

EVERGREEN NOTES

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

Volume 8, Issue 9

Annual Meeting 2009—These Hands, These Feet

"So send I you" John 20:21

Evergreen Association encourages you to begin planning now to attend the Annual Meeting to be held at Mountlake Terrace First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace WA 98043—host pastor, Rev. Dennis Plourde.

We are expecting the Nzungas, missionaries to Haiti who are on home assignment, to be with us.

Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins will lead a Conversation Café and bring us the Word. And musically, we will experience New Beginnings' Youth Choir at Friday worship, and a choir from the local Karen Church on Saturday.

Each attendee should complete a copy of the registration form included in this newsletter on page 11, and send the completed form and a check or money order for meals/delegate fees to Evergreen Association, 409 Third Avenue S,

Suite A, Kent WA 98032.

Attendees who are geographically distant, may want to check on the website for lodging information so those reservations may be made in time to take advantage of the discount being offered until September 25, 2009.

Let's come together to rejoice in the good things that have transpired since our last gathering at New Hope, plan for the future and together, praise God for His excellent goodness.



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Annual Meeting Registration Form

Prayer Concerns

Yosh Nakagawa will undergo a grafting surgery in an effort to help his earlier surgical wound heal. Keep Yosh, Sue, their family and hs physicians covered in prayer that God will do mighty works through them.

Barry and Anne Briscoe stopped by the Kent office on Tuesday 8/18. Barry still experiences seizures. It was good to see them.

Curtis Comments: A Facebook Analogy



Curtis Price Chair, EA-ABC

I recently signed on to *Face-book*. For those of you who have not

ever heard of this, it is an on-line networking website. Basically, you put a profile of yourself that shows where you grew up, went to

school and other information like that, and people who know you (or strangers) can add you to their list of "friends". Then all

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

of your friends can see what you are up to as you update your status. After I posted my profile, it seemed that within about ten minutes everyone I had ever known suddenly appeared. Old friends from high school, my Air Force days, and seminary suddenly reconnected over the internet. It was amazing and a little overwhelming.

I noticed that, with very few exceptions, after exchanging some old stories and getting caught up, there was really nothing left to talk about. Aside from the occasional general post about vacation or a hard day at work, I never had another personal exchange. Yet for so many Facebook has become an important daily routine or even several times a day and even updating ones own status from a cell phone. There seems to be an incredible longing for some kind of connection and relationship where people can share their thoughts and feelings and feel like others are listening.

All this is to say that as a community of communities, it is easy to fall into the routine of having a virtual relationship with one another. We can read about Evergreen and hear Dr. Patton ask for prayers for

There seems to be an incredible longing for some kind of connection and relationship where people can share their thoughts and feelings and feel like others are listening.

one church or another. We come together on occasion to fellowship or worship which is significant, but I can't help but feel that a deeper connection is needed to maintain our connection. Our connection with one another cannot be grounded in the past, but in where we are going in the future. As Evergreen, our eyes must always be looking ahead toward God's clear and compelling vision for the future of the church and for Evergreen. Furthermore, our connection cannot be locked to an event, but to our common and ongoing mission in Christ. Our call to be together must transcend

geography, culture, background and even our particular theological perspective and be grounded in our oneness in Christ. Finally, I would say that we have an opportunity in Evergreen to go beyond the mere appearance of a relationship, but the opportunity for real connection. I remember when we were forming the structure of Evergreen and George Noble said, in effect, "I don't want to be a part of another group where we show up and compare numbers and exchange niceties. We will have succeeded when my family knows Curtis' family and we pray for one another and know each other's hopes and dreams." To me, this is community; this is Facebook realized.

Grace & Peace,

Curtis

Ministry: Best Practices—Tour de Terrace Parade

Along with having games and activities for the youth prior to the parade, First Baptist Church—Mountlake Terrace, gave away

- 10 pounds of pop corn before popping (after popping it filled more than 250 12 ounce cups!),
- 8 gallons of cold orange drink,
- 3 gallons of cold water and

• several cups of hot coffee.

And of course, the rest rooms of the church were also available for parade watchers.

This is the second year Mountlake Terrace has



opened its doors for this community event and the number of visitors has increased.



Events & Happenings Around the Association

Family Time Restaurant featuring Filipino specialty cuisine celebrated its Grand Opening on Saturday, August 8, 2009. Owners, J.R. and Ginny Justiniano, are members of Filipino American Christian Fellowship and former Association Board representatives, invite you to come and dine at 15200-C Aurora Ave. N, Shoreline WA 98133. More info at 206-365-0706.

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR CHURCH?

HOW ARE YOU REACHING OUT TO OTHERS?

