

Evergreen Notes



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



Engaged In Ministry Together

By Rev. Dr. Paul Aita

Panther Lake Community Church in Kent has had ongoing relationships with churches in the Seattle area that were founded by people from Burma. These relationships, which are expressed in a variety of ways, were clearly visible this year during Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday evening, worship was conducted by the three congregations that meet in the building: Panther Lake itself, plus the Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle and the Washington Kachin Baptist Church. The service was very simple, featuring readings of ten portions of Scripture narrating events from the preparation for the Last Supper through the burial of Jesus. Each passage was read first in Kachin, then in English, and finally in Karen.

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Pray for Churches seeking Pastoral Leadership

- Mount Zion Baptist Church,** Seattle, WA
- Queen Anne Baptist Church,** Seattle, WA
- Fairview Community Church,** Costa Mesa, CA
- Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church,** Wenatchee, WA
- Filipino-American Christian Fellowship,** Lynnwood, WA
- Good Shepherd Baptist Church,** Lynnwood, WA
- Community Church of Issaquah,** Issaquah, WA

Editor's Notes

Living Into Who We're Called To Be

By Rev. Paul Schneider—Editor, Evergreen Notes

We're now into the Easter season, those six Sundays between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost. If your church follows the lectionary, you'll be reading about Jesus's instructions to the disciples from the gospels, and the actions they take as a response to those instructions from the book of Acts. Actions which lead to more and more people being included as followers of Christ, even those no one would have considered just a few months or years before. If your church doesn't follow the lectionary, you'll still be doing exactly what Jesus's disciples had to do following the resurrection: Live into who Jesus is calling you to be.

Because that's the thing, Jesus doesn't call these disciples just to have them continue doing what they did before. When Simon Peter and some of the others just go home after the resurrection, Jesus shows up, challenging them to continue the mission he called them to: living out a redemptive, inclusive love. This time, Easter season is a reminder that we're called to keep faith with our Savior, to serve the least, the last, and the lost. Just as Jesus had a word for the disciples about continuing to serve as they were called, we should be listening for what we're being called to next.

The Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is a wonderfully diverse and eclectic group of churches. Not bounded by mere geography, we have sixty-four churches across six different states. We speak many different languages in our worship. Our congregations include people whose families

have been in this country for many generations, and also people who have just come here. We range a broad theological spectrum and have many different styles of worship. Yet, we do not sacrifice the uniqueness of the many different cultures, congregations, and individuals when we join together as a Region for mission, for ministry, or for worship. Rather than demanding assimilation, we celebrate this incredible diversity among us as our greatest strength. The thus far unique in ABC-USA ethnic caucus system we use to do our business together ensures that all voices are heard not just the majority voice.

Evergreen is still answering that call of Jesus, the one that challenges us to live out that same inclusive, redemptive love. As we learn and grow with one another, we are learning how to engage in ways far beyond pleasant and tolerant conversation and to live into real mutuality, and community. Initiatives like the Building Bridges program, with our new Associate Executive Minister of Innovation and Design, Rev. Sam Kim, who will help to promote the renewing of churches, incubate and accelerate innovative ministries, and help new church plants get off the ground. Work like that being done by the Intercultural team, which is helping us understand one another better, and lift up that strength in diversity and live in unity together. And diverse communities living and worshipping together, like the ministries of Panther Lake, Karen Community, Washington Kachin, and Seattle Chin (see page 1), and like Good Shepherd Baptist Church/Iglesia Bautista el Buen Pastor and the Life Fellowship in Lynnwood.

Please let us know what your churches are doing, what they are celebrating and how we can lift up and honor your ministries together. You can email me at paul@ea-abc.org to let us know!

Welcome these Pastors who are new to Evergreen!



Originally from Flint, MI, **Rev. Nicole Iaquinto** (she/her) was called to **Cambridge Drive Community Church** in Santa Barbara, CA in January 2022. In 2015, she graduated from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School with her M.Div. After graduating from seminary, she served several

churches in the Rochester, NY area. In addition to her degree in theology, she has a BA in Social Relations and Policy (with a minor in African American and African History) and an M.Ed. in Education and Public Policy. Pastor Nicole is also an actor, a farmer in training, and Community Herbalist at Forest Floor Herbals, the small herbal remedies business she started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She's currently learning how to longboard and hopes to take up surfing soon. She lives with her two cats, Buffy and Van Helsing, and an abundance of house plants.



