

Evergreen Notes

Discerning Together



By Rev. Sam Kim

Greetings in Christ,
The work of the church is hard and challenging in many ways. One of the hardest things is to find a common agreement or consensus on how we should move together as One Body of Christ. This challenge is especially difficult for us in the Baptist tradition, where we value each individual's freedom of the soul. How can

we honor our freedom yet affirm unity when we come together? Every voice is welcome and must be heard, but how do we negotiate the way forward out of all our very different voices?

In the Bible, we see two freedoms of expression at work. In one instance, the tower of Babel in Genesis 11, we see that God bestowed upon the people individual language expressions and it divided the community. As a result, the cacophony of diverse tongues could not work together, and the tower project fell apart. The other instance is in Acts 2 where we see that many were gathered in great diversity of expression of languages, yet when the Holy Spirit came upon the people of God, *they understood each other* and were united in vision and heart. Through the Spirit, they could speak in a common tongue and live out the One Mission that God called them to.

For us to move from Babel to Pentecost, there must be a common ground of the greater good in Christ that we must come around to work together. So how can we discern the calling of the Spirit in our community? St. Ignatius constructed a holy manual, the Spiritual Exercises, which contained the Spiritual Rules of Discernment. He exhorted Christians to seek where the spirit of consolation is and where the spirit of desolation is: in simple terms, find out where the

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EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION
—OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA—
TRANSLATING OUR UNITY TO THE WORLD

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Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

Filipino-American Christian Fellowship, Lynnwood, WA

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Lynnwood, WA

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist, Renton, WA

The United Church of Moscow, Moscow, ID

Grace Baptist Church, San Jose, CA

Panther Lake Community Church, Kent, WA

First Baptist Church of Denver, Denver, CO

Urban Grace—The Downtown Church, Tacoma, WA

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Seattle WA

Intro to Mailchimp



By Rev. Shavon Walker

This month, in our series of digital tools, we're going to talk about MailChimp. In a nutshell, MailChimp is "a marketing automation and

email marketing platform", according to its website. This allows a church to send multiple emails, create a website, and more. But today, we're going to focus on email only.

There are a number of templates you can use to design your emails in MailChimp. You can either drag and drop the template into your page to use it, or if you happen to have a little coding skill, you can code your own.

MailChimp's filters allow for "segmentation", or the ability to send those emails to certain targeted audiences. Let's say you're looking for people who live in Pennsylvania and opened the last fundraiser email you sent. You can choose those requirements and make sure your next communication goes directly to those people.

One of the best parts of MailChimp is its automations feature. You can set up a series of events to happen before sending out an email. For instance, if someone leaves a comment on your MailChimp powered website, you can set it up to wait a few days and follow up with that person.

Like Canva, MailChimp's paid version of its platform varies with its use. The Premium version is \$350 a month, and there is a \$20 a month standard version, but there is also a free version.

There are restrictions on each tier, but remember, in many cases, the free version will do just fine.

If you have any questions or would like me to tackle a certain topic, please email me at Shavon@ea-abc.org.

Introducing Elise Herwig, Pneuma Program Director



Please join us in welcoming Elise Herwig as our Pneuma Program Director. She's been helping to do a lot behind the scenes with the Pneuma Initiative for Evergreen. Notably, some of you may already have interacted with her in your participation in the

Leadership Cohorts that developed out of February's Evergreen Leadership Retreat.

Elise lives in Seattle, WA, where she's been for the last 5 years. She has a master's in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, a city she dearly loves. Her background is in the non-profit sector, where she has applied community engagement and collaborative partnership and program development to focus on shifting systems (e.g. areas like policies, practices, resource flows, and core beliefs).

Elise is currently easing back into work from a sabbatical and is the part-time project coordinator for the Pneuma Initiative. In her free time, you can find her sailing, training for a sprint triathlon (wish her luck), and checking out restaurants/making good food with friends.

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consolation is, move towards it, and stay away from the desolation.