We'd like to share your event with the wider family. Perhaps your ministry will encourage or be the springboard for other outreach to the world. Please send articles, pictures or other info to clem@ea-abc.org.

Grace Baptist Church—San Jose, is hosting a
Missional Church Learning Experience on Saturday, December 5, 9 AM-3 PM

and **You're Invited**.. (see article on pg. 3)

Associated Ministries'
Pierce County Hunger
Walk, Saturday, Octo-

ber $10^{\rm th}$, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, First Christian Church. Visit the website at

www.pchungerwalk.org

Installation of 21st President of ABSW



The Trustees of the American Baptist Seminary of the West

Cordially invite you to attend the

Installation of Dr. Paul M. Martin as 21st President of the Seminary, Friday Evening, October 2, 2009, 6:30

PM at First Church of Christ, Scientist (across the street from ABSW), 2619 Dwight Way, Berkeley CA 94704

Dr. Paul M. Martin

Good Shepherd Baptist Church Auction



You are invited to the Good Shepherd Baptist Church annual

Auction and Dinner on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at 5:00 pm at the Lynnwood Elks Club!!

This event is the church's one major fundraiser for the year, the proceeds will be used to help keep our campus open to community groups at low cost, continue the 30-year-old "pea patch" community gardens, and help maintain the open space on our campus as a community resource. This year our goal is to raise at least \$2200.

Our annual Auction and Dinner is a family-friendly event where auction items such as Mariner's Box Seats, fabulous food/gift baskets, time-share

weeks, and more, have traditionally been donated by members. The evening will begin with a buffet dinner and silent auction followed by the live auction.

Please email constance.boyer@gmail.com or telephone 425.673.5767 for more information about the event, for donations or any other questions you may have.

When You Give to United Missions, You Support the Ministries of Evergreen Association—Thank You!

Missional Church Learning Experience—Grace San Jose

Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) is a cluster of churches in an American Baptist region that form a Learning Community to explore what God is saving to the Church today. How can we best fit in with God's mission in our rapidly changing culture? Each church involved in the Learning Community forms a Mission Team that receives training in basic missional church principles, and practices those principles by designing and implementing a small community project. The Learning Community will meet 4 times during the process to share what they are learning and receive further training. Their lessons learned will also be shared with other American Baptist churches in the region and across the nation. This one day experience is an introduction to the process.

Who can participate?

Any church large or small, country or city, who is interested in exploring the future of Christian faith in America. Some guidelines are offered:

Churches should not be

- engaged in high levels of internal conflict
- Not satisfied with their church's current effectiveness
- Willing to try new ideas; including involvement with their communities

Contact Marcia Patton (Marcia@ea-abc.org) or email Dennis Glover at (dennis.glover@gmail.com: or via telephone 408-295-2035 for more information.

A Call to Lay leaders: Pastor's Renewal—Make it Happen!!

MEMO

To: Evergreen Churches

Lay Leaders

From: Marcia Patton

Subject: Renewal for your

pastor

ABCUSA leaders have been working on a gathering for ABC Pastors in Orlando in January. You can help by not only encouraging your pastor to attend, but providing the



time and moneys to help him or her get there. This is the web site where schedule.

registration forms and other information can be found:

http://www.ministerscouncil.o rg/Together%20in%20the%20 Lord/TITLinfopage.aspx

More specifically, some the speakers will be: Miroslov

Volf from Yale Divinity School, Shane Claiborne from The Simple Way, Trinette McCray and Marvin McMickle.

The conference is called Together In THE LORD:

Ministry Renewal Conference It will be held January 4 - 7, 2010. Please check it out and find a way to get your pastor out of town for some renewal!

Clergy & Spouse Dinner Cruisers Say Thank You to Seattle Baptist Union

Through the ministry and generosity of Seattle Baptist Union (SBU) 70+ active clergy and spouses in Seattle area churches enjoyed a beautiful evening on the Queen Mary for a dinner cruise.

The group had opportunity to fellowship with each other and Sumner and Petra Grant. Sumner is director of MMBB.

Thank you, SBU!





Angela & Brent Small



Curtis & Robbin Price



Craig Darling & John Roddy



Sumner & Petra Grant



Marcus Walker



Dave & Terri Simpkins



Diane & Amos Landry



Stan Smith & Nancy Darnell



Perla & Gus Belo

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Three Churches

Christians from Burma in the Seattle area worship in three different congregations, each with about 200 members, growing as new refugees arrive.

The *Chin-Burmese Community Church* conducts their worship in the Falam Chin dialect, with sermons simultaneously translated into Burmese. Their pastor, Rev. Ezra Thang, attended a Southern Baptist seminary.

