

Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 10, Issue 10

Evergreen Annual Meeting 2011: “Do this and you will live” Luke 10:28b



Rev. Florence Li

It's time for the eighth Annual Meeting beginning on

Thursday, October 13: dinner and sacred conversations about the movie, “The Help” to be held in the homes of members.

Friday, October 14: at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Avenue, **registration** opens at 11 AM, followed by a **Minister's Coun-**

cil Luncheon and a Laity Luncheon at noon. Workshops, fellowship and evening worship with music by the SFBC choir complete the day.

Saturday, October 15: Registration opens at 8 AM, and we begin our worshipful work in Caucasus. Joining us for 11AM worship will be the Karen, Chin and Japanese Choirs.

The preacher for worship services on both

Friday and Saturday will be the Rev. Florence Li, ABHMS Asian Strategist.

Special guests from the ABCUSA family— Eleazar Zihembere, Director of African American Mission, and Perkin Simpson, VP of Finance, American Baptist Foundation will be available to share informally with us.

Continue praying for the leading of the Holy Spirit as we look to the future.

Puzzle Pieces

By now your church should have either received your puzzle piece in person or by mail. At the Annual Meeting the puzzle pieces will be placed on a board so that we can tell the Ever-

green Story in pictures, words, colors, sayings, or other methods of informing the Association of our work for the LORD. What a wonderful opportunity to express our love,

hope, faith, and obedience to God's calling.

What will your piece look like? I can't wait



Minister Ken Curl
Evergreen Chair

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:


| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Events & Happenings Around the Association</i> | 2 |
| <i>Arts & Craft Sale</i> | 3 |
| <i>Join Sacred Conversations on October 13</i> | 3 |
| <i>Evergreen Receives Palmer Grant</i> | 4 |
| <i>Euro Caucus Sponsors Evergreen Dinner / Dance Fundraiser</i> | 7 |
| <i>Haiti Mission Trip</i> | 8 |
| <i>FBC Berkeley's Special Project</i> | 12 |


Prayer Concerns


Churches seeking pastoral leaders—Wedgwood Community Church, Burton Community Church, and Burien Community Church

Churches soon to be seeking pastoral leadership—Japanese Baptist Church as Pastor Aita retires, and Filipino Christian Fellowship

Events & Happenings Around the Association

 **EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION—ABC ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 14-15,** Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard, Seattle 98122

 **FREMONT BAPTIST CHURCH** invites you to Hymn Sing #5 on Sunday, October 30th, 2 PM.

 Join Evergreen member churches on a **Mission Trip to Haiti**, April 20—29, 2012. Send \$100 deposit to 409 Third Avenue S, Suite A,

Kent WA. See info on page 8.

 **SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Labyrinth Ministry**—private reflection and meditative walking. Music and words available for your personal contemplation. Open 6 to 8 PM every second Sunday through the next seven months, or May 2012, with the exception of New Year's Day 2012. Enter at the lower Seneca doors.

Caucus Leaders:

Remember Your Special Meeting

Friday, Oct. 14, 2011
9:30 AM—12 Noon

Seattle First Baptist Church
Peacemakers Room

Puzzle Pieces

continued

by Ken Curl

(Continued from page 1)

to find out. With just a few days before our Annual Meeting, I am praying congregations are diligently working on their message.

Pastors, please make sure you appoint someone to this work who has creative talent. That's probably why my Pastor didn't ask me (just kidding!). The result should be pleasing not only to the

Association members but to God as well.

May God add a blessing to your puzzle piece and the congregation of believers it will represent.

A New Heaven & A New Earth Cultural Competency Training

This introductory workshop will help you build skills to effectively communicate with a variety of people, and build relationships across cultures.

