



# Evergreen Notes

Volume 20, Issue 7



American Baptist Churches USA

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

## 2021 Biennial Mission Summit A Success

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches’ representative contingency was the largest from a single region (55 registered attendees from member churches).

Congratulations to New Beginnings Christian Fellowship recognized as the 5th highest giving church to United Mission (\$43, 300+); and thereby, the highest giving African American congregation in the ABCUSA denomination.

Thank you to the Mount Zion Baptist Church Virtual Choir featured by the National Black Caucus during the Thursday evening, June 24th worship service focused on “Something Inside So Strong”. The Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray brought the sermon: Give Me My Joy

Thanks to Japanese Baptist Church for your leadership during the Friday, June 25th opening worship service. We saw you!!

And we want to notice also, that our friend, the Rev. Dr. Albert Brinson received the John & Cora Sparrowk Award. Congrats, Dr. Brinson!

Congratulations, ABCUSA for a gargantuan undertaking, successfully rendered. We will be visiting the saved online materials for the next 85+ days.



**Urban Grace Church—Tacoma Calls Rev. Bianca Luna as their Children and Youth Director.**

**Congratulations to Urban Grace and Welcome to the PNW, Rev. Luna!**

Rev. Bianca Luna

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### **Pray for Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership**

- ◆ *Mount Zion Baptist Church*
- ◆ *Filipino-American Christian Fellowship (FACF)*
- ◆ *Fairview Community Church*

## First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City Participates in Program to Address Racism

In the wake of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson Missouri in 2014, First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City felt compelled to respond somehow. We joined the demonstrations here in Salt Lake (related to Ferguson and the many other incidents of police violence that occurred), we signed petitions, we lobbied the legislature. These were all good things, but they tended to look outward. My long experience with the Evergreen Association told me that real change was something that happened from the inside out. So, we began to explore our own need to change. We had a book study of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander that introduced us to the injustice of mass incarceration. We invited Doug Avilesbernal and the Evergreen Anti-racism team to come dive into white privilege in a workshop called "I'm Not Racist, But We Are." (Excellent presentation. Your congregation should take advantage of this resource). All of this has strengthened our commitment to facing and addressing racism in ourselves and our society.

This year, we were invited to participate in a five-year project sponsored by The Alliance of Baptists in Partnership with the Lilly Endowment called THRIVE. In this program, 27 Baptist congregations will actively



Rev. Curtis Price

will actively confront structures of racism to remove a crucial obstacle that spiritually and materially affects Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Latinx and Asian Pacific Islanders. These congregations, mainly white, will work using a learning community model whereby we collaborate on ideas and challenges and process actions taken together. Yet each individual congregation will develop its own approach and program tailored to its own congregational culture.

The goal of THRIVE is to examine white-dominant congregational life and vitality through the lens of our commitment to racial justice. The long-term objective of the program is to eradicate the presence, and address the ongoing harm of white supremacy in Baptist congregations. Each local congregation will create, collaborate, and reflect in line with these objectives.

The project involves one clergy person and a lay person who serve as the point people for the project. We have met once as a whole and will meet a minimum of once each year with other smaller interactions in between. One of the important components of the project involves documentation and data collection from the congregations as they progress through the program.

The team of sociologists that are running this program will be conducting research on the congregations involved in the hope of developing models for addressing white supremacy and racism in other congregations in the future.

We look forward to this journey with other Baptist congregations that are committed to face the challenges of fighting white supremacy in our country, and I look forward to sharing with all of you our progress as we continue through the program.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Curtis*

Rev. Curtis Price, Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Salt  
Lake City

**INVITATION TO YOUR CHURCH:** The THRIVE Project invites your church to participate in the same Racial Attitudes Assessment it will use with participating congregations like FBC of SLC. The Assessment can generate a composite congregational profile of participating congregants.

This Assessment will tell you where your congregation is now and will be repeated in 2025 to measure how your anti-racism efforts have changed attitudes during the intervening years. Contact Wim Mauldin for more information at [wim\\_mauldin@hotmail.com](mailto:wim_mauldin@hotmail.com)

## Save the Dates for Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference!!

BPFNA-Bautistas por la Paz is an expansive network of peacemakers from Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the United States and beyond. Our annual Summer Conference is our largest gathering and one that brings together these peacemakers to gain new skills, inspiration and rejuvenation to continue the work of peace rooted in justice.