The Karen Community
Church worships in the S'gaw

Karen dialect. Their worship is led by Ms. Maggie Po, a schoolteacher, who looks forward to the day the congregation can call an ordained pastor.

The Washington Burmese Christian Fellowship

worships in the Burmese language, spoken by most city-dwelling and highereducated people in Burma. Their pastor, Rev. Joshua Lian, seeks to create an ethnically inclusive congregation.

Dr. Paul Roby,
Burma Refugee
Services
Coordinator,
Evergreen
Association of
American Baptist
Churches



All three congregations are striking in their passion for Christianity—which led in part to their oppression in Burma, and the youthful energy of their Sunday evening worship services. They welcome visitors. Come, taste and see!

College/Career Guys Retreat

Pastor Paul Aita led a retreat at Ocean Shores for the young men of Japanese Baptist Church with participants from the English- and Japanese-speaking congregations, and two new friends from Burma. Activities crammed into three days included: frisbee, soccer, kite-flying, running, walking on the jetty, and digging in the sand at the beach; ping-pong, pool, table hockey, swimming,

and hot-tubbing at the community center; video and table games, and a movie at the Aitas' cabin, not to mention food shopping, meal preparation, and of course eating!

There was time for worship and discussion, and closing prayer for one another. Prayers offered were particularly moving as each participant used the language with which he was most familiar—English, Japanese, Karen, or Chin.

Of the seven participants, only two knew each other prior to the retreat. Within the three days, however, a strong sense of community developed and they were already discussing ways to keep in touch and be supportive of each other as brothers in Christ.

New Beginnings Inaugural Service in New Sanctuary—August 2, 2009

The New Beginnings Christian Fellowship's inaugural service in its new sanctuary was nearly filled to the 905-person capacity before the 8 AM worship service. And the 11 AM and 5:30 PM services were also well attended at 19300 108th Ave. S.E.

Only four years ago, the Rev.

Dr. Leslie Braxton and a core of members started New Beginnings in the cafeteria of Renton High School and later moved to Lindbergh High, also in Renton.

In addition to the challenges of purchasing and

renovating property, the church has started a homeless-outreach program in Renton and bought backpacks and 6,000 books for children in need. The congregation also gives financial assistance to a sister Baptist church in East London, South Africa.

New Hope's CleanGreens Farm & Market



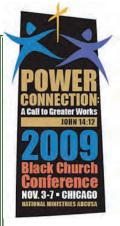
The New Hope Baptist Church sponsored Clean Greens Farms & Market is growing and delivering affordable, pesticide and chemical-free pro-

duce such as mustard, collard and turnip greens, spinach and yellow summer squash.

The Market, located at 116-21st Avenue (between Yesler and Fir) in Seattle is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM until November.

You are invited to shop at the Market and encouraged to volunteer, give donations and spread the word in your communities. Check out the website at

www.cleangreensfarm,co m or call 206-323-0534 to determine how you will contribute.



Plan to attend the 2009 Black Church Conference

November 3—7 2009 Chicago, Illinois

Register online at www.ABCPowerConnection.org or for more info call 1-800-ABC-3USA

Roger Williams Symposium—Martin Marty Coming

The Common Ministry at Washington State University (WSU), Pullman Washington, presents the 32nd Annual Roger William Symposium featuring Dr. Martin Marty on Building Cultures of Trust, Friday and Saturday, October 16—17, 2009.

The symposium which has been held since 1978, and is co-sponsored by Evergreen Association through your gifts, brings together clergy, laity, students and faculty who are interested in the intersections of knowledge and faith.

Register online at:

at:www.commonministry.com or for more information call 509-332-2611 or email: office@commonministrv.com

Grateful—a CD Release by John and Laura Landgraf

The editor received an email from John Landgraf whio has taught at seminaries in the ABC. He asks that the following information be shared with you:

"Laura and I just released our third CD, one we're very proud of, called GRATEFUL which is also the name of the cover song.

Look it up at www.landgrafmusic.com ([song titles from the back cover at the

right]. We have an excellent and varied playbook and will travel anywhere to sing and preach and lead retreats or perform whatever service we can. It's a big part of our "3rd/3rd of life" calling. We're working on a 4th CD which will be primarily gospel – SONGS OF THE SPIRIT is our working title."