*Lay, lay/clergy teams and/or
*congregations whose communities are becoming more diverse, or who are sharing or contemplating sharing facilities; *persons ministering cross-culturally, *persons who are curious about their own blocks to embracing di-

versity should attend this workshop:

Saturday, October 29, 2011

Registration: 8:30 AM

Seminar: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Central Lutheran Church

1710 11th Ave.,

Seattle WA 98122

Early Registration: \$25.00

- through October 20, 2011,
12:00 Midnight

Late Registration: \$35.00

- begins October 21, 2011,

12:01 AM

Online Registration:

available until October 26, 2011, 12:00 Midnight

To register, visit www.pnwumc.org and click "Training Events," then "A New Heaven and A New Earth"

or call 206-870-6820 to request a registration form.

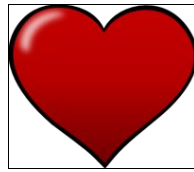


Has Your Church Designed/Decorated Its Tile?



Remember that each Evergreen member church received a blank tile to decorate in a manner that reflects its values and/or activities. Churches either received the tile through your representative at the August Board meeting or it was mailed to the church via the US mail.

Please be sure to complete your tile soon, because during the Annual Meeting, October 13—15, the puzzle pieces will be put together to finish the Evergreen Puzzle.



Contact Bob Sittig at 206-325-6051 if your church has not received a puzzle piece.

We are excited to see what each of our churches puts forward as a visual representation of its work for Christ. And we are even more excited to see the visual representation of the work being done for Christ through the Association as a whole!



Arts & Craft Sale – An Evergreen Fundraiser Sponsored by the Asian Caucus During Evergreen Annual Meeting

A big “THANK YOU” to those who are handy/crafty and are completing or have completed items to donate for the Arts & Craft Sale to support the work of Evergreen Association.

If you have not already done so, please bring your donated items to Japanese Baptist Church (160 Broadway, Seat-

tle) or, if it is more convenient for you, simply bring you items to the Annual Meeting.

Since we’d like to have all items available for the entire event, we hope all items will arrive by the time that registration opens at 11 AM on Friday, October 14, 2011.

We invite you to plan to do some birthday, holiday or

“just because” day shopping while you’re fellowshiping and doing the worshipful work that is before Evergreen.

Again, thank you for your continued support.

Join a Sacred Conversation on October 13, 2011

You are invited on Thursday, October 13, 2011 to a Sacred Conversation at the home of an Evergreen member for a sacred conversation. These will be conversations about a current event or opinion, around the general topic of racism/social justice.

Recently a diverse group gathered, shared a meal- the entrée presented by Ken & Gila

Curl and salads and desserts by those who gathered. In the Curl family room the group shared prayer, respect communication guidelines and the process for mutual invitation.

Then the group read a true situation, had two rounds of conversation using the response “I noticed” or “I wonder”.

During the third and last

round, members were asked to summarize their experience in a word, phrase or sentence.

It is hoped that you, too, will join a small diverse group on Thursday, October 13! Interested?: Contact Clem in the Evergreen Office: Clem@ea-abc.org or 253-859-2226.

Marcia

Evergreen Recipient of Palmer Grant!!!

Our thanks to Rev. M. Christopher Boyer and Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton for the excellent work of grant writing resulting in the exciting news received a few days ago.

On Monday, September 26th, the Evergreen Association received a Palmer Trust Grant award letter and check.

The charge of the significant

grant award is to create an "Introduction to Evergreen Video Plus Vignettes" project.

These funds will allow Evergreen to better 'tell the Evergreen Story' - the story of you and your church's ministries, of all the member churches that make up Evergreen—the many hands and feet of Christ.

The letter accompanying the

award noted

The project was clearly envisioned and explained and ... falls under the theme of "Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ in Regional Ministry...[and]

...brings together cooperative efforts, ...whose separate ministries are strengthened and otherwise heightened by Palmer's funding...

PRAISE the LORD!

**Evergreen Association Invites You to Participate in
NEW BAPTIST COVENANT II
At a Satellite Site hosted by
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 19300 108th Ave SE, Kent WA
November 17-19, 2011**



SEATTLE BAPTIST UNION (SBU) ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, November 11, 2011 6:00 PM
Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle 98122

Look for the Invitation to SBU Member Churches in the Mail Soon!

