

# Metro Chicago *EWIND*

Seeking Justice • Loving Mercy • Walking Humbly

*A weekly electronic newsletter from and for the American Baptists of the Windy City and its environs, covering matters as diverse as our region.*

## Being Salt and Light in a Time Like This



*"You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt." Exodus 22:21 "... I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..." Matthew 25:35*

**M**y heart has been broken these last few days as I witness the chaos, confusion, hardship, fear, and suffering brought about by the new president's Executive Order to ban entry to the U.S. of all citizens of certain Muslim countries, put a hold on admitting all refugees for 120 days, and an indefinite hold on entry by refugees from Syria. Of course our government has the right and the duty to screen those entering our country to keep out those who pose a danger.

I witnessed those rigorous screening processes firsthand during my trip to Thailand's refugee camps some years ago. But this order is hasty, careless, and causing much more pain and disruption than reasonable caution requires. It also blatantly discriminates against Muslims including those who are already legal residents of the U.S.

The faces that have come to my mind over these last few days are of the refugees from all over the world who became beloved sisters and brothers in Christ during our 20 year ministry at North Shore. And I also picture our ABCMC pastors, cherished colleagues, who were not born in the U.S. and the members of their congregations who are immigrants and refugees from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, India, and Burma. So much of our ministry as churches and as a Region is a ministry of welcoming the stranger as we would welcome Christ.

Sunday evening, at our Ministers Council Fellowship dinner, those gathered spoke of anguish and struggle over this and many other policies and actions of the new administration that they viewed as harmful to vulnerable sisters and brothers. "What can we do?" "How do we respond?" "How can I effectively resist?" I listened to this conversation well aware that our pastors and churches already face many burdens and are fully engaged in many important ministries. And yet this is not an ordinary moment. Anxious paralysis or complacency will not fulfill our calling from God. What will fulfill God's call upon us is greater clarity and renewed commitment to each one's core vocation. A neighbor who is a physician said on the day following the election: "I will go to work this morning and be the very best doctor I can be. I will stand for decency, do what is right, and side with justice in and through my daily work."

That is an example for all our churches, pastors, and lay people to follow. Look again. How is your congregation already light and salt in your community? All the gospel work you are already doing surely is making a difference in spreading the mercy and love and hope of Christ's reign. Are there ways that work can be refocused or expanded to

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respond to the current threats to vulnerable people? Some pastors may find new gifts and callings within them. Some will see greater need for the gifts and skills they are already using. Some of our churches may write letters to government officials for the first time. Others may reach out to a nearby mosque. Still others may continue with renewed determination to care for the homeless or imprisoned or hungry or to educate children.

When our hearts are breaking over threats to the welfare of the needy and the strangers among us, let us not become paralyzed by torrents of bad news. And "let us not grow weary in doing what is right." Rather, let us shine with the light of Christ in all we do.

Your partners in ministry,

*Reverend Douglas Harris*

*Reverend Carol McVetty*

With questions about pastoral searches or Camp Grow –

contact: Douglas Harris | revharris@abcmc.org | 773.634.1495, ext. 1

With questions about ordination or submissions for EWIND –

contact: Carol McVetty | revmcvetty@abcmc.org | 773.634.1495, ext. 8

*With Sympathy . . .*

We are saddened to learn of the unexpected death of

**MR. ARTHUR MYREN**

The husband of our former  
Executive Minister, Millie Myren.

Art died late Tuesday, January 17,  
after suffering a stroke.

A Memorial Service will be held on  
Saturday, February 4, at 1:00 PM  
**MORGAN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
11024 South Bell Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60643

*Please hold Millie and the family in prayer.*

Cards and notes may be sent to Millie at:  
10713 S. Keeler Avenue • Oak Lawn, IL 60453

**ABC METRO CHICAGO**  
Reverend Carol McVetty  
Reverend Douglas Harris  
Interim Executive Ministers

**182nd Annual Meeting  
American Baptist Churches  
of Metropolitan Chicago  
Planning Team**

**We would love your help making this year's  
Annual Meeting a great success!**

**We have two areas of need:**

- 1) Planning Team Members with a  
variety of perspectives**
- 2) Hospitality Team Members who can help with  
registration and welcome on May 20**

**If you are able to help in either of these areas,  
please call or email Rev. Sarah Jay  
773.634.1495, ext. 7  
or revjay@abcmc.org.**

## Preaching Resources

### Text Week

<http://www.textweek.com/>

### Working Preacher

(includes resources in Spanish)

<http://www.workingpreacher.org/>

### Worshipping with Children

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2016/08/year-c-proper-22-27th-sunday-in.html>

### The African American Lectionary

<http://theafricanamericanlectionary.org>

### Lectionary Studies By Dr. Jay Wilcoxon

<http://abcmc.org>

### International Sunday School Lessons

<http://www.standardlesson.com>



# SAVE THESE DATES . . .

## ABCMC UPCOMING REGION MEETINGS

Please mark  
these dates in  
your calendar.

### FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING


Saturday, February 18, 2017 – 9:00 am

First Baptist Church of Park Forest • 80 North Orchard Dr.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Third Baptist Church of Chicago • 1551 West 95th Street



# SAVE THE DATE

• 182nd Annual Meeting - American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago •

Chicago Healing Communities at Work

May 20, 2017

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray

Executive Director, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Conference: 9 am – 4:30 pm  
With Workshop led by Dr. Haggray  
Business Meeting & Worship,  
along with a Sisters in Service Prayer Gathering

Disciples' Awards Banquet  
Reception: 5 pm – 6 pm  
Dinner and Awards Ceremony: 6 pm – 8 pm  
With Special Recognition of Mr. William Wallin

Location, Third Baptist Church of Chicago  
and Heritage Plaza Banquet Hall

Registration for the Annual Meeting will open this month online and by mail (discounts will be available for early registrants)

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



## SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY!!!

You are invited to a time of fellowship, food, fun and football!



Enjoy Chili, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks and Desserts.

Watch the Game on Giant Screen TV!

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 5, 2017, 4:30 PM-9:30 PM

**WHERE:** Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park RD, Chicago, IL 60641 (Parking available in church parking lot)

**WHY:** Help cover travel costs and conference fees for Irving Park Baptist Church member Lowell Young to attend the Sabeel 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Israel and Palestine March 2-13, 2017.

The suggested admission donation is **\$10.00** (any additional amount would be greatly appreciated).

If you cannot attend our **Super Bowl Watch Party**, but would like to help send Lowell to the Conference, a **Go Fund Me** website has been set up for that purpose.

Please call **Irving Park Baptist Church** at 773-286-6800 or email **Pastor Sarah Jay** at [sjay500@gmail.com](mailto:sjay500@gmail.com) for further information.



## 2017 Biennial Mission Summit: Register your church as a Sponsor today!

The Biennial Mission Summit is just over six months away! For the June 30-July 2, 2017 event in Portland, Oregon, we are again inviting churches to register as Sponsors. When a church is registered as a Sponsor, individuals from the church are able to attend at a discounted rate, saving at least \$100 off the regular rate to register for the Biennial Mission Summit. The church will also be listed on the event website at [www.americanbaptists2017.com](http://www.americanbaptists2017.com) and in the event program book. Sponsoring churches will help to support the Biennial Mission Summit and make it a success.

More information, including pricing and savings, can be found [here](#). Don't miss the deadline for Church Sponsorship: March 15, 2017!

\*Members of sponsoring churches can individually register at a discounted rate. If a church is not a Sponsor, church members will pay a higher individual registration fee for the event. Individual registration opened in January 2017.

Church Sponsorship for the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit will be based on average worship attendance for each church, as follows:

Less than 100 members - \$250  
201-500 members - \$580

101-200 members - \$415  
More than 500 - \$745

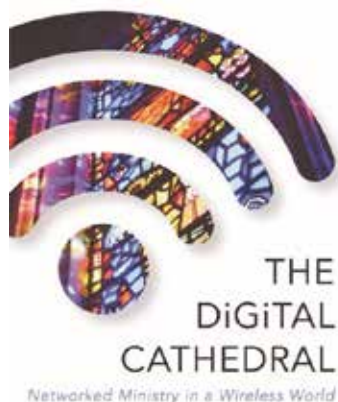
[Click here](#) to learn more and to register as a Church Sponsor today!



The American religious landscape has changed dramatically over the last twenty-five years.

Rapid advances in digital technologies have and continue to rewire the way we connect, experience community, live out our faith, and share the Gospel. Over that same time, there has also been a dramatic rise of the number of the religious unaffiliated (the Nones).

The church no longer has a central or privileged place in our culture-and even patterns of attendance, membership, and giving among our most faithful members are changing.



How are ministry leaders to respond? How do we form faith, build community, serve others, and share the Gospel in this new context?

Join us on Friday, March 24th as pastor and author Rev. Keith Anderson helps us engage this new reality.

Based on his new book, *The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World*, Keith will offer a theological and ecclesiological framework for ministry today, share stories and wisdom from ministry leaders of multiple denominations and ministry contexts from around the church, and offer practical and concrete examples of how we can share the Gospel and meaningfully God and others in both local and digital gathering spaces where we live our lives today.

Participants in this event will return home with

- a clearer understanding of the shifts affecting the church,
- encouragement in the stories and witness fellow ministry leaders leaning into this new time, and
- practical ideas that they can implement and customize for their ministry setting.

Each participant will also receive a copy of *The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World* to serve as a guiding resource for their ministry setting.

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#### Event Details

Friday, March 24 from 9:00 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Program begins at 9:00 a.m.

Location: ELCA Churchwide Ministry Office, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631

Cost is \$50 per person.

Lunch is on-your-own.

Register at <http://samaritancfc.org/events/the-digital-cathedral-keith-anderson>

*Space is limited, so register early to reserve your spot!*

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#### About Keith Anderson

The Reverend Keith Anderson is a pastor at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church near Philadelphia, author of *The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World* (Morehouse, 2015), and co-author of *Click2Save: The Digital Ministry Bible* (Morehouse 2012).

An expert on digital ministry and sought after speaker and writer, his work on religion, new media, and popular culture has appeared on *The Huffington Post*, *ON Scripture*, *Day 1*, and the *Princeton Institute for Youth Ministry* blog.

Keith's work focuses on the understanding and use of social media and digital technologies for ministry, ministering in a culture of increasing religious non-affiliation, and extending ministry and the Gospel beyond our church buildings into local and digital gathering spaces.

Keith received his pastoral training at Harvard Divinity School and The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

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*This program is brought to you by Samaritan Center for Congregations in partnership with:*

Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA  
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American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago