



American Baptist Churches
of Wisconsin
SYNERGY ENEWSLETTER

June 2017

...announcing, connecting, and sharing for
synergy in mission and ministry



American Baptist Women's Ministries in session at Camp Tamarack during the first week of June for their Annual Retreat.

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ABC/WI Office News

1. **Your Voice Matters!** ABC/WI June Survey Series! - **New!**

- **Every Tuesday in June, 2017** the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin (ABC/WI) Regional Office will be sending out **one survey to our constituents via email. Your Voice Matters!**
- These surveys will be brief (5-7 minutes to complete). The questions asked will seek to help our regional staff and leadership have a fuller picture of the interest and engagement level across our region.
- Your responses will provide input into the various areas of ministry of ABC/WI, such as camping, educational/training interests/needs, as well as the current value and need for associations.
- **Your voice matters;** please respond to these surveys!
 - The surveys will be sent to those on our regular e-mail list, which certainly does not include everyone that *may* offer constructive input to the future of our ministries and mission activities. These surveys are meant to be inclusive of all voices. **Please feel free to forward to anyone you believe can offer helpful**

responses.

- The first survey went out on Tuesday, June 6. You can access the survey by clicking [here](#).

2. Camp Tamarack - Summer Camp Dates

- Here are the Camp Tamarack Summer Dates (based on grade just completed)
 - Sr. High (9-12th grade) June 11th - 17th
 - Primary (1st-2nd grade) June 18th - 21st
 - Middler (3rd - 4th grade) June 18th – 24th
 - Jr. High (7-8th grade) June 25th – July 1st
 - All Inclusive July 2nd – 8th
 - Grandily (Grandparents/Family) Camp July 5th – 8th
 - Junior Camp (5-6th grade) July 9th- 15th
- **Registration is now open!**

3. **GOING LIVE SOON:** Application for new Palmer Grant Cycle, up to \$25K - **New!**

This year's cycle theme is "Turning Tables and Building Bridges: *Being* Good News for All God's People." Application period runs from Thursday, June 15 through Monday, July 31, 2017.

- Palmer Grants provide support for regions and churches willing to experiment and labor toward a vision of what the church can be when people of God live into the disciple-call to be the hands and feet of Christ, demonstrating the unifying power of the Spirit of love. This year's cycle is co-sponsored by the Multi-Region Corp, of which ABC/Wisconsin is a member.
- We are seeking to support projects from those who will take a serious look at current Christian practices within their ministry contexts, incorporate one or more of the seven ministry priorities identified at the ABC Mission Table, and propose innovative and collaborative ways "to be good news" across old and newly-experienced divisions and barriers.
 - A close look at Jesus' ministry on earth reveals a consistent probing and critique of the then-current understanding and application of the values and teachings of the faith. Jesus challenged his listeners to self-reflection and then pointed them toward God and new ways of living—adjusting their perspectives not only on matters of faith but also of other people. [The cleansing of the temple in Mark 11:15 is only one such example in which he corrected a distortion of the activities of the church and called the people to be "a house of prayer for all nations."]
 - The landscape in which we minister today is constantly and quickly evolving in many directions, with sometimes hopeful and other times disheartening impact. This reality provides great and urgent opportunities for us to be—or incarnate—the good news of Christ. The current seven mission priorities identified by American Baptists throughout our denomination invite us to break out of our comfortable norms and be an intentional and transformative presence regarding these current challenges.
 - Through this grant cycle the Multi-Region Corporation and the American Baptist Foundation desire to promote projects that:
 - propose a relevant application of the Christian faith in ways that equip people of faith to be the hands and feet of Christ in their society
 - are informed by any of the seven ABC mission priorities
 - that demonstrate an effort by the applying organization to overcome divisions or barriers and build bridges with others
 - are developed in conversation with the related ABC regional entity and will advance the mission of that ABC region
- To review the seven ABC/USA mission priorities, [click here](#).
- To review which ABC/Wisconsin churches are doing ministries within these priorities to consider possible partnership, [click here](#).
- Once the application goes live, we will send out another email or you can visit abcogiving.org after June 15.

4. Summer Wellness Challenge 2017 - **Starting Soon!** - **New!**

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." 3 John 1:2 (NIV)

- Is there some part of your life you have wanted to improve or change or something new you have wanted to try? If so, the Summer of 2017 is the time to do it!
- Starting Wednesday, June 21st we will be kicking off a 90-day summer wellness challenge initiative, divided into three 30-day intervals, during which you can set a goal focused on your mind, body, and/or soul, and as a group we will help you achieve it!
- How will we do this?
 - There will be two groups: Team Lake vs Team River
 - Join one group – doesn't matter which one, just let the challenge leader know what your goal is.
 - Some ideas may be: Get more or better sleep, drink more water (75oz/day), run a 5K, write a personal letter 2X/week, do 30 push-ups, have contemplative prayer each day...
 - Details on goal setting will be given before each 30-day interval.
 - Each team will earn points every week based on mini-challenges or updated information on how progress is coming on their goals; the team with the most points will earn bragging rights in the Region!
- Data shows that having and writing down a specific goal plus having accountability partners increases your chance of success.
- Think about your goal and stay tuned for more information on how to sign up for a successful summer!