Seattle First Baptist Church Ordains Ned Allyn Parker — 9/11/2011



Ned Allyn Parker



Report on World Mission Offering 2010: Give to

Last year you gave more than \$3 million to support global mission through American Baptist International Ministries (IM). We are deeply thankful for your contributions, and so are people around the world who are experiencing the mercy of Christ thanks to your generosity.

Very briefly, of the \$3 million received from U.S. and Puerto Rico churches and individuals, \$2.7 million (or about 90%) is being used to support 100 IM missionaries. The remaining \$470,000 (about 10%) goes to provide support for partners in vital Christian ministries around the world.

Do you want to know more? We've prepared several resources that you can

share with your churches that provide additional detail, and tells the stories of three of global partners and their awesome ministries that depend in large part upon WMO gifts.

Free resources now available:

1. **Financial overview – power point presentation with audio** (recorded by Manny Hernandez, IM board of directors' vice president from his home in Indiana). The presentation is low-tech, but the content is useful. Churches will find this material helpful in educational settings, business and mission committee meetings. The video is entitled: *How your 2010 Gifts Are Changing God's World* (8:40 min) and is available at www.worldmissionoffering.org or on the DVD mailed to

- churches in the WMO promotional packet.
 2. **Power Point slides** are available (without the audio) on our website at www.worldmissionoffering.org (scroll to the end).
 3. **Bulletin insert/flyer** that summaries the information is available on the back page of the Leader's Guide that was mailed to your church in the WMO promotional packet. It is also available on our website at www.worldmissionoffering.org.
- You may request a WMO promotional packet be mailed to you by calling Tammy at 1-800-4JUDSON.

Thank you for your support of the World Mission Offering 2011.

Asian Caucus Treats Executive & Sacred Conversations Committees to Lunch and Wing Luke Museum Visit to Experience the Asian and Native American Connection

On behalf of the Asian Caucus, on Saturday, September 3, 2011, Yosh Nakagawa of Japanese Baptist Church and Herb Tsuchiya of Chinese Baptist Church hosted the Evergreen Executive Committee and the Sacred Conversations Committee to lunch at the Four Seas Restaurant and a tour of the "Asian and Native American Connection" display at the Wing Luke Museum.

The Committees are thankful to Herb, Yosh and the Asian Caucus for the wonderful experiences.



Yosh Nakagawa & Herb Tsuchiya, hosts



L-R: Marcia Patton, Clem Winbush, Gila Curl, Yosh Nakagawa, Tom Nielsen, Herb Tsuchiya, Marilee Nielsen, Perla Belo, Susan Dohrmann, Bob Sittig and Ken Curl

IMMERSE: 2012 National Gathering of AB Youth By Seth Vopat, Discipleship Team



Join with other youth from across the nation for a week-long gathering that is spiritual, missional, reflective, connective, experiential and fun!

To *immerse* oneself is “to plunge into” something, usually a liquid. It suggests no going back. For better or worse, we are going forward. We feel God is calling us to take the plunge and not hold back. We believe God is tired of apathy. We believe students are

tired of apathetic faith statements and apathetic ministries. And, like the students, we, as a planning team, are tired of apathy in a world that is deeply hurting and in need of God’s Kingdom to become manifest through those who choose to follow Jesus.

This is the vision we feel God is inviting us to in Washington, D.C.—to slow down and pause from our normal schedules so we might worship together, learn how to serve together and hear the “voice in the wilderness” inviting us to not hold back but to plunge for-

ward and be the hands and feet of Jesus in the communities [in which] we are immersed daily!



Note: Gather your youth members who will be entering 9th grade or higher by the July 24—28, 2012 date and begin planning and fundraising, if needed, to meet the registration deadlines.

More details can be found at www.abhmsimmerse2012

A Women’s Retreat—Landscapes of the Soul

The Retreat Ministry of Seattle First Baptist Church presents its annual women’s retreat, Friday night October 28 through Sunday morning October 30, 2011 at Rainbow Lodge, North Bend.

