



Evergreen Notes

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 5, Issue 10

Annual Meeting 2008—What Does This Mean?



“What Does This Mean?” may seem like a strange title for an annual meet-

ing. But as the crowds were in awe and somewhat confused as recorded in Acts, in some ways Evergreen is in the same mix. We are in awe that we have come this far, made this much progress in discovering what it feels like to create a place where “every voice is heard”, where we seek to keep the rules the same for everyone, where we design the table and set the table together and determine the menu mutually. *“What Does This Mean?”* is the question we ask as we move forward from this place.

In addition to other agendas caucuses may have (affirming budgets, naming reps to the Ministerial Standards Committee), we are asking that we also consider the question, **“What will we do to assist ABC/USA?”** We

developed our system because we realized the diversity of our churches in the Seattle Area and wanted to work toward and indeed have every voice heard in our work together. How do we bring along the rest of the ABC to this vision and work?

We also seek to make a difference as we meet so we have put several opportunities for service before us. One will be a special offering for hurricane relief for Haiti. You will see else where in this newsletter (page 6) a report from our missionaries there, the Nzungas, of the terrible devastation and loss in an already ravaged country. A part of our work will be planning a mission trip to Haiti sometime in 2010. In addition, Church World Service has reported a great lack of Hygiene kits, so we will be accepting items so we can send 50 kits to them. If

you can’t donate items, we’ll accept offerings to get them where they need to go! You can find a list of what goes into the kits on page 6 of this newsletter.

We will also hear a report about Myanmar/Burma and the Cyclone aftermath in that country. We’ll lift up the challenge from the Asian Caucus to help in every way we can to the resettlement of Burmese Refugees. Many Burmese (and Myanmar hill tribe people) are Baptist because of the missionary work done in that country over the years, starting with our first missionary, Adroniram Judson. We heard the other day that upwards of 80,000 people some of whom have been in camps in Thailand for 18 years will be relocated to the United States next year. Hundreds of those will be relocated in Seattle, we will have information available for how churches can respond to this need.

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Prayer Concerns:

- Continue to pray for churches seeking pastoral leadership: Moscow, Grace-San Jose, Seattle First & Salt Lake City First Baptist.
- Continue to pray for Walt Pulliam, Yosh Nakagawa and Barry Briscoe.

Happenings & Events

 **MOUNTLAKE TERRACE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** purchased and mailed 13 Spanish Bibles to Kodiak Alaska in response to a White Cross Request.

 **SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** Annual Women's Retreat, October 3-5, 2008, focuses on our images of God, how they limit or empower us, how to

revision them and weave them into our daily lives. To register call Judie (206) 325-6051.

 **SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** hosts Sound of the Northwest & Friends in concert, October 12, 2008, 3 PM. Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com

 **NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOW-**

SHIP (NBCF) welcomes you and the Rev. Dr. Joel Gregory to *A Thanksgiving Revival*, Sunday, November 16, 2008 during 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services. Then on Monday and Tuesday, the revival continues at Damascus Baptist Church, 7 PM both nights. Call 425-282-6220 for more info.

Nominate A Committed Christian For an Award at the Biennial



Surely you know a committed Christian of deep

faith who walks the talk and models the face and heart of the Savior as he or she lives out daily life. It's time to notice these saints in your midst who are making outstanding, transformational differences in American Bap-

tist life. Awards at the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena, Calif., will recognize these crusaders of faith for their work in evangelism, Christian education, urban ministry, discipleship and more.

The Biennial Awards recipients will be announced by National Ministries at the 2009 American Baptist Bien-

nial Meeting to give national recognition for excellence in the defined areas of ministry.

Each award has specific criteria. To review the criteria go to

<http://www.nationalministries.org/biennial/awards.cfm>

Nominate your saint by October 17 by mail, fax or e-mail.

Mountlake Terrace Adopts Cedar Way Elementary

First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace has adopted Cedar Way Elementary School - these are the backpacks and supplies that were filled for the start of school. They were taken to the school for the teachers to use for students who may not have had one at the start of school.

They backpacks were filled according to a list provided by the school and funds were provided for those who may not be able to purchase the school calendar.

(Mary Ellen Harris and Diane Plourde are current volunteers at the school).