5. Minister Meet-Ups are Back. We are taking RSVP's now - **New!**

- This year we are running our Minister Meet-Ups during the summer.
- Use this time to come together with other American Baptist Ministers for mutual support, networking, mental and physical nourishment, and topics that aid our vocational health and missional purpose.
- Please [click here](#) for a list of topics, dates and times, and RSVP information.

6. **Start making plans to attend the ABC/WI Annual Gathering - Updated!**

- Mark your calendars for the 173rd Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin to be held on Friday, October 13th beginning at 6:00 PM thru Saturday, October 14th, 2017, ending approximately 4:00 PM, at the beautiful Green

- Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin.
- This is a time for all ABC/WI people and partners to gather for a time of inspiration, connection, worship, fellowship, and learning.
- Our plenary keynote speaker and Saturday afternoon preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS).
- Full registration details will be available by early July.

ABC/WI Constituent & Denominational News

1. Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer Called as ABCUSA General Secretary - **New!**

- Dr. Lee Spitzer was elected ABCUSA General Secretary on May 8, 2017. He began his service as General Secretary on June 1, 2017.
- To learn more about Dr. Lee Spitzer please [click here](#).

2. 2017 Biennial Mission Summit

- The theme of this year's Biennial Mission Summit is "Connect" and it provides an opportunity for all American Baptists to interact with one another! Individual registration is now open for the event that will be held June 30th - July 2nd, 2017 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.
- There will be a variety of Speakers, Learning Opportunities and Bible Studies to choose from. Please view the website for all of the information concerning events, hotel information, meals, and pricing since the pricing is determined by a number of factors including dates and Church sponsorship. Please [click here](#) for general information and [here](#) for pricing information. The deadline for online registration is June 15th but Onsite registration will also be available.
- There will be a special time of recognition and prayer for local church pastors on Sunday night of the Biennial Mission Summit. If possible, please plan to stay through to the end of Sunday worship to participate in this special gathering.
- Contact Executive Minister Marie at the region office if you plan on attending and have questions about how to make the most of your experience. Rev. Marie can be reached at Marie.O@abcofwi.org or 262-782-3140.

3. ABCUSA Black American Baptists Black Caucus presents - Christian Social Witness: Activism in Twenty - First Century Ministry

- The American Baptist Black Caucus of the American Baptist Churches USA is excited to announce their upcoming Pre-Biennial/Mission Summit events.
- These events will be held on Thursday, June 29th and Friday, June 30th, 2017 in Portland, Oregon at the Convention Center. They are grateful to have stellar speakers to explore their focus: "Christian Social Witness: Activism in Twenty-First Century Ministry." Please see their [Facebook page](#) for more information on these events.

4. The Chiang Rai International Christian School in Thailand is looking for Christian Volunteer Teachers for an August 2017 to June 2018 commitment - **New!**

- The [Chiang Rai International Christian School](#) **URGENTLY NEEDS** volunteer teachers and administrative staff for the upcoming school year.
- A bachelor's degree is required for all positions and a teaching certificate is preferred.
- Retired teachers as well as recent graduates are encouraged to apply. The following positions are needed for the 2017 - 2018 school year:
 - IT Director
 - English Language and Math Tutors (K-12)
 - English Language Learner Teacher (K-12)
 - Music Teacher (K-12)
 - Art Teacher (K-12)
 - A Special Education Teacher (K-12) for 2018-2019 school year.
- Applications for any positions in K-12 will be accepted even if not listed
- For more information concerning the school and for application information please [click here](#).

5. International Ministries "**Hear The Call**" Retreat, Friday, August 18 - Sunday, August 20, 2017 - **New!**

- The International Ministries "Hear the Call" Retreat is a high-intensity weekend retreat for adults who are exploring their own personal call to join God in Global Mission.
- Missionaries and staff from International Ministries will be available to answer questions, share information, and help participants evaluate their own call.
- Worship, personal reflection, inspirational messages, and Bible study will be combined for an exciting and decision affirming weekend.
 - The dates for the event will be Friday, August 18 - Sunday, August 20, 2017
 - The event will be held at the Green Lake Conference Center - Green Lake, WI
 - For registration and all other information including cost, housing, meals, transportation, etc. please [click here](#). For general information please click [here](#).

6. 2017 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Mission Opportunity - **New!**

- The 2017 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally has a short term Mission Opportunity, Saturday, August 5 - Sunday, August 13, 2017.
- The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and the Dakotas are looking for volunteers to help in the ABC Emergency Services Center. Come for the whole event or only a few days!
- Please [click here](#) for details and a registration form.

7. The American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS) Announces a Call For Papers For the **Torbet Prize**: The Best Essay In Any Area of Baptist History - **New!**

- The Torbet Prize is once again being offered by the ABHS as they announce a call for papers for the best essay in any area of Baptist history.
- The prize includes the following: a \$500 award plus publication in the American Baptist Quarterly
- Please abide by the following rules:
 - Author has not already published a major scholarly work
 - Entries should be no more than 25 pages (excluding notes)
 - Manuscript must be double-spaced in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style
- The Deadline for entries is Friday, September 1, 2017
- Please send the entries to - American Baptist Historical Society, Mercer University, 3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30