Landscapes of the Soul: exploring inner and outer geography will engage questions such as

*Is landscape sacred? How?

*How can I learn to see it?

*Is my self-awareness (my

interiority) a landscape that can be deepened, understood, and enhanced?

*How does a landscape shape me?

The Rev. Catherine Fransson and Dr. Gretchen Gundrum will be joined by Pastoral Counselor Gretchen Champoux. Mary Ellen Weber will lead a session of SoulCollage®, an intuitive, creative process of self discovery and reflection.

Early registration deadline is October 9th: double room \$130 (each person), single \$150; After October 9th: double \$150 (each person), single \$170. Your registration is confirmed with your check for the amount.

For other registration and scholarship information contact Pastor Fransson at 206-325-6051 or cfransson@seattlefirstbaptist.org.

An Invitation to Dinner & Conversation w/Baptist Peace Fellowship NA

University Baptist Church – Seattle, Seattle First Baptist Church & The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

Invite you to join us for dinner and conversation on

Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle WA 98122

The staff and some members of the Board of Directors of the BPFNA will be joining us for a presentation of their work for peace and justice around the four member nations and around the*

globe. This will be a great opportunity if you and your church are looking for ways to make real the gospel mandate to be peacemakers in a broken world.

Please RSVP no later than noon on Tuesday, October 25th by calling (206) 325-6051

