

October 2026
Volume 25, Issue 10

Evergreen Notes



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



Rev. Hsa-Moo Sheemo & Rev. Eh Ka Paw preside at the 20th Anniversary Celebration

Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

By Rev. Dr. Paul Aita

The Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle (KCCGS) celebrated its 20th anniversary at a special worship service and dinner at Canyon Ridge Middle School in Kent on Sunday, September 6th. Members of Karen churches in the Tri-Cities, Spokane, and Portland attended the event, as did representatives of other Kent churches including the Washington Burmese Christian Fellowship and the Washington Kachin Baptist, Grace Unity, and Panther Lake Community Churches. Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton and Leslie Piacitelli were present to represent the Evergreen Association. Music and dance numbers were presented by KCCGS Sunday School children, youth, and women's and men's ministries, and by groups from Tri-Cities and Spokane. Steven Dun gave a greeting and Pastor Maggie Po gave a closing speech. Pastor Aye Aye Thaw of the San Francisco Bay area gave a word of encouragement, and Rev. Hsa Moo Sheemo from St. Paul MN delivered the sermon. He and Rev. Eh Ka Paw led the congregation in the Lord's Supper. Rev. Nay Blut offered a closing prayer and a prayer of thanks for the dinner to follow, and Rev. Dr. Paul Aita pronounced the benediction.

Continued on page 4...

Inside this Issue

KCCGS Celebrates 20th Anniversary 1

New Ways to Gather 2

Registration Deadlines for Biennial 2

Tech Support Scams. 3

Biennial Gathering Flyer 5

Save These Dates 6

September Calendar 6

Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

Filipino-American Christian Fellowship,
Lynnwood, WA

First Hispanic Baptist Church,
Santa Barbara, CA

Grace Baptist Church,
San Jose, CA

Shell Ridge Community Church,
Walnut Creek, CA

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church,
Oakland, CA

First Baptist Church of Chico,
Chico, CA

New Ways to Gather



By Rev. Dr. Sam Kim

As the Evergreen family continues to grow and evolve, we recognize that the way we connect and build community will evolve as well.

People within and beyond Evergreen have noted that our Annual Gatherings were filled with energy and engagement. Many regions were envious of the representation ratio per congregation at many of our events. So why did we decide to move to a Biennial format?

As we mentioned in our discernment discussions in the past, we began to notice that while certain churches were very faithful to come to our gatherings, many of our smaller churches with constrained budgets had a more difficult time sending their pastor and their leaders to join us, especially if the gathering was in another state. As Evergreen is geographically diverse, some of our gatherings in certain years can be very costly to attend. Even more challenging would be when it was in the same year as the American Baptist National Biennial, and churches had to make a hard decision of where to send their people. For this reason, we have switched to a Biennial format so that we can meet in years when the National Biennial is not held.

To help compensate for this shift, the regional staff have committed to regularly visiting

our local areas of ministry within Evergreen. Already, we have had very powerful area gatherings with the Bay Area, Southern California, and the Mountain Area. At these meetings, we have connected with churches that might not be able to join our Leadership Gathering or Annual Gathering for various reasons. Our meetings often deepen the collegiality of churches, encourage people to know that kindred ministers are nearby, and show that many of the issues they face within their church are actually issues their sibling churches are dealing with as well. We hope to foster a spirit of collaboration and empowerment as we continue this work.

In this dual movement of the new Biennial and the Area Gatherings, we are excited for this new season of Evergreen as it continues to grow and diversify through new cities and new additions to our ethnic caucuses. Pray for our Association and us as we continue to learn how to get better at fostering community and support as we do the work of the gospel.

Registration Deadlines for Biennial Gathering

The last day for in person registration for the Biennial is October 1st! The last day for online registration for the Biennial is October 8th! Please see the flyer on page 5 for links for registration.

If you missed the registration deadline, please contact Rev. Paul Schneider at the Evergreen Office (253-859-2226 x1).

Tech Support Scams

How to Recognize When Someone Isn't from Microsoft



By Rev. Shavon Walker

My former pastor's wife was on her computer one day, doing her usual activities. All of a sudden, she received a phone call from a professional sounding voice that

told her they had been monitoring her computer and had noticed that it was infected with a virus. They then walked her through the process of installing remote software so they could "monitor the problem" then locked her computer to force her to pay them for the privilege of unlocking it again, all the time blaming it on an imaginary virus. As soon as she sent them payment via gift cards, her computer unlocked, but she never heard from them again. She was very fortunate that the scammers only charged her \$400; tech support scams cost Americans over \$800 million annually, with older adults targeted most often for thousands of dollars. In this article, we'll talk about how to learn, recognize and respond to these increasingly sophisticated scams.