Dennis Plourde



Pictured: Mary Ellen Harris, Elva Ackley, Diane Plourde and Sylvia Benefiel

Curtis Comments: Reflections on the Last Six Years



We come to the sixth annual meeting this Oc-

tober and our theme is “What does this mean?” Reflecting on this question, the meaning of the last six years of life as Evergreen is vast.

To me it has meant six years of asking the question, “What can be done to make sure all voices are brought to the table?” American Baptists take great pride in the claim that we are the most racially and ethnically diverse denomination. Finally, in Evergreen, we are embracing this boast and making it a real priority.

It has meant that our ministry together is built on a foundation of relationship. At its deepest level our connection one to another is as brothers and sisters in Christ. In Evergreen we take this relationship to heart and have found many creative ways to nurture deep relationships.

It has meant exploring new ways of being. Our structure has brought with it many interesting opportuni-

ties. Over the last six years I have made relationships and worked with colleagues with whom in the past I would have rarely met, let alone become friends. In addition to putting me in contact with people of different racial and ethnic cultures than my own, our structure has also given me the opportunity to consider my own racial and ethnic culture. We in the Euro-Caucus are in the unfamiliar territory of asking, “What does it mean for us to be a group?” and “How can we include all of the voices in our own cultural community?” I take comfort in the fact that people in the other caucuses have similar struggles. The struggle is a good one.

Being Evergreen has meant that controversial issues are never allowed to hijack the process or sidetrack the ministry. It is not that we are without controversy. In fact, the same conversations happen here that are happening everywhere. However, instead of setting up two microphones and letting people line up behind them to show the veracity of their position, we work to create an environment of listening to each other and sharing our own heart in an effort to

seek the mind of Christ. Through tools such as the RESPECT Communication Guidelines and working in small table groups, we come closer to creating an equitable exchange of ideas.

I could continue to relay what being Evergreen has meant for me, but rather, I encourage you to reflect on the last six years and ask yourself, “What has this meant?” Even as we do, I am aware that as we gather for our annual meeting, we are looking into the future of Evergreen, and really what

Being Evergreen has meant that controversial issues are never allowed to hijack the process or sidetrack the ministry.

we will be asking is, “What will this mean for the future?”

Grace and Peace,



Curtis

REMINDER: Painting Project at Fremont Baptist Church, 717 N 36th THIS SATURDAY, Oct 4th, 9 AM Bring drop cloths, brushes, rollers/roller pans, buckets, blue painters tape and YOURSELF in your painting clothes!!

2009 Pastors Compensation Update

In recent communication from the Ministers Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), the current (as of July 1, 2008) average full-time Evergreen pastor's housing and salary is \$47,210; that's up 1.1% from a year ago.

Your church leaders should have received a copy

of "2009 Compensation Increases for Your Pastoral Staff" and an updated copy of The Laborer Deserves to Be Paid.

The information included in those publications will assist churches in promoting best practices for your pastor (s) and lay employees. The materials will also help

churches understand that the way staff compensation is structured is key to the church's overall financial stability.

If you are unable to locate your materials, please call the Association Office at 253-859-2226. for assistance

Thank You from American Baptist Seminary of the West

The American Baptist Seminary of the West expresses its gratitude to Evergreen for its gift. Vice President Michelle Holmes, says "...In this season of hectic preparedness, it is a reminder that we are not alone in our mission to prepare men and women for church leadership. Without

the financial and prayer support of our donors, we could not be the institution of learning we are today, an institution that has trained church leaders for over 137 years."

Campus Ministry Grant Thank-You from First Baptist Palo Alto

Dear Marcia,

Thank you. Thank you and your Board for this starter Bit for Campus Ministry!!

Apparently several churches offer scholarship help to their student members also. If any students are headed toward

Stanford, we'll offer a church home—even volunteer or paid work when their studies allow time.

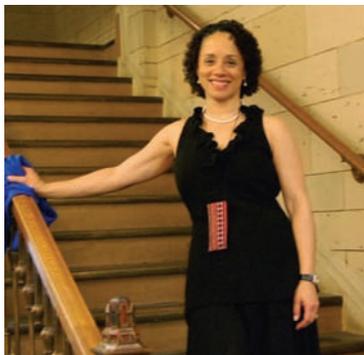
Stanford is now "Free Tuition" to low income/needly students who want to study here—like its founders

wanted.