Summer Conference planners are expanding on what was learned in 2020 to create 40 Days with BPFNA (July 20-August 28) a special experience which culminates with the International Virtual Conference on August 28th, **United States:** 2 PM PDT / 3 PM MDT / 4 PM CDT / 5 PM EDT. Registration available at <https://www.bpfna.org/register-main>

## Panther Lake Community Church Yard Sale

PLCC will be holding a yard sale on July 23-24 to raise funds to help support Gordon and Lee Ann Hwang, American Baptist Missionaries to Japan. They have been serving in Japan for 17 years and hope to return in September. All proceeds from the yard sale will go towards their support. The sale will be held behind the church at Dorcas House. Items for sale include: a lawnmower, roto-tiller, an outboard motor, wheelbarrow, yard tools, lots of other tools, dishes, Japanese dishes, jewelry, craft items, linens, purses, shoes, and lots and lots of clothing.

There are a lot of great deals, so come and be prepared to spend your money and give to a great cause.

## FAN's Benz Retiring; DeGooyer New Executive Director; Seeking Policy Engagement Director

As the Faith Action Network continues to celebrate our tenth birthday this year, the FAN Governing Board is pleased to announce that current Co-Director Elise DeGooyer will become the new FAN Executive Director, beginning January 1, 2022, following the retirement of FAN's founding Co-Director, Rev. Paul Benz at the end of 2021.

Elise, who is rooted in Catholic and interfaith justice traditions, has served FAN as Co-Director for over seven years. She has given strategic, administrative, and programmatic leadership to FAN and has helped grow our network and our budget. She knows the organization well and has the skills and vision to help move FAN forward. Elise is a long-time Seattle resident who grew up in Yakima and still has most of her family in that area. She has a deep understanding of and commitment to FAN's statewide and multifaith identity.

FAN's public policy work, led by Paul these past 10 years, will continue under the leadership of a Policy Engagement Director, with that search process beginning now. Interested candidates can send a resume and cover letter to [apply@fanwa.org](mailto:apply@fanwa.org).

As the FAN Board looks back over the many accomplishments of its first ten years and expresses its thanks for the Rev. Paul Benz, we are also moving faithfully forward, guided by our original vision of a powerful, faith-based network for justice and compassion in our state. We are grateful for all our partnerships.

Rev. Carol Jensen, Co-Chair, FAN Governing Board

## Mary J. Phillips, Mother of Rev. Dr. Timothy Phillips, Dies Peacefully

It is with great sorrow, we share that Mary J. Phillips passed away on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Thank you all for your incredible outpouring of love and prayers for Pastor Tim, his sister, Frances and their families.

In lieu of flowers the family invites gifts to the Alzheimer's Association or go to [www.alz.com](http://www.alz.com) and search for Mary J. Phillips on their tribute page.

*A memorial service for Mary will be held at Seattle First Baptist Church on Sunday, July 18, 2021 after worship.*

## Endowment Task Force

As caucuses are identifying representatives for the Evergreen Endowment Task Force, please use this preliminary/draft outline as a guide to begin conversations:

**Time Frame** Each representative will be asked for a one year commitment. There will likely be monthly meetings the first four months, and members will reassess frequency depending on progress. Meetings will be no more than 1.5 hours.

### Tasks

To create the structure for grants to include structure, granting schedule, requirements for application, follow up, etc.

To develop criteria for a rotating granting committee that will review grant applications.

To create a job description for a coordinator to support grant recipients (church cohorts and pastors).

**Camp Burton Has a Summer Schedule!**  
Interested? Go to [campburton.com](http://campburton.com) and investigate!

Please go online to [www.ea-abc.org](http://www.ea-abc.org) and click on "Give" to donate.

We are grateful for your continued support!

## From Nzunga in Haiti

Dear Loved Ones,

A synopsis of events:

- ◆ May 20th Nzunga returned to Haiti; truck scheduled to arrive May 25th
- ◆ Meanwhile, Air conditioners (A/C) in eye clinic waiting area broke.
- ◆ June 9th Truck sighted on dock in Haiti
- ◆ June 12th Waiting on director's return from Miami to release truck. No truck, but, one problem solved: A/C in eye clinic works!
- ◆ June 18th, The Eye Clinic replacement vehicle was released from the bureaucratic nightmare! Now Nzunga can return to the States on the 19th as scheduled!

Greetings from our humid and hot Haiti.



I wrote in my first report of the broken AC in the main waiting room. I had an idea what we needed to buy. When I got there, prices had all changed. The labor had doubled and so had the cost of 2 ACs. I wanted to know why the change in just 2 days. The girl told me it was the system.

Thank you for helping buy the AC. The technician will be busy tomorrow Saturday, June 12th, installing them. I can hardly wait to cool myself in the new cool air.

I waited the whole day Friday to be told toward the end that the custom director was in Miami, and she will be in the office on Monday.