There are three common scenarios: first, there's the unsolicited phone call. The caller will claim to be from Microsoft or Apple or even the Geek Squad from Best Buy, stating that they've found some sort of virus on your computer. (Note: none of these companies will ever call you unsolicited.) Second, a pop-up warning may appear on your screen while you're using your browser. It will include a phone number to call and will sometimes lock your screen. Third, scammers buy ads for fake support numbers that will show up in a Google search above the real thing. You may think you're calling the local Genius Bar, but the number leads straight to a scammer. And all of these scenarios will involve pressure sales tactics; they'll want you to follow their directions right now!

Once these scammers get you to talk to them, they'll convince you to install remote access software and/

or open the Command Prompt window, which gives them control of your computer. The software in and of itself isn't a bad thing; this is how legitimate support agents help clients. But these users will hold your computer for ransom. And, they can install their own malware or steal information during the session.

So what do you do if this happens? If it's an unsolicited call, immediately hang up. If you're actually worried about your computer, contact Microsoft or Apple directly (make sure you're calling the right number!) If it's a pop up, don't call that number. Open Task Manager (ctrl+Alt+Delete), look for the browser, right click, and select "End Task" in Windows. For best results, restart your computer. If you've already engaged and are starting to realize you're getting scammed, disconnect from the internet immediately. The fastest and most effective way to do this is to look at the back of your computer and unplug your internet connection (it should be a brightly colored cable that is flashing). Once that's done, if they've had you install any remote software, uninstall it. If you've already paid them, contact the gift card/cryptocurrency/etc retailer or your bank right away and report it to the FTC at reportfraud.ftc.gov. For all situations, make sure your passwords are updated (using one of the password vaults I've mentioned in my previous articles!) as well as your antivirus software.

Here are some other general don'ts: Don't be afraid to hang up and verify for yourself. Don't give remote access to any unsolicited callers. Don't keep this to yourself; talk about it with friends and family and always verify before you act ("Hey, this looks like a scam. What do you think?") Don't fall for a pressure sales tactic; real tech support will be patient, not aggressive. And DO save legit tech support numbers so you can access them easily if there's ever a question. Scammers are relentless and are only interested in getting as much information and money from you as possible. Don't become a victim, and if you do, there are still things you can do to protect yourself. That's it for today; next month, we'll tackle another subject. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

...continued from page 1



Pastor Maggie Po
and Steve Dun

Though the significant influx of refugees from Burma (aka Myanmar) to the US did not begin until about 2008, some Karen families had arrived in the Seattle area prior to that. Among them were Maggie Po and Steve Dun, who started the home group that became a church in 2006. By 2008, they worshiped at the Kent Memorial Park Building. Following that, they held worship services at the Kent Covenant Church for several years, after which they moved to the Kent Phoenix Academy (now the Canyon Ridge Middle School). In 2021, they were invited by Panther Lake Community Church to use their facilities. (Panther Lake's own worship services begin at 10 a.m. on Sundays, with KCCGS's starting at 1:30 p.m., and those of the Washington Kachin Baptist Church starting at 4:30.) Though many families have moved away from the Seattle area to other parts of the state and the country where the cost of living is lower, others have come, so that the Karen church now has 31 families and about 156 members.

KCCGS has a very full and balanced program. Weekly worship services include music led by its praise team, as well as solos and group songs. Many special



KCCGS Youth Retreat Participants in 2017

services are held each year, including Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Children's Day. In addition to Sunday School, the church's education program includes Bible studies, baptism preparation classes, Scripture memory competitions, and classes in music and Karen language. Most years there is a retreat for youth and another for families. As is generally true of Christians from Burma, members of the Karen church host special worship services to express thanks to God for birthdays, graduations, new homes, etc. They also participate in Karen community events, notably the Karen New Year's celebration, for which their youth practice the traditional *don*

dance for several months.

KCCGS has a deep and continuing concern for Karen people in Burma, especially in light of the fact that their villages are often under attack from the Burmese army. They therefore support many organizations that provide humanitarian aid (clinics, orphanages, schools, social service/advocacy agencies, etc.), on both sides of the Thai-Burma border. The annual Run for Burma, which they host, is one way they raise funds for these agencies. In addition to providing financial support, their members have often taken mission trips to the area both for their own education and to provide short-term assistance. In addition, KCCGS regularly supports the Evergreen Baptist Association and a number of Global Servants with ABC International Ministries.