**The four member nations are Canada, Mexico, the United States and Puerto Rico.*



The Evergreen Euro-caucus presents

A HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE

Featuring the MCN Big Band
and a delicious spaghetti dinner

Saturday, October 29 - 6:00PM

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Avenue, Seattle

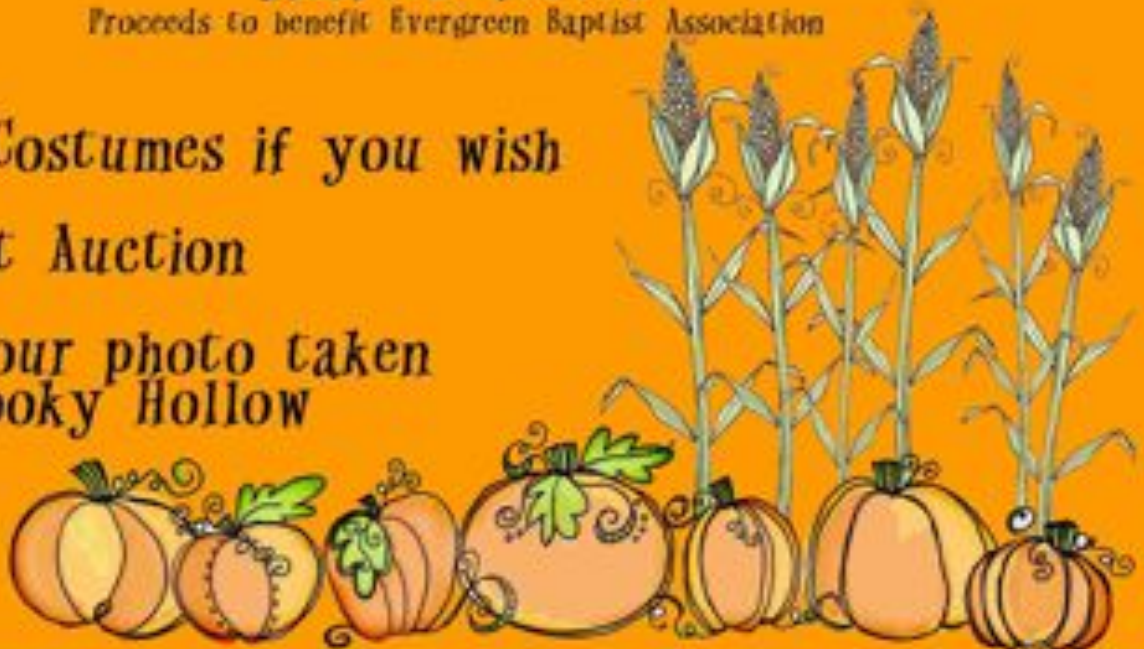
Tickets \$15.00

Proceeds to benefit Evergreen Baptist Association

Wear Costumes if you wish

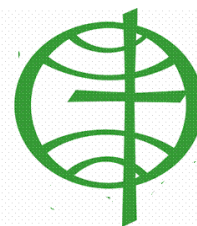
Dessert Auction

Get your photo taken
at Spooky Hollow



HAITI MISSION TRIP

EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES



Evergreen Association of
American Baptist Churches

Join Us — Be a Part of This Trip. Get More Information & Sign Up During the Evergreen Annual Meeting.

WHEN: April 20-29, 2012

WHERE: Cap Haitien, HAITI

WHAT: We have a need for participants with a large variety of helping skills (1 Corinthians 12:4-26 describes this well!). If we are able to enlist enough people with construction skills, we will be working on a new school for the mission. If not, we will still be needing to do various kinds of repair work for them. With the cholera outbreak after the earthquake, as well as with the needs of the eye clinic in Cap Haitien, we can certainly use people with medical or nurses training. We are hoping to bring some new computers down to the mission and people with skills at using and/or teaching computer use would certainly be of help. But also, there is a lot of work, especially for women, just being part of the ministry of encouragement that Kihomi does with the women of Haiti. Nzunga wrote in response to one of our questions, "You will have opportunity to connect with women's work. Kihomi will take you places you don't want to go!" Talk about a challenge!



Kihomi & Mabudiga Nzunga

To what role is God calling YOU in this mission trip?

This trip will be the work of all of our Association, powered by the Holy Spirit. We are looking to EACH church in our Association being part of this mission trip in one or more of the following ways:

Prayer Partners: We want every church in the region engaged in prayer!

Educate Your Members: Talk to your church in worship and in your educational endeavors about our American Baptist Mission work in Haiti.

Share in Financial Support: This can be anything from taking a special offering, to designating this as a women's mission project, to planning a special fundraiser, to including the trip in next year's budget. Financial support will be used to subsidize travel expenses, to buy computers for the mission, and to purchase construction material for projects at the mission.

Recruit Participants: We have a need for participants with a large variety of helping skills: construction skills, medical care skills, computer skills, and just willing workers and encouragers, especially in relation to Kihomi's work with women.



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

409 Third Avenue South Suite A
Kent WA 98032
www.evergreen-abc.org

Phone: 253-859-2226
Fax: 253-859-1537
E-mail: clemeba@comcast.net

For Further Information: Contact Keith Madsen at Community Church of Issaquah, pastor@commchurchiss.org
Phone: 425-392-6447

Aita Retires as Pastor of Japanese Baptist Church

The Rev. Dr. Paul Aita, Senior Pastor of Japanese Baptist Church (JBC) since July, 2001 announces he will celebrate his 65th birthday before this year is over, and ‘though it would continue to be a privilege to serve JBC for some time into the future’, he has decided to retire shortly thereafter.

Dr. Aita’s retirement from JBC will be effective October 31, 2011.

In celebration of his 10+years of service, Japanese Baptist Church invites the community and the Evergreen family to bid farewell to Dr. Aita on Sunday, October 30, 2011 at a worship event to begin at 1:30 PM.



Aita Baptizing in Burma (2010)

MMBB Is There for You

Be sure your church’s employees (pastor/s, secretary, custodial staff, etc.) have retirement and health benefits. MMBB is there for you.

MMBB (www.mmbb.org) is a church-based financial services organization promoting the better maintenance of the ministry by providing and administering retirement investment benefits and life,

disability and health insurance for churches and faith-based organizations.

Founded in 1911, MMBB manages more than \$2 billion in assets for the benefit of its members and their dependents.

“We serve approximately 17,000 members in 20 denominations around the world, and those

numbers continue to grow,” said Tom Huber, director of outreach.

