

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.

Greetings from the Interim Executive Minister



Good Out of Bad?

"We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, who are called according to his purpose." – Romans 8: 28 CEB

God can bring good out of bad. That is our hope and trust. I am reminded of some events that took place decades ago, in the early 1990's at the Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. Ordained women were few and far between then, and we were often not sure of our welcome. In an effort to gain a bit of visibility we worked hard to create an interesting table for the display hall at the event. Picture the kind of tri-fold board kids use for history fair projects. On it we put a picture of each of the 8 or 9 of us ordained ABC women in the region with a string stretched to a pin

marking her place of service on a map of Michigan. At one point during the weekend, we found that the display had been vandalized, the map torn and the pictures defaced. We were shocked, angered, and also a bit frightened by this open display of disrespectful opposition. But God brought something good out of it. At the next plenary session the Executive Minister, in denouncing the vandalism, spoke publicly for the very first time in support of women in ministry.

This minor incident came to my mind in recent weeks as I have seen, for the first time, clear and widely disseminated statements from Christian leaders (including Evangelical ones), denouncing sexual aggression against women. I do not mean to draw an equivalency here. Vandalizing a poster at a church meeting is not even in the same universe as a presidential candidate boasting about sexual assault. But in large things as well as small, God can bring good out of evil. When some Christian leaders sought to dismiss the seriousness of what was heard on the Access Hollywood tapes others spoke up loud and clear, particularly female leaders. Kay Warren, wife of Saddleback Church pastor Rick Warren, tweeted "As a victim of sexual assault, I tell you firsthand of the devastation wreaked on women and girls by predatory men and boys who think women 'like it.'" Jim Wallis of Sojourners and widely popular author Beth Moore and many others spoke out as well saying "THIS Christian leader will not remain silent." And so the Holy Spirit nudges. I doubt any one of us goes to the office in the morning and happily thinks "gee wouldn't sexual abuse be a fun topic for my sermon or newsletter article this week." But in October 2016 when our election campaign has revealed the ugly face of our rape culture, has it not become necessary? Is this not how God might be at work to bring good out of evil? So here, with no joy but deep conviction stands THIS Christian leader to publicly state that unwelcome kissing and sexual touching is assault. It is unlawful and sinful and viciously degrading of the self worth of women and girls. And, as we are now hearing from woman newly emboldened to speak up, it is rampant in our society. Women too are created in the image of God. The Gospel we proclaim is that women and men have a shared mission to make God's dream come true (Thy Kingdom come . . .) on earth. As Katelyn Beaty put it in a *Washington Post* column reprinted in the *Chicago Tribune* on October 17: "In the light of the Gospel, men can see women not as objects, conquests, or mere temptations, but as essential partners in the work of taking this gospel to the ends of the earth. Misogyny is replaced with shared mission."

Having been a pastor for 36 years, I know how excruciatingly difficult it is to talk in church of anything having to do with S-E-X. But this message needs to be heard in Sunday school, youth group, and even from the pulpit.

How is God calling you to bring some good out of bad?

Your partner in ministry,

Reverend Carol McVetty

With questions about pastoral searches or Camp Grow –

contact: Doug 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

P.S. Doug and I will be out of town from October 19 through October 28. We are driving to Boston to attend the Installation of our daughter, Rev. Laura Harris-Adam, as Pastor of West Acton Baptist Church. We will check our email and phone messages occasionally for anything truly urgent, but will be taking the time as family vacation.

ABCMC Family Council Meeting



Mark your calendar and plan to attend the
ABCMC Family Council Meeting
 on Saturday, November 12, 2016
 Moraine Valley Community Church
 10040 South 88th Avenue | Palos Hills, IL
 (Note: Do **NOT** use an address for the church
 given by Google.)

9-9:30 Gathering, registration, and breakfast snack.
 9:30 - 9:45 • Devotions
 9:45 - 11 • Business
 11 - 12 • Program
 Led by Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez,
 American Baptist Women in Ministry
 and Virginia Holmstrom,
 American Baptist Women's Ministries

Followed by the
 ABCMC Sisters In Service Third Annual Retreat



Changes for *Ewind*

In conversation with the ABCMC Cabinet, and the Associate Regional Ministers, we have decided to try out some experiments with *Ewind*, our Region's electronic newsletter.