Yours In Haiti,

Nzunga

*Dear supporters,*

*The heat and humidity will wilt anyone in Haiti and imagine trying to work on someone's eyes in those conditions. The A/C is critical. **I received a call from Nzunga a few minutes ago saying the A/C is in and operating. PTL!***

*Thank you all.*

*Denny Shewell*

**Editor's Note:** *In the Great NW we understand the AC situation, since temperatures for three days ranged from the upper 90's to 114<sup>o</sup> F!*

## Happenings Around the Region

**The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church EXTRA MILE MINISTRY** thanks you for the outpouring of support for the REACH Center of Hope, a day center and night shelter for homeless women by collecting and delivering purses filled with women's toiletries and a handwritten note of hope. Pattie Holt, REACH Program Manager, shared in a note of thanks: *This outpouring of love will bless the women we serve at the REACH Center of Hope. With the large number of purses you filled, we will also be able to give beautifully stuffed purses to the homeless women we serve at our REACH Meal Coalition. Your kind generosity offers encouragement to the homeless women we serve.*



*Our mission at REACH is Compassion in Action: Ending Homelessness and Hunger. Your generous support is a true example of compassion in action. Thank you for this blessing!*

Helen Jones, Extra Mile Ministry Director, at [mlkemm@mlkbaptist.org](mailto:mlkemm@mlkbaptist.org)

\*\*\*\*\***Evergreen Resource Ministers** are a support provided by the Evergreen region. Receiving thousands of resource links when one is getting started or one is stuck can be paralyzing. So, Resource Ministers can come alongside the church into discovering their call, who they are and what process, resource, etc. might help them best in their context.

Children Ministries	JC Mitchell, <a href="mailto:revjcmitchell@gmail.com">revjcmitchell@gmail.com</a> Patrick Green <a href="mailto:patrickgre@comcast.net">patrickgre@comcast.net</a>
Youth/Family Ministries	Angeline Lau <a href="mailto:alau.jbc@gmail.com">alau.jbc@gmail.com</a> Anita Peebles <a href="mailto:anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org">anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org</a>
Houselessness	Chris Boyer <a href="mailto:mcboyer@gsbchurch.com">mcboyer@gsbchurch.com</a>
Worship	Victoria Carr <a href="mailto:vcarr@thenbcf.org">vcarr@thenbcf.org</a>
Media	Mindi Welton-Mitchell <a href="mailto:media@ea-abc.org">media@ea-abc.org</a>

\*\*\*\*\***American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Pacific Northwest** — Save the date because the ABWM/PNW Conference will be held October 1-3, 2021 in Yakima, WA. **Hooray!** The new ABWM theme is **"Let the Walls Fall Down" with Ephesians 2:14 as the Scripture.** The Mission project is **American Baptist Women's Ministries** and the Mission Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Christine Smith, the new National President for ABWM. The Bible Study leader is the Rev. Dr. Barbara Reid.

It is so exciting to be planning this conference and trust that we will all be able to meet in person. There are also plans to have some of the sessions live on Facebook. So start your planning now, save your money, and be creative to make and donate something special to be auctioned on Saturday. Registrations and more information will be mailed out soon. If you have any questions, please call either Lorna Flannery (Conference Chair) or Gail Aita (ABWM/PNW President).

**See you in October!**



## 60th Anniversary Celebration

Good Shepherd  
Baptist Church  
Celebrates 60  
years!

Please join us in commemorating this  
milestone

## Worship Service and luncheon, August 8, 2021

### More Information:

August 8, 2021 you are invited to join us for worship  
in our GSBC sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Masks will be required for worship time and indoor activi-  
ties. GSBC will have a supply of masks available.

Join us for lunch and social time (outdoors/Fellowship Hall),  
12:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd will provide the luncheon; GSBC members are  
asked to bring salads.

Good Shepherd Baptist Church  
6915 196th St SW, Lynnwood WA 98036  
425-774-1010

RSVP would be appreciated by July 25, 2021 at  
[gsbchurch@gsbchurch.com](mailto:gsbchurch@gsbchurch.com)



## The Shift Conference September 25–26, 2021

THEME: Reconnect Reimagine Rebuild

Join us as we welcome some of the leading voices of our generation  
including Rev. Dr. Shareka Newton, Rev. Reginald Sharpe Jr, and Rev.  
Dr. Dominique Robinson.

For our night of entertainment help us welcome the one and only Michael Jr for a comedy  
show you will not want to miss!

For more information and registration, go to the conference and comedy show web-  
site: <https://www.theshiftconference.org/>



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**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.



Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal  
Executive Minister

**Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity**

## Calendar of Upcoming Event

*Executive Committee continues to meet monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30 PM via Zoom during the Corona Virus pandemic.*

**Association Board Meeting, Quarterly:**

August 14, 2021, 9:30 AM Zoom

**Ministers’ Council pre-annual meeting gathering,** Thursday, October 7, 2021. More details to follow.

**Annual Meeting; Hybrid—In Person & Online —** October 8-9, 2021, Olympia First Baptist Church.  
**Theme:** Rooted & Repurposed; **Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7; **Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Executive Minister Metro New York

### 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.