The Karen congregation has been very intentional in its organization and its relationships. Though they began to function as a church in 2006, they did not



Run for Hope for Burma 2026 participants

incorporate under the laws of the State of Washington until 2012. As for connecting with and becoming a part that ABCUSA, it was a slow and very deliberate process. They started attending Evergreen meetings many years before they joined. Many of their women began attending the annual conferences of American Baptist Women of the Pacific Northwest, and several of their men attended men's conferences at Camps Bethel and Burton. As they enjoyed participating in these events, they enjoyed the fellowships and relationships more and more and eventually joined Evergreen in 2015. Evergreen staff has noted that the Karen Community Church is represented at virtually every Evergreen event. The church has also sent delegations to biennial ABCUSA Mission Summits and to events sponsored by the Association of Asian American Baptist Churches.



KCCGS Women at 2017 Portland Biennial Mission Summit

Please join us for the

Evergreen Biennial Gathering

Reimagining Church (Isaiah 43:19)

October 8-10, 2026

at CrossWalk Community Church in Napa, CA

Our Featured Preacher

Schedule in Brief

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washam



Rev. Dr. Jamie P. Washam became the 37th settled minister of the First Baptist Church in America in 2015. The native Texan earned degrees from the University of Texas, Harvard Divinity School, and Vrije Universiteit. She was ordained an American Baptist minister in 2001 by the Samuel Stillman Association of Massachusetts. Prior to pastoring in Providence, she served churches in Chicago, Illinois and Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. She was president of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin in 2013-2014 and the elected president of the American Baptist Home Mission Society from 2020-2025. She makes her home with her family in Rhode Island and counts it a joy to follow in the way of Jesus in the church gathered by Roger Williams. Beyond the Meeting House, you can often find her in the garden.

Thursday

6pm—Clergy & Laity
Dinner

Friday

9am—Registration
10:30am—Welcome
Plenary (livestreamed)
Noon—Lunch
1:30pm to 5:15pm—In
Person Workshops
5:30pm—Dinner
7pm—Worship Service
(livestreamed via
Youtube and webpage)

Saturday

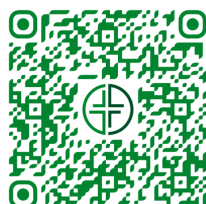
8:30am—Breakfast
10am—Business Meeting
(Hybrid)
Noon—Lunch
1:30pm to 5:15pm—
Online Workshops
1pm to 5pm—Napa
Experiences
5:30pm—Dinner
7pm—Worship Service
(livestreamed)

Sunday

Travel or worship with a
local Evergreen Church

Hotel Information

Registration—Online Only



<https://gqr.sh/aeH6>

We'll be staying at the Double Tree in American Canyon, CA, 20 minutes away from the church. We'll have shuttles to get people to and from the church and hotel. To register, please use this link [here](#) or scan the QR code below. If you're staying Th-Sat, the average price for your room is just \$159 per night.

In Person Registration is closed. Online Registration for this event can be done online via this link [here](#), or scan the QR code in the lower right hand corner. Cost for Online attendance is \$50. Online Attendees will have access to Plenaries, Worship and Workshops. You can pay for your registration using this link [here](#), or the QR code in the lower left hand corner. Please

call Rev. Paul Schneider at the Office (253-859-2226x1) to register or make payment over the phone or with questions.





EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
P.O. BOX 1044
Kent, WA 98035-1044
Phone: 253-859-2226
Email: office@ea-abc.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US PAID KENT
WA PERMIT NO.
451

“Like” us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/evergreenabcusa;

Instagram, and Twitter @evergreenabcusa
#ebaabc

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 crispness of
Fall be a blessing to
you all!**

Save these Dates!

We’ve got some great events coming up. Please mark your calendars so you can participate in these fantastic events!

Evergreen Biennial Gathering

Oct. 8-10, 2026 at CrossWalk Community Church in Napa, CA. See

last page for flyer with registration and hotel information for this great event!

MLK Jr. Day Celebration Service

Jan. 18, 2027 at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. Our Preacher is the amazing Rev. Dr. Zina Jacques!

October Calendar

October 1—*Last day for In Person Registrations* for the Evergreen Biennial Gathering

October 2—Sukkot (The Feast of Booths) ends.

October 4—World Communion Sunday

October 8—*Last day for Online Registrations* for the Evergreen Biennial Gathering

October 8-10—Evergreen Biennial Gathering at CrossWalk Community Church in Napa, CA—See previous page

for more details!

October 8—6pm—Clergy Social Hour

October 8—7pm—Clergy & Laity Dinner at CrossWalk Napa

October 9—Welcome Plenary, Workshops and Worship at the Biennial

October 10—Annual Business Meeting, Online Workshops, Napa Experiences and Worship at the Biennial

October 12—Indigenous People’s Day

October 31—Reformation Day!

October 31—Halloween