Rev. Alice Horner-Nelson began her work as the Pastor of Communications and The Gathering on Easter Sunday 2018. Her job is two-fold. First, she oversees all internal and external church communications, which includes all church publications and communication channels. Her job is to tell **Calvary Baptist Church of Denver's** story,

and to streamline all information for members and guests. Second, she is the designated pastor for Calvary's monthly contemporary service Praise and Ritual. She earned her Masters of Divinity from the McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta, GA with a concentration in Congregational Ministry. That's where she met her husband Matt, a fellow M.Div and Reverend. Prior to Calvary, she has worked as a Communications Director, Minister to Students, and as a children's ministry associate. Her background in writing, journalism, and photography comes in handy as well. Alice loves writing, storytelling, and humor.

She hails from Baltimore, Maryland and has five siblings. Matt & Alice have a daughter, Felicity, and two cats, Molly and Mary Todd.



Rev. Anne Jernberg Scalfaro serves as the Senior Pastor (2013 – present) of **Calvary Baptist Church of Denver**, where she has been on staff since 2008. She's a graduate of Austin College in Sherman, TX (B.A. Religion) and Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA (M.Div.) and was ordained to ministry at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, TX following a two-year pastoral residency program.

Born and raised in Dallas, Anne loves good Tex-Mex, afternoon thunderstorms, and the word "y'all." As an introvert, Anne enjoys learning, poetry, travel, game nights, coffee conversations, puzzles, and podcasts. She is renewed by yoga and spending time outdoors with her husband, Damon, and their golden retriever, Deacon.

Anne loves the local church because she believes faith is a journey best shared in community: "My calling is to pastor a congregation through meaningful worship, authentic presence, and servant leadership. Rooted in God's faithfulness, empowered by Christ's love, and sustained by the living Spirit, I understand the church to be a mosaic of beloved people and a beacon of hope and justice to the world."



Rev. Morgan Fletcher has served as one of **Calvary Baptist Church of Denver's** pastors since June 2014 and has had the privilege of leading and supporting a variety of Calvary's ministries such as youth, young adults, missions, congregational life, and currently faith formation

for all ages. She's originally from Arvada, CO and has enjoyed being back home for the past eight years. Morgan attended Baylor University for her bachelor and master's degrees in religion and social work. While serving with Calvary Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. she learned about American Baptist Churches USA and the Alliance of Baptists, both of which she now considers how Baptist homes. Outside of work she serves as one of the co-leads for Welcome Home: Reparations for Black Female Healers, spends the majority of her time with her wonderful children Julian (2yrs) and Mavis (11mo), her husband Ian, and their dog Otis.

Media Corner—Social Media Series, Part 1: Introduc-

Greetings Evergreen family,

In an attempt to avoid rehashing the same content for every newsletter, I am going to embark on a project, of sorts. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer amount of social media available these days; it is nearly impossible to figure out which one is suitable for which application. Over the next seven months, I will focus on the following platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Discord, TikTok, Instagram, YouTube and Twitch. I will share the history of these platforms, how they were originally used, how they are currently used, and, in some cases, how churches are using them now. Later, I will cover safeguards for using these platforms safely and how to avoid hate raids, trolls and other undesirable events.

My hope is that by doing this, we can learn more about the technology that surrounds us and the best ways of using it. In the process, we can look at these platforms as less foreign and more familiar; this builds confidence in our abilities and knowledge.

Lastly, I would like to reach out to you, dear reader. Is there a social media topic you would like me to address? Please email me at media@ea-abc.org and I will do my best to include it. I look forward to sharing with you, and I am excited to begin this educational journey with you all.



Correction!

In the electronic version, but not the print version of the Evergreen Notes last month, I mistakenly listed Fairview Community Church as being in Seattle, Washington. This of course, is incorrect, as Fairview Community Church is actually in beautiful Costa Mesa, California. I apologize for this error!

- Paul

Please Help Us Update our Contacts for Churches and Pastors!

One of the important tasks we're working on is updating important contact information. These updated lists will be used to make sure that all of our Pastors are contacted swiftly and efficiently when there is a need, and that our churches, and lay leaders are connected to Evergreen as well. Even if you know, that we have your church or Pastor's email address or phone number, please list it anyway. This way we can be sure we have the most current information.