Another way we could say this biblically is to ask: “Which way are the fruits of the Spirit being manifest the most?” (Gal. 5:22-23:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law.”) When we see these fruits arising, we are encouraged to lean into those areas more, and when other kinds of fruit (hatred, jealousy, violence, etc.) manifest, we are encouraged to turn away.

In our congregations, let’s identify the places of the church where we see the fruits of the Spirit being harvested. When new ideas or different perspectives come into view, let’s test the fruit of our proposals and perspectives. Follow the Spirit of Consolation together, and in doing so, we will find a way to be united in mission just as the people of God were at Pentecost.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

When something is challenging or going a bit sideways with a church or the region, our tendency is to reach out to the Executive Minister, Pastor Doug Avilesbernal. However, since he’s on Sabbatical, he won’t be available to take those calls.

Our Associate Executive Ministers, Pastor Sam Kim and Pastor Paul Schneider are each taking on a portion of his duties. If you run into an issue that you’d normally contact Pastor Doug about, please call the office (253-859-2226) and we’ll make sure you connect with the appropriate AEM!

Meet our Global Servants: Kyle and Katrina Williams

By Rev. Paul Schneider

The second set of our Global Servants that we’re highlighting in our ongoing series are Kyle and Katrina Williams. They currently serve in Thailand, and previously served in Congo, and lived in Nicaragua for a year. After meeting in High School, though they went to different schools, they got married and were serving as youth leaders at First Baptist Church of Everett, an ABC church. Increasingly they felt called to ministry outside the US. In part this was due to wanting to explore and understand other cultures, and in part it was due to wanting to see how the church showed up in spaces that were culturally and politically different from the United States.

Kyle shared that they’ve always felt a “pull to the margins,” to the places and people that so often get overlooked by those with wealth and power. They went to Nicaragua for a year first, and then joined International Ministries and were sent to Congo, where they served in the Finance Department of the Pastoral Institute of Kikongo, in a place so remote you had to catch a plane ride to get groceries. After a few years in Congo, they served a year of Home Assignment, getting to both debrief about their service in Congo and spending solid time with their families. That was especially important because of their

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four children, Ian (now a junior at University of Washington), Adi (now a junior in High School), Eli (now a freshman in High School) and Abram (now a 7th grader).

After some prayer and discernment, they came to see that God was calling them into a different place, and began serving in Thailand starting in 2020. Katrina serves as a teacher at the Chiang Rai International Christian School, teaching secondary level science, and academic success for students, especially those with learning differences. Some of her best moments have been in the day-to-day work helping students with dyslexia achieve academic success.

Kyle's work is with a few different organizations. Hope Theological Seminary, a seminary specifically founded to help train and empower refugees from Burma who serve their displaced communities has an ongoing Peace Program, which works on teaching negotiation and dialogue, as well as conflict transformation, and inspiring student movements through art. He works on monitoring the peace process as it develops, however fitfully, in Burma. He is also working with the Karen Association of Churches in Thailand as they develop out their relief arm, helping serve those refugees from the violence and oppression in Burma. And finally with the Mekong Minority Foundation, which organizes churches to realize practical ways to be in community in Thailand. One way this foundation helps is by



connecting children with cleft palates with surgeons who can help fix their mouths. Even here in the United States they find ways to serve others. Given the polarization of the church here in the US, Katrina believes “being a bridge between people is an important part of our ministry these days.” Kyle and Katrina visit all over the States during the months they’re here, reminding others and themselves that, in Kyle’s words “Christ’s call is to love people who aren’t like you.” This is work they intend to continue doing in Thailand, here in the US, and wherever God may call them in the future.

Kyle was recently recommended for ordination at Panther Lake Community Church by an Evergreen Ordination Council in May. Though the process took a bit longer than normal, in part thanks to the pandemic, and in part because of living abroad. You can come celebrate his ordination at Panther Lake Community Church on Sunday, August 25th at 2pm. More information, and a formal invitation will be shared soon.