Lynn Hunwick
First Baptist Church-Palo Alto
Campus Ministry Coordinator

A Witness: What's So Special About Evergreen?

Rev. Beverly Spears



I could answer that question by saying that Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is unique among regional Baptist bodies because of our ethnic caucus governing structure, and our practice of consensus model decision-making. I could answer that question by saying how ethnically and culturally diverse our member churches are, and how we value that diversity.

While those statements tell something about Evergreen, they don't tell the whole story. Those statements don't tell... about the challenges as well as

the opportunities that our ethnic caucus system and our way of decision making bring.

about the courage of the members of the Euro-caucus as they have gone about the hard work of grappling with how to be in right –relationship with themselves and others when they no longer function as the dominant culture in an organization.

about the determination and commitment of the Black caucus to find ways of helping member Black churches with low or no participation to be more comfortable and involved in Evergreen.

how the Asian caucus reaches far beyond Evergreen into a national network of Asian caucuses, or of its efforts to recognize and include Hispanic and Native American churches in the work of the Association.

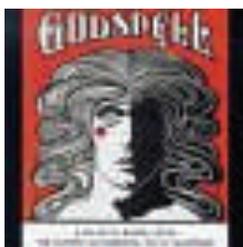
how tedious and sometimes frus-

trating making decisions by consensus can be, but how deeply satisfying it is to know that all voices were heard and valued in coming to decisions.

that Evergreen leadership is constantly involved in cultural competency training so they can in turn bring this training to churches.

The fact is that balancing power and taking the time to make sound, prayerful decisions is hard work. The fact is that being in relationship with each other as individuals, churches and Associations is hard work. The fact is that valuing and respecting our differences is hard, prayerful work.

What's so special about Evergreen? We love God, and in the name of Jesus, we strive to love and value each other. It's the never-ending story.



Godspell

A musical production benefiting SHARE WHEEL/TENT CITIES and EVERGREEN MINISTRIES

November 21 and 22, 2008

Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle 98122

Tickets (\$25 each) available soon at your local church or on-line at brownpapertickets.com

From Our Missionaries in Haiti with Comments from our Executive Minister

Dear Friends: We already have \$300 seed for an offering for Haiti Hurricane Relief at the Annual Meeting. In addition to bringing your offering and supplies for Hygiene Kits, please keep Haiti in your prayers.

From Kihomi and Mabudiga Nzunga, ABC missionaries in Haiti: Many of you have seen on TV how badly Haiti has been hit by Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike but we are now living the aftermath of their passages. The road from Cap-Haitian, the second largest city of the country, to Port-au-Prince the capital city has been cut off. Two bridges have been destroyed. Many parts of the road have been washed away. Gonaives has been cut off from the rest of the country. The plateau central, the Hinche region has also been flooded. This means that we, in the northern part of the country, don't have gas since it comes from the capital city, Port-au-Prince. The gas stations are closed until they find gas. The price of the public transportation has gone up if you are lucky to find it. I went to Cap-Haitian today to the eye

clinic and it took me over one hour waiting for the tap-tap, a pick up used for public transportation. We were cramped like sardines. Private vehicles have also become a luxury. Food is rare and expensive. There is no more cold or frozen food. Many small businesses have closed. In the city of Cap-Haitian, streets look deserted, like after a war, not crowded as they always are. In the affected regions, many people have lost their houses, gardens and goats, chicken and cows (livelihood). Many of those who lost their gardens are so disappointed that they don't want to go back to gardening. This means that we are seriously heading to a famine. At this stage, we are not yet talking about diseases to come in those flooded cities. Schools have delayed their opening this year until October 6. We, at University Chretienne du Nord d'Haiti are open since early September. Many students have not yet showed up. Those who have come are crying because they can not afford to pay. It takes about \$1500 a year to cover the expenses of studies here. For this semes-

ter I (Mabudiga) am teaching Introduction to Psychology, Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology. I have two assistant professors to train. Many parents of elementary, high school and university children are now knocking on doors here and there hoping for some heavenly help for the studies of their children. I don't know how many knocks we get daily. But they are too many. Kihomi has been meeting with women just to encourage them to face this crisis head up. Last Saturday she gave clothes, dishes, silverware so that women can share with those who are afflicted. At the eye clinic, the 20 number of patients has dropped. With children going back to schools, hunger knocking at the doors, and transport being a headache nowadays, people's eyes get a second seat unless they are badly hurt. Pray for strength, patience and wisdom as our family ministries in this crisis situation. Pray also for our safety in this very insecure country. Pray for help, material and spiritual, for those suffering loss and desolation in the aftermath of these hurricanes.