For the remainder of 2016, *Ewind* will be sent out on the first and third Thursdays of each month. On the alternate weeks, if there is an important Region event coming up, we will send out a reminder announcement about just that event. Watch for other experiments with style and content as well. For example, we are now publishing links to a variety of preaching resources, rather than printing just one in its entirety. We hope in that way to be helpful to a wider spectrum of our preaching pastors.

Near the beginning of 2017 we will send around a survey so you can share your thoughts about the changes.

Sisters In Service Retreat

Save The Date

ABCMC Sisters In Service Third Annual Retreat
"Sisters in Service: Embracing the Power of Prayer"

Saturday, November 12, 2016 | 11 am – 4 pm

Special Guest Leaders:
 Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez (National Director of Women in Ministry, ABC-USA)
 Ms. Virginia Holmstrom (Executive Director, American Baptist Women's Ministries)

Moraine Valley Community Church
 10040 South 88th Avenue | Palos Hills, IL

Bring Brown Bag Lunch • Suggested Donation \$10.00

More info available at
<https://www.facebook.com/sistersabcmc/> or jacki@livingwellministries.net

Prayer opens our eyes, extends our horizons, and sheds light into the darkness of our fears and our sorrows, our hopes and joys, our shame and our pride. It gives us new ways of seeing life and relationships, of understanding work and the cost of growing. Join us as we embrace the power of prayer!

Register today at <https://sistertosisterretreat.eventbrite.com>

Preaching Resources



Text Week

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

Working Preacher

(includes resources in Spanish)

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

Worshiping with Children

<http://worshipingwithchildren.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>

ABCMC Sponsors Best Financial Practices Seminar

ABCMC BEST FINANCIAL PRACTICES FOR CHURCHES SEMINAR

Saturday, November 5, 2016
8:30 am – 1 pm (lunch provided)
Irving Park Baptist Church
4401 West Irving Park • Chicago, IL

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Church treasurers, financial officers, trustees, administrative boards, and pastors

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

Online giving, bonding of church financial officers, money-counting practices, national and regional offerings and reporting, space-sharing, and tax forms.

COSTS:

The seminar is free to all participants. Register at <http://abcmcbestpracticesseminar.eventbrite.com>

This is one way the region can support our churches in creating sound structures.

I hope you'll join us.



DEBORAH PROJECT

Making A Difference In The Lives of Homeless Women

Do you feel good when you are sporting a beautiful purse? The same applies to women who are homeless. The Deborah Project: Making A Difference In The Lives of Homeless Women, is a new project designed to provide sanitary and hygiene products to women who reside in or seek assistance from homeless shelters in the Chicagoland area packaged in a beautiful purse donated by YOU! Through this simple act of kindness, you can supply a need, provide encouragement and share the Word of God with women who are less fortunate.

Some ABCMC churches are participating in this project developed by the Salem Baptist District Association (a member of the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.) Woman's Auxiliary. We invite other ABCMC churches to join in as well.

How can you help?? Glad you asked! You can donate at least one purse that you are no longer using. Make appeals at your local church, to your friends and family and encourage them to make donations as well.

Through this project, we have an opportunity to provide spiritual, physical/emotional, and economic support to our sisters in need. While speaking with a homeless person about

their faith and beliefs may come across as a bit intrusive, the presentation of these much needed supplies, provides an opportunity to evangelize and offer encouragement, scripture, and prayer. Not only will we be sharing the Word of God, but we will be meeting physical and emotional needs.

By promoting and fostering physical health and hygiene to these women, we are letting them know that they are important to our society and accepted without prejudice. Lastly, because sanitary and hygiene items are needed daily providing these items could serve as a deterrent from theft as a means to survive.

Purse donations are being accepted at the following ABCMC Churches:

First Baptist Church of Park Forest
80 North Orchard - Park Forest

Greater Bethesda Baptist Church
5301 South Michigan - Chicago

Please attach a label indicating the name of the church making the donation and attention: Janet Jamieson If you have questions please contact Janet D. Jamieson, Deborah Project Coordinator at gotsomeinfo121@gmail.com.