“People working at churches and other faith-based organizations are generally focused on the spiritual well-being of their members,” noted Sumner M. Grant, MMBB’s executive director. “At the same time, they need to take care of the here and now...”

PCBA Sponsors Second “Overview Series”—Saturdays, January 28, February 11 and 25, 2012

The positive response to last season’s “Overview Series” on Bible and Theology for Lay People has led PCBA to sponsor a second series on the Christian Faith, Saturday mornings, 9 AM—12:30 PM.

Allen Temple Baptist Church

will again host the series which will be led by James Chuck, Pastor Emeritus of First Chinese Baptist Church and Professor Emeritus of Theology and Church Ministries at ABSW.

The three Saturday sessions

will focus on

Church History,
Christian Faith and World Religions, and
the Life and Mission of the Local Congregation.

Reservation details coming soon.

FBC Salt Lake City's Child Care Four-Time "Best" Award Winner



For the fourth consecutive year, First Baptist Child Care Center has been selected for the 2011 Best of Salt Lake City Award in the Day Care category by the US Commerce Association (USCA).

This is the first year that a business has qualified as a Four-Time Award Winner. ...Their selection as a 2011 Award Winner is a reflection

of the hard work of many people that have supported the business and contributed to its subsequent success.

Congratulations on your selection to such an elite group of small businesses."

Special Congratulations Carol Wood, center director; Carol Butler Guilkey, child care team leader, members of

the Child Care Ministry Team and teachers and staff who work so hard to make First Baptist Church Child Care Center the great place it is.

Congratulations, Pastor Curtis and FBC Salt Lake City for the exemplary provision of God's love for the little ones!

New Truck— An Answer to Prayer!

Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings. At 12: 34 PM Haitian time, we arrived home Saturday July 24, 2011 with a brand new Nissan diesel. This new tool for evangelism—the instrument to help reach out to the helpless of our society, is really the fruit of your love and support to our ministries in this Island of Haiti. We now feel liberated and free to help those in remote and difficult places we would not otherwise be able to reach.

To read how the truck will be used at the Cap Haitien Eye Center in northern Haiti, [click here](#).

We associate our voice with the voices of those we will be able to touch and say a big THANK YOU for helping pur-

chase this vehicle. We are not taking this new equipment for granted because we know that you gave out of your love and you have make some major sacrifices in order to have us reach to others in need.

Again, MESI AMPIL AMPIL. Thank you very much.

Yours in Haiti,

Nzunga & Kihomi

*Dear Supporters,
This is a wonderful day of answered prayer. The lack of a vehicle was their greatest need in a country where traveling is difficult under the best of circumstances. Now they can take their minis-*



try of teaching and helping in the name of our Lord to all of Haiti. Thank you to all who heard God's whispering to them about this need and acted. God will be glorified!

*Blessings,
Dennis Shewell
Mission Partnership Team Communications Advocate and Convener
Nzunga and Kihomi Ministry
E-mail: jdshewell@hughes.net*

Vasquez Begins Bible Study for New Church Plant

Aimed toward bringing together Hispanic people, Rev. Guadalupe Vasquez, called by Evergreen to plant Latino churches, has begun a Bible Study meeting on Tuesdays, 6—8 PM in the Kent Office Conference Room.

The first Bible Study was held September 26, 2011.

All are invited to come, study the Lord's word and build fellowship with each other.



Rev. Guadalupe Vasquez, newly installed pastor of Confraternidad Cristiana Eben-ezer

Evergreen Joins in the Launching of Faith Advocacy Network (FAN)



September 17th was an historic day in Washington State. It was the day that Faith Action Network was officially launched.

FAN is the result of two organizations coming together to create a stronger more vibrant and inclusive network. The Washington Association of Churches and the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington have joined forces and created this new entity that also includes other faith groups.

On Saturday September 17th a simple beautiful service was held at University Congregational Church to mark this new organization. You can learn more at <http://fanwa.org/>

Guadalupe Vasquez Installed as Pastor of Confraternidad Ebenezer— 9/18/2011



First Baptist Church-Berkeley California's Special Project

In spring 2010, I was strongly encouraged by Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton, executive minister of the Evergreen Baptist Association (which was soon to become FBCB's new regional home) to take part in a year-long training project, the Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE), sponsored by American Baptist Churches USA.

With our congregation's blessing, an MCLE team was formed: Sharon Allen, Laura Gottwald, and Nancy Hall. Our training in the project would take place in the form of four Saturday events led by Rev. Glynis LaBarre, Transformation Strategist for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (with local leadership from Rev. Michelle Holmes, Shell Ridge Community Church, Walnut Creek).

Note: for more information about MCLE, go to:
<http://www.nationalministries.org/mcle/>

Our FBCB team's mission (along with teams from several other Bay Area Evergreen Baptist Association churches) was to find a need within our immediate community that would result in an opportunity to reach out and build a partnership with a local community group, for the greater good.

[Our search for possible] community partners, ... found the most fruitful conversations were taking place with members of the ABSW Student Council. Although our church has been supportive of the American Baptist Seminary of the West for many decades and in a variety of ways, we saw an opportunity to partner with the students in a new way at this time.

The students of ABSW make great personal sacrifices in order to pursue a theological education. One

example: with all of ABSW's courses held at night, many students arrive from their full-time jobs or other weekday commitments just in time to sit down for class, often without having the chance for an evening meal. Another example: paying his or her tuition bill each semester may not leave a student sufficient funds to purchase textbooks for each class.

The seminary provides as much tuition assistance to students as possible. But how could FBC Berkeley reach out and form a partnership with the students, to help address some of their *other* needs?

I am happy to now report:

1) Sharon, Laura, and I completed our training sessions for MCLE on July 30.

2) After submitting our application for a grant from ABCUSA, FBCB received \$1000 to carry out our plans for partnering with the ABSW Student Council.

3) Our final list of action/outreach items was reached this summer, through continuing consultation with members of the ABSW Student Council (Rev. Tanisha Sparks, moderator). The project includes:

-- Purchasing one copy of each required fall 2011 semester textbook for the ABSW "core" curriculum courses. These books will be clearly marked and placed on the fourth floor of Hobart Hall, becoming an on-campus "reading library." The intent is to help those students who may not be able to purchase all required texts for their classes, or

who may need to delay in purchasing those books for several weeks.
-- Restocking the ABSW food pantry with non-perishable items that students can use on an emergency basis, when funds run low.
-- Providing food items that will help the Student Council's "evening snack bar" fund-raising project get underway for the fall 2011 semester.

-- Donating a used two-drawer file cabinet from the FBCB office to the Student Council.
-- Purchasing and preparing food to host a Monday evening community meal

at ABSW, including an ice cream social, on September 26.

Our congregation is excited about this MCLE project and working more closely with the students at ABSW. We hope it will be just the start of a closer relationship with ABSW (after all, the school is only four blocks from our church!) We even hope that our project may inspire other local congregations to partner with the student body in the future.

So, there's our good news, and it's time to share this with our wider FBCB family. We give all praise to God for guiding us through this year of learning, praying, and planning. As a favorite gospel hymn proclaims, "We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord!"

Blessings, to all FBCBers, across the Bay Area, the nation and the world --

Nancy, Sharon, and Laura
FBCB Missional Church Learning Experience Team

"...Purchasing one copy of each required fall 2011 semester textbook for the ABSW "core" curriculum courses.; ...[thereby establishing] an on-campus "Reading Library"..."

Reflections on a Life-changing Experience

By: Michael Ware

The following article written by Michael Ware, a past ABC Youth Conference Team Member, is taken from the "Immerse" web page:

When I first heard about the excitement, energy and spiritual awakening that occurs at American Baptist national youth gatherings, I doubted it could be true. Having never gone, I thought, "All of this happens with folks coming from across the country planning, creating and participating as one collective group of Baptists? It must be something special."