In light of this need, let's bring and assemble some hygiene kits at the Annual Meeting. To complete a hygiene kit, per kit, we need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper (no metal files or emery

boards)

- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids®

Let's do it! I've got a bunch of toothbrushes!

Marcia

Hurricane Relief to the Caribbean

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 09/09/08) — American Baptist International Ministries has provided almost \$15,000 in emergency grants to our Caribbean partners, as they help victims of recent hurricanes. In Jamaica, the partner has received a \$3,000 grant. In the Dominican Republic, \$3,500 has been released. Haiti has received a \$5,000 grant. At least another \$3,000 in emergency aid is planned for the region. These initial emergency grants were made after these

Caribbean nations weathered Hurricane Gustav, which struck the Caribbean beginning Aug. 26 and Hurricane Hanna, which took a surprising turn to hit Haiti and then Cuba beginning Sept. 1, and most recently Hurricane Ike, which hit the Caribbean over the weekend.

Contributions can be made through One Great Hour of Sharing (specify gifts to Caribbean Hurricane relief).

These funds will be used to

provide immediate emergency aid, such as food and clean water, but there will be great need for additional support as well

."We are very worried by this disastrous situation, which is added to the various problems which Haitians face each day with families who cannot eat, send their children to the school, [or] go to the hospital," said Pastor Emmanuel Pierre, Haitian convention General Secretary.

Christians Killed; Homes and Churches Burned in Orissa India

On August 23, a militant Hindu leader was murdered in Kandhamal district, Orissa. Although Naxalites/Maoists operating in the area have claimed responsibility for the murder, followers of Swami Laxmananda Saraswati accused the Christian community of the crime and rampaged against villages and churches. Subsequently, more than 50 people have been killed, over 95 churches and more than 1,000 homes burned. Approximately 13,000 have fled to 10 government relief camps or are hiding in jungles.

Orissa ordered all schools closed and 25,000 Christian schools throughout India closed also in an act

of non-violent solidarity.

The Baptist churches and schools in Balasore, some 200 miles distant, offered refuge to 30-40 survivors fleeing the turmoil. This is the state where Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were incinerated in their vehicle while they slept after serving at a leprosy clinic in 1999.

Dan Buttry, the ABC Global Peace Consultant, visited the area earlier this year training Christian leaders in conflict transformation, using Jesus' New Testament teachings with examples of how "turning the other cheek" offers opportunity to humanize one's oppressor. Heroic efforts

by neighborly Hindus and

... "turning the other cheek" offers opportunity to humanize one's oppressor.

Muslims aiding neighbor Christians have been experienced and quietly shared by grateful individuals. Gandhi's personal intervention in helping stop communal fighting and establish a free India in 1947 is a lesson still being lived and taught by many simple villagers and the educated elite.

Lynn Hunwick, former missionary in Balasore, Orissa. 9 September 2008.



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

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

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



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Building Bridges Between Communities

Calendar of Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 4—Painting Project at Fremont Baptist Church, 9 AM
- 10—11 **6th Evergreen Association Annual Meeting, New Hope Baptist Church, Seattle 98122**

NOVEMBER

- 7—Seattle Baptist Union Annual Meeting, University Baptist Church, 6 PM
- 21 & 22—**"Godspell", a fundraiser for Tent Cities and Evergreen, Seattle First Baptist Church, 7 PM each evening.**

DECEMBER

- 5—Executive Committee

Meeting/End of year celebration.

- 6—Cultural Competency Training for the NW, Marysville United Methodist Church, Marysville, WA, Register on line at www.pnwumc.org/ctn or call (206) 870-6820.

JANUARY

- 10—**Association Board, 9 AM, Wedgwood**
- 19—**MLK Day Worship**
- 23-24—**Leaders Retreat**

FEBRUARY

- 21—**Building Bridges Event**

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.