You can find out a bit more about their work and donate to help them here, <https://internationalministries.org/author/kk-williams/>. An even better way to support their ministry is to have your church give to them monthly, with your regular United Missions Giving.

If you’d like to invite them to come speak with your congregation, or have any questions for them, please email them at:

williams@internationalministries.org

Evergreen Association Annual Meeting

October 10–12, 2024—First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City & Online

“And All the More: Provoking One Another to Love and Good Deeds”

(Heb. 10:24-25)

Friday Night Preacher Rev. Dr. Hrang Hlei

Associate General Secretary of Chin Baptist Churches USA, Pastor of Congregational Care at Indiana Chin Baptist Church, and a member of the Educational Working Committee of the Burma Advisory Group. He also formerly served as Senior Pastor of Seattle Chin Baptist, an Evergreen church.



Saturday Night Preacher Rev. Dr. Lauren Lisa Ng

Senior Program Officer for the Thriving Congregations Initiative to serve Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) churches with the Berkeley School of Theology. Previously she served as Director of Leadership Empowerment at ABHMS, and has over 20 years of ministry leadership.

Schedule in Brief

Thursday Evening: Ministers’ Council Gathering & Laity Gathering.

Friday: Welcome Plenary, In Person Workshops or Mission Work, Friday Night Worship

Saturday: Business Meeting, SLC Experiences, Online Workshops, Saturday Night Worship

Sunday: If you’re in town, worship at one of our great Utah churches!



Mission Corner

During the Friday Workshops, there will be an alternative option to contribute at the Mission corner instead of a workshop. We’ll be doing work that supports homeless youth and adults in Salt Lake City, including making lunches, weaving sleeping mats, and assembling blessing bags!

Hotel Information

We will be staying at the University Park Marriot. We have a block of rooms for a special rate of \$199 per night before taxes. Single King and 2 Queen Bed rooms are available. You can reserve directly with the Marriott at this link:

[Book with the Marriott for the Evergreen Annual Meeting.](#)

A shuttle will run mornings and evenings between hotel & church.

SLC Experiences

Saturday afternoon, those attending in person will have the option to go out into Salt Lake City (and the area around it) by selecting one of a few guided events, including a hike, a tour of Monument Park, or mission work nearby!

Costs

Th. Clergy Gathering: \$10

Th. Laity Gathering: \$10

In Person Registration: \$50

Meals covered: Friday Lunch and Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Online Registration: \$30

Register at link below or use QR Code!

<https://forms.office.com/r/m7ucGPA6Vn>





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Return Service Requested

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 20th of the month prior to expected publication. You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles for your congregation and community.

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

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.

May the “ordinary” time of Summer be extraordinary for your congregations!

Save these Dates!

We’ve got some great events coming up with the region and our ABC-USA denomination. Please mark your calendars so you can make sure to participate in these fantastic coming events!

Quarterly Business Meeting, Sat. Aug. 10, 10am

Please join us for the next Quarterly Business Meeting on Saturday August 12th, at 10am, in person at Panther Lake Community Church and online.

Black Caucus Social, Sat. Aug. 10, After the Business Meeting

Meeting

The Black Caucus will gather after the meeting. Contact Rev. Ken Curl (kgcurl99@comcast.net) for info.

Ordination of Kyle Williams, Aug. 25th, 2pm

Come celebrate the ordination of Kyle Williams by Panther Lake Community Church! (see inside for more on Kyle).

Evergreen Annual Meeting, Oct. 10-12, FBC Salt Lake City and Online

See inside for more details!

July Calendar

July 1—International Joke Day

July 2—60th Anniversary of signing of Civil Rights Act

July 4—Independence Day, USA

July 7—Muharram, Islamic New Year

July 11—6:30pm—Evergreen Executive Committee Meeting

July 17—World Emoji Day 🤔 😊 😎

July 18—International Nelson Mandela Day

July 20—55th Anniversary of the Moon Landing

July 21—National Ice Cream Day

July 30—National Cheesecake Day