The form also asks that you give us certain dates as well (founding date of the church, hiring date and ordination dates of the pastors). We want to celebrate those anniversaries with your congregation! They are important to mark. If you do not know a particular date, that's ok, please fill out the rest of the form anyway. That way we can get the critical contact information set.

This request was also in previous issues but only seven churches have responded so far.

The form can be filled out online at <https://forms.office.com/r/Rp8tRKH4jd>, or you can request a copy be sent to you by mail or email. It would be great if we could gather all this information as soon as possible! Please contact Paul Schneider with any questions at paul@ea-abc.org.

...continued from page 1

Hymns were sung between readings, and Communion was observed at the appropriate place in the narrative. The service, which was very moving, was attended by a significant number of members from each congregation.



The Easter Sunday morning service at Panther Lake featured six baptisms, with candidates representing four different churches: Seattle Chin Baptist Church and Washington Chin Baptist Church along with Panther Lake and the Karen church. At least three of the candidates have participated in the life of Panther Lake church as well as one of the others. One of the candidates was referred to Panther Lake because she is engaged to a Chin man but does not speak Chin. Panther Lake's pastor John Armagost worked with the pastors of the other churches to prepare the candidate for baptism. Pastor Ramhei Cin of the Seattle Chin Baptist Church joined John in the tank and performed two of the baptisms. Near the end of the service, each pastor offered prayer for those from his or her congregation. (Maggie Po is pastor of the Karen church, and Kawl Tha is pastor of the Washington Chin church.)

The Panther Lake church has hosted one or two other congregations for more than ten years. However, relationships have developed in new and exciting ways since the Karen Community Church began using the facilities last fall. Since they and the Kachin church, like Panther Lake itself, are affiliated with

Evergreen, Pastor John encouraged everyone to think of the relationship not merely as "landlord and tenants," but as partners in ministry. While each of the three congregations remains self-governing and is responsible for planning and carrying out its own ministry, they actively seek ways to engage in ministry together. In the past, monthly meetings of representatives of the churches using the building dealt mostly with details concerning facilities and scheduling. Now they include much more time for sharing about the health and well-being of each congregation and its members and considering ways that we can work together and encourage each other. A recent youth event was attended by twelve young people representing all three churches. It included preparing and eating a meal together (spaghetti and meatballs, salad, and chocolate chip cookies), jewelry-making, and games. An experimental project still in progress has been to prepare a video of a virtual choir singing a hymn in English, Karen, and Kachin.

Eager to celebrate Evergreen's ethnic diversity, the Panther Lake church observed Black History month during worship each Sunday in February. It will celebrate Asian Heritage month each Sunday during May and Hispanic Heritage month in the fall.



ABWM Retreat

Let the Walls Fall Down

The American Baptist Women of the Pacific Northwest are inviting all women to join us for a retreat/conference June 24-26, 2022 at Camp Bethel. It has been about three years since we have been able to worship and fellowship in person. We are excited to see how everyone is doing.

Our Bible Study Leader will be Rev. Dr. Barbara Reid and the theme is "Let the Walls Fall Down".

During Covid we have intentionally or unintentionally built up personal walls that are stopping or slowing us down from serving God as we have been called to do. We will be working together to explore, discover and bring our walls down.

For more information about this retreat and registration, please check our website at www.abwm-pnw.org or contact Lorna Flannery.

God Bless each one of you and hope to see you at Camp Bethel.

Lorna Flannery—flanbaker@gmail.com

Run for Relief for Burma

Where: Chambers Creek Regional Park, 6320 Grandview Dr W, University Place, WA 98467

When: Saturday, May 14th, 2022

8:30am—Registration

9:30am—5K Run/Walk

11:30am—Guest Speaker/Presentation

What: This is a charity event which will raise funds for humanitarian relief in Burma. Previous events have helped purchase oxygen concentrators for a hospital in Yangon when the Burma Army was confiscating all oxygen supplies. And also helped fund Earth Missions in their Physicians Assistant training program and helped fund the Jungle School of Medicine Karen State. *Please note, this is an event you have to register for. You can download the registration form [here](#).*

Return registration form with payment check(s): payable to Karen Community Church, mail to PO BOX 24237, Federal Way, WA 98093, no later than May 10th or return at the day of the event.

Contact Tina Po for more information—tina.po2001@gmail.com.