As a youth leader at the time, I wanted to see it. I simply could not wrap my head around the idea that the lives of the event's adults, youth and planners could be changed. I concluded that I needed to attend a national gathering myself and bring my youth, too. As a doer, I chose to volunteer as a mentor cluster leader at my first gathering. I had no idea of the time and commitment, but I felt I would be up to the task, as my youth would be busy in small

groups at the same time anyway. So I went to "Raise the Roof" in Bloomington, Ind.

From the minute I accepted the opportunity to begin the journey, my life and ministry have not been the same. During the first experience, my youth and I grew in fellowship, fun, renewal and commitment through small groups, worship gatherings and late-night activities. It was amazing how the Spirit worked in each of us.

I could not have imagined the refreshing energy and welcoming direction I would experience as an adult leader. The youth leaders were open to the support that I brought, and I soon discovered that leaders from other parts of the country would help to transform my ministry call! I received such a blessing serving as well as walking with my kids on a wondrous and glorious path. Indeed, everything I had been told came true by way of the first experience, especially as the confer-



ence leaders created varied worship. By the time we left the conference, none of us was the same.

Although I didn't know it then, I was hooked. I took one step, and the Spirit did the rest. Upon traveling home, the youth and I wanted to know when the event would happen again. Because I saw all the work that went on behind the scenes, I should have been scared away. Yet I mentioned in passing that I'd be willing to help, if necessary, at the next event. I was surprised when I was asked to help plan the next conference from the beginning. I said yes, although I did not expect the new experience to be as good as the first one. As planning teams let prayer and the Spirit guide them, I was once again wowed. I became part of three successive national gatherings held in beautiful Estes Park, Colo.

Through these pre-planning groups, I established and maintained long lasting supportive relationships with leaders in ministry from around the country. At national gatherings, I saw youth and leaders' lives changed. I experienced fun, hard work and a commitment by leaders and participants to be open to the Universal Spirit's call on their lives. My participation continues to be a highlight for my ministry direction even today as an American Baptist pastor.

Baptist Lunching Together

October 19, 2011—*How Life changes in Retirement*, Shirley Jones, Norman Gottwald, Rick Mitchell, and Doug Siden (Dale Edmondson, Moderator)

November 16, 2011—*Focus on Asian Church Ministries*, James Chuck, Marie Onwubuariri, and Richard Ice

December 10, 2011—Candles and Carols at Oakland First Baptist Church

January 18, 2012—*Women's*

Role in Ministry in 2012, Katie Choy-Wong, Micky Holmes, Liliana DaValle and Barbara Bowman

Tuesday, February 7, 2012—Interaction with Roy Medley, General Secretary, ABCUSA

Saturday, May 12, 2012—Spring Conference.

(Meeting Wednesdays at Noon, Grand Lake Gardens)



Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

409 Third Avenue South Suite
A

Phone: 253-859-2226

Fax: 253-859-1537

E-mail: eba@ea-abc.org

**Visit us on the web
at www.ea-abc.org**

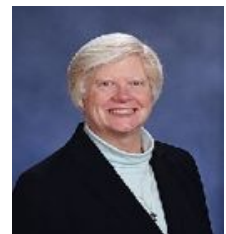
Return Service Requested

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

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

OCTOBER

14-15 - Evergreen Annual Meeting 2011, Seattle First Baptist Church, hosting

29- A New Heaven & A New Earth; Cultural Competency Training, Central Lutheran Church, 8:30 AM—5 PM

29—Dinner/Dance Fundraiser sponsored by Euro Caucus, SFBC, 6 PM (see p. 7)

30—Hymn Sing #5, Fremont Baptist Church, 2 PM

NOVEMBER

17-19—New Baptist Covenant II, Satellite Site: New

Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 19300-108th Ave SE, Kent WA

January 16, 2012—MLK Day Service

February 10—11, 2012 Evergreen Leaders' Retreat

March 10, 2012—Building Bridges Day

April 8, 2012—Easter Sunrise Service

April 20—29, 2012 Mission Trip to Haiti

July 24—28, 2012 Immerse; ABC Youth Gathering

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.