- Midnight Sun Hampion, Jeans, Grateful Bucchino (4:44)
 In My Life Lennon/McCartney (4:08)
 I Happen To Like New York Porter (2:27)
 Love Has Come of Age
 With Chip Mallari) Bricusse/Wildhorn (3:41) Midnight Sun - Hampton/Burke/Mercer (3:48) Every Mother's Dream - Sierov/Rothstein/Landgraf (3:36) The Mom Song - Renfro/Rossini (3:28) New Words - Yeston (4:25) Pick Yourself Up - Fields/Kern (2:05) If I Only Had a Heart - Harburg/Arl My Tribute - Crouch/Landgraf (3:30)
- What Matters Most Bergman/Grusin (2:08)

- They're Either Too Young or Too Old
- Mad About The Boy Coward (3:59) Whatever Laura Wants Adler/Ross (2:42) Some Other Time Bernstein/Comden/Gre

Pastor Jeffrey Bikes the Seattle—Portland Classic



The 2009 Group Health Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic has been declared "a terri-

fic success". Among the nearly 10,000 riders was Robert Jeffrey, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church. This 200-mile bicycle ride is the largest multi-day bicycle event in the Northwest, with up to 10,000 participants riding from Seattle to Portland in one or two days. The route goes through the scenic valleys, forests, and farmlands of western Washington and Oregon.



If you've remembered, thank you; if you haven't, it's not too late.

Pastor Gay Challenges Herself—from the Scooter to Triathlons

On June 27, 2009, Judy Gay, pastor of Fremont Baptist Church participated in a mini sprint triathlon at Cottage Lake in Woodinville. The event included a 1/4 mile swim, a 9 mile bike, and a 1.5 mile run/walk. Completing the event in 1 hour 29 minutes, Pastor Gay received second place in her age group for women

Then on August 8, 2009, completing a sprint triathlon (1/2 mile swim, 15 miles bike, 3.1 miles run/walk) at Lake Samammish near Bellingham in 2 hours 39 minutes garnered Pastor Gay a respectable third place in the same category.

What's next, you ask? On September 19th she will repeat the Cottage Lake Mini Sprint and hopes to drop a lot of time especially during the biking leg.

When asked about these new and healthy growth experiences, Judy says, "It is so much fun to compete because I'm really only competing against myself."

"This is long, long way from my knee-scooter of two summers ago."

Hot Off the [Judson] Press!



Got Style? Personality-Based Evangelism

by Jeffrey A. Johnson; Foreword by David C. Laubach

"We seem to be God's tonguetied people... Thanks to Jeff Johnson, who makes evangelism possible for ordinary Christians. He gives you confidence that you...yes, even you...can share your faith without making enemies or losing friends. Yes, you can bless people in the name of Christ." --Tom Bandy, author, consultant, and speaker, Easum, Bandy & Associates

Pastor, author, and ABCUSA National Evangelism Team director Jeff Johnson turns traditional evangelism on its head in <u>Got Style? Personality-Based Evangelism</u>. \$15.00

Editor's Note: The Evergreen Education Team includes associates trained in the Got Style? personality-based evangelism. They are available to work with your congregation or group. Please call or email the Evergreen office at 253-859-2226 or ea-abc.org

Ministry: A Perspective on Literacy and Content Area Reading Rev. Dr. John Doty (The Second in a Series of Articles)

We need to know the readerhearers' vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension levels.

Some facts:

Most adult vocabulary averages about the 6th grade level. Coincidentally, television shows have a leveled vocabulary as well.

The NIV translation is at an 11th12th grade reading level.
Pastors may have about the
highest vocabulary levels
(especially biblical-theological
vocabulary) in their
congregations.

Vocabulary increases primarily through reading. Most adults are "a-literate," that is they <u>can</u> read, but they <u>do not read</u> (except want-ads, TV guides, package labels at the grocery store...).

Approximately 1/3 of adults read at a "below basic" reading level. They cannot read a newspaper editorial and give the thesis and supporting arguments, etc. (Implications for voting issues? Church newsletters?).

Fluency is the ability to read smoothly, at a conversational speed, while automatically saying and understanding almost every word in a text. Short term memory cannot hold the information as a reader seeks to make sense out of a new word (like "consensus," or "anonymous") Thus the reader forgets the beginning of a sentence by the time he/she gets to the end.

Some thoughts:

Often our own egos drive us to

show how much we know and how learned we are through our vocabulary, selection of texts, or what we write. To reach a broad spectrum of today's people (including English Language Learners and pre-adults) we might consider simplifying our vocabulary, shortening our sentences, and writing at a more basic level (like Jesus).

Where are those 1/3 of children, youth and adults who can't read at even a "basic" reading level? Sad to say, they are not in church. If they aren't coming to us, then maybe we should be...

A fellow sojourner, Rev. John H. Doty, Ph.D. Literacy

AMERICAN BAPTIST

ABSW Says Thank You

A letter from Rev. Michelle Holmes, VP/CEO of ABSW thanking us for giving four percent (4%) of total United Mission each month:

"...Our seminary does not sit on a hill, but overlooks a park that serves as home to many who are homeless and discouraged. It is a daily reminder that our mission to equip men and women to be messengers of hope and grace is as vital today as it was in 1871 when the doors of our seminary first opened.

This gift of \$283.96 [4% of one month's giving to UM] to the Annual Fund from Evergreen Baptist Association helps us to undergird the cost of providing an education that is relevant to the needs of today's church in its various settings. Whether our students are preaching from

a pulpit, visiting the hospital bed, counseling a grieving family, leading a youth retreat or feeding the homeless, they are using the education they received from ABSW. For [each of]these students and for our faculty, I extend appreciation to you for your financial contribution that supports not only their educations, but also their ministries...."

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

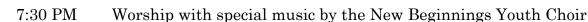
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20091009/index.jhtml

All events to be held at First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

12 Noon	Ministers Council Lunch	
	American Baptist Women's Ministries Luncheon	
1:00 PM	Registration Opens	36 , 30
2:00 PM	Workshops: Work in Haiti — The Nzungas	
	First Timer's Orientation — Marcia Patton	
3:00 PM	Break	Kihomi & Mabudiga
4:00 PM	Conversation Café — Aidsand Wright-Riggins & Clem Winbush	Nzunga
5:30 PM	Fellowship Time	
6:15 PM	Dinner — Thai Meal with Native American Flute Player, Dario M	eguire



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

- walkable in good weather!)

8:30 AM	Registration Opens
9:00 AM	Opening and Beginning of Discernment Session
10:00 AM	Caucus Meetings
12 NOON	Lunch
1:00 PM	Worshipful Work, including music by the Karen Church Choir
4:00 PM	See you next year!

Annual Meeting 2009 Lodging Information

•	3 3	
Embassy Suites (about 2 miles from Mountlake	6017 244th St. SW Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043	receive the rates above until September 25, 2009.
Terrace FBC) 20610 44th Ave N. Lynnwood, WA 98036 1-(800) 628-0611	\$59.00 Queen (no charge for extra person) - has small	Or you may click the link be- low to access the Personal- ized Online Group web page for EVERGREEN ~ Ameri-
\$109. for single/king suite (with full breakfast) \$119. for the double-bedded suite (with full Breakfast)	kitchen \$67.00 Two beds (No charge for extra person) - also small kitchen	can Baptist Churches Regional Meeting 2009 and book your reservations online.
Studio 6 (about 3/4 to 1 mile from Mountlake Terrace FBC	For either reservation: Mention Evergreen Baptist Asso-	http://embassysuites.hilton.co m/en/es/groups/personalized/

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ciation and our meeting dates-

October 9 - 10, 2009 and



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

2009 Annual meeting THESE HANDS THESE FEET

John 20:21
"SO SEND I YOU"

OCTOBER 9-10, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM

Please mail the completed form (and applicable fees) to: Evergreen Association of ABC, 409 Third Avenue S., Suite A, Kent WA 98032-5843. Checks and/or money orders should be made payable to Evergreen Association-ABC.

Name_____ Church Name_____

Street Address	City	State	Zip
Email Address			
I am a DELEGATE (Representative Voice for my C	hurch) □ Registration Fee	Cost \$10.00	Total \$
Signature of Church Clerk or Pastor (Required for	Delegates only)		
MEAL REGISTRATION			
		Cost	Total
Friday, October 9, 2009			
Ministers Council Lunch/Meeting		\$10.00	\$
AB Women's Luncheon		\$10.00	\$
Dinner		\$15.00	\$
Saturday, October 10, 2009			
Lunch		\$10.00	\$
TOTAL DELEGATE ANI	O MEAL FEES ENCLOSED		\$

Deadline: October 1, 2009



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 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.

Return Service Requested

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



Rev. Dr. Marcia J. Patton, Executive Minister

Building Bridges Between Communities

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

• 18—Executive Committee Meeting, JBC, 5:30 PM

OCTOBER

9—10 EVERGREEN ANNUAL MEETING, First Baptist Church, Mountlake Terrace

NOVEMBER

7—Association Board Meeting, Wedgwood, 9 AM DECEMBER

5—Missional Church Learning Experience, Grace Baptist—San Jose, 9AM-3 PM

JANUARY

4—7 Together in the Lord: Ministry Renewal Conference, Orlando FL

23—New Heaven & New Earth—Cultural Competency Training, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship

25—Greater Seattle Area Clergy Gathering with Roy Medley. 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

Provide resources to equip member churches to share Christ and teach God's word; and

Translate our unity to the world.