Calendar

May

May 1st—May Day

May 4th—Star Wars Day—*May the fourth be with you!*

May 5th—National Day of Prayer

May 5th—Cinco de Mayo

May 8th—Mother's Day

May 14th—Run for Relief for Burma event. See above!

May 20th, 21st, 22nd—FBC Olympia celebrates its 150th Anniversary!

May 30th—Memorial Day

Evergreen Quarterly Board Meetings

Here are the dates for all of the Evergreen Quarterly Board Meetings for 2022. **These meetings take place from 10am to 11:30am Pacific.**

Please make sure your church is represented at these meetings. It is ideal to have both lay and pastoral leadership present when possible. These Quarterly meetings are an important part of our work together as a region, where we both do the necessary business and set our agenda for the future.

#2 – June 11th, 2022 – Physical location TBD, also over Zoom.

#3 – August 13th, 2022 – Physical location TBD, also over Zoom.

#4 – October 13th-15th, 2022 – Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.



Registration is live!

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) invites you to Space for Grace 2022, September 19 - 23, 2022 at the Westin Kansas City, Missouri, at Crown Center. Our theme for this year's biannual event—**Testify!**—speaks to the need in these times for diverse voices sharing genuine, honest dialogue about issues of Christian leadership, discipleship and justice. Its biblical foundation comes from 2 Corinthians 4: 6 – 9.

This year Space for Grace will include the Spiritual Caregiver's Conference from Sept. 19th-20th, Converge at Space for Grace on Sept. 20th, and the primary Space for Grace event Sept. 21st-23rd. Space for Grace, the flagship event of ABHMS' Space for Grace 2022, will offer a place and space for telling God's good news ... and hearing it too. When we testify to each other in God's love, our testimonies become gifts of grace that strengthen and affirm the faith we carry into facing the challenges of daily life. Just like previous Space for Grace gatherings, this year's event will provide opportunities to connect with passionate speakers and network with workshop leaders and fellow participants. In addition to an impressive slate of keynote speakers, you will enjoy learning experiences on leadership empowerment, discipleship and healing and transforming communities presented by renowned pastors, organizational directors, and authors.

You can find out more at: <https://web.cvent.com/event/67edaf79-f640-491d-a6c1-f970b4f309ed/summary>

Save the Date: August 6th, 2022—Evergreen Summer Food Fling

Join us on August 6th, 2022 from Noon to 2:30pm at Panther Lake Community Church in Kent for the Evergreen Summer Food Fling! This will be a fun event with all caucuses bringing food to share with one another. Barbecue, noodles and more will be on the tables!

This is an Evergreen fundraiser and tickets will go on sale soon at \$20 each. If you'd like to contribute food for the event, please let us know!

Night @ the Ballpark Aug. 27th, 2022, 7:10p

On August 27th, 2022 at 7:10pm you are invited to join the **Evergreen** family in the stands of T-Mobile Park to watch the Seattle Mariners play the Cleveland Guardians. This is the night Ichiro Suzuki is being inducted into the Mariners Hall of Fame, and the first 20,000 fans will get an Ichiro T-Shirt. Guaranteed to be a night to remember, as we celebrate a man who is a baseball legend in two countries!

Let's get a big **Evergreen** crowd going to celebrate the return of Baseball, and an **Evergreen** tradition.

Tickets are only \$18.00 for main level seats and are going to go quickly! To reserve yours, please call the Evergreen Office at 253-859-2226 and press 1 to talk to Paul. Or you can email your reservation to paul@ea-abc.org.



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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 this Easter
Season refresh
your faith!**



150th Anniversary Celebration for FBC Olympia

The sesquicentennial celebration will take place May 20th, 21st and 22nd. Save the dates for these events!

Friday, May 20th. 4-7 pm Open House in Fellowship Hall

Stop by for a lite snack, "Baptist cocktails" and visit with friends. If you were married at First Baptist bring a framed wedding picture to display while you are here.

Saturday, May 21st. 3:30 pm Anniversary Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Rev. Sam Hochstatter, pastor from 2000-2010, will be speaking. Dinner and program follow. Reservations needed by May 16th, \$10 per person. Call the church office or email: olyfbc@aol.com

Sunday, May 22nd at 10:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Pastor Mark Rambo preaching, you are welcome to attend in person or on Facebook.