on nearly every street corner and poured into the waterways and across the beaches. Disease comes not only from this publicly-disposed waste, but also from water systems compromised by the quake. Cholera, (though it has improved with education) is widespread. Around 60% of the children never finish grade school. On one expedition to an historic castle, I was guided by a young man who had been forced by necessity to quit school after the third grade. Much of the money he makes from being a guide goes toward school for his four-

year old sister. With all of this against the people, where is the hope? It seems, “[their] bones are dried up and [their] hope is gone...” (Ezek. 37:11.)

When Ezekiel said the original words, Israel was at the low ebb of their history as a nation. Babylon had wiped them out in a bloody war, and the survivors had been led away to captivity. Years later when they came back to the devastation still there, Ezekiel went to a valley where one of the battles against the Babylonians had been fought, and he saw the dead dry bones of Israel’s vanquished army – their fellow-countrymen, and perhaps friends and ancestors. No wonder God invited Ezekiel to wonder if it was even possible to raise the nation from the dead. But Ezekiel gave a wise answer: “O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”

Just as some think Haiti can never again recover and be prosperous, my guess is there were plenty who said the same of Israel in Ezekiel’s day. And much later in our own country’s history, after the devastation of our nation’s Civil War ... there were doubtlessly many who raised that question again, “Can these bones live?” And just before that war there were enslaved black people who had had their families torn apart and been sold into slavery...But in the midst of this devastation they sang a song based on Ezekiel’s vision: “*Dem bones gonna rise again!*” We need to sing alongside the people of Haiti, “*Dem bones gonna rise again!*”

We cannot do it for them, but we

can work with those now in Haiti to bring and help implement a vision of hope. Already the Haitian Baptist Convention, from whom Evergreen received the invitation and our host through American Baptist missionaries Nzunga and Kihomi, is running a hospital, a much-used eye clinic, an orphanage, and at least one school. We assisted in the building of another school which Nzunga is determined to fill with quality teachers. We who went on this trip have seen the hope of these institutions as well. We have seen the hope in Nzunga and Kihomi, as Kihomi works with women bringing cholera education, as well as empowerment for women; and Nzunga works with the “Pigs for Kids” and “Kids [goats] for Kids” projects, where rural children can raise animals to help feed their families and earn money for their schooling. Through our work God is putting a new spirit in the old, dry bones of Haiti. The churches of the Evergreen Association have already given money to fan this flicker of light to flame. In the months and years to come, my dream is that we can do even more to keep this hope alive and help Haiti rebuild, even as Israel did in Ezekiel’s time.

**Editor’s Note:** *Evergreen hopes a 2013 mission trip to Haiti will enable you to be a part of the completion of the school, and other help for the people of Haiti. Determine to join us, or if you are not inclined to go, determine to financially assist someone else to be the presence of Christ among this hurting people. Stay tuned.*

# Join Us for Evergreen's Annual Take Your Pastor, Family &/or Friends to the Baseball Game!



Seattle Mariners vs. Oakland A's  
At Safeco Field

Monday, June 25, 2012 7:10 PM

Send your name, address and number of tickets (\$10 each) with your check or money order to:  
Evergreen Association of ABC, 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A, Kent WA 98032.

You may also phone, fax or email your request (see back page for contact info)—when payment is received, the ticket (s) will be mailed to you.

## March for Trayvon Martin—Mt Zion Baptist Church to Westlake Park

Mount Zion Baptist Church was the gathering site for a march for Trayvon Martin sponsored by the NAACP.

The picture to the right captures two Evergreen pastors participating in the March—L-R: Pastor Walter Heyman of New Walk Christian





Church and Pastor Manny Santiago of University Bap-

tist Church. Not pictured and also participating in the march is the photographer, Rev. Marcia Patton, Executive Minister of Evergreen Association.


Thank you for representing Evergreen in this call for justice!

## Other Happenings ...

 **Sukiyaki Dinner A Success**  
The Japanese Baptist Church Sukiyaki Dinner, a scholarship fundraiser held on Saturday, April 28th was a success. JBC thanks you for your support!

 **Champoux Ordination**  
Congratulations, Gretchen Champoux on your ordination

by Seattle First Baptist Church on April 22, 2012 at 2 PM!

 **Braxton Preaching at Call Retreat**  
Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton, pastor of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship is preaching at the Sunday evening worship service at the Call Re-

treat-the Global Missions Conference on May 18—20 at the Green Lake Conference Center.

Call Globally, a chance to interact with a number of international missionaries follows on May 20 –24. Conference closing will feature Tony Campolo and Jars of Clay.

# Immerse: Will Your American Baptist Youth Gather in the Nation's Capitol?



It's time to register for Immerse, the gathering of American Baptist youth from across the nation in Washington D.C. , July 24—28, 2012. Won't you encourage and financially support a youth (14—19 year olds) to spend

some time in our nation's capitol immersed in worship—songs, prayers, and fellowship with other American Baptist youth?

The website to visit for more details is [www.abhms-immerse2012.org](http://www.abhms-immerse2012.org)

The challenge from Salt Lake City FBC still stands; and Wedgwood is sending two young ladies. What about our reps from other churches?

If you have questions please call (253) 859-2226; email [clemeba@comcast.net](mailto:clemeba@comcast.net); or fax (253) 859-1537 the Evergreen office. We will be excited to help work out the details with you.

**REGISTER FOR  
IMMERSE  
NOW!**

## ABCUSA Mission Summit- Biennial 2013

Are you a  
Musician, Dancer, Performer, Soloist,  
Choir, Instrumentalist?

If yes, We need you!

Mission Summit – Biennial 2013  
The American Baptist Mission Summit/  
Biennial, Overland Park/Kansas City  
June 21 – June 23, 2013

Performers are invited to fill out an application which can be sent from the Evergreen office and send it in as soon as possible.

The application deadline is  
November 15, 2012.

**Come celebrate the  
tremendous blessings that  
God has bestowed  
upon Camp Burton, so that  
we may continue his work**



**OPEN HOUSE 2- 4 p.m.  
MAY 6th, 2012  
at BURTON LODGE**

**Special Kitchen Dedication at 3:00 p.m.**  
Please join us to share refreshments and to see the improvements that we have made here at Camp Burton.



# Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

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[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.



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton  
Executive Minister

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### MAY

4—6 ABW-NW Conference,  
Ross Point Camp

5—Hispanic Caucus Fund-  
raiser, University Baptist  
Church, 6 PM

### JUNE

9—Association Board Meeting,  
9 AM, Wedgwood

25—Take Your Pastor to the  
Baseball Game, 7:10 PM (see  
pg. 6)

### JULY

14—Bar-B-Que Fundraiser;  
details on page 2; **SAVE THE  
DATE**

24—28 Immerse; ABC Youth  
Gathering, Washington DC

### AUGUST

25—Association Board Meet-  
ing, 9 AM, Wedgwood

**OCTOBER 11-13, 2012 -  
ANNUAL MEETING,  
Mount Zion Baptist  
Church**

## MISSION STATEMENT

Being a culturally diverse peo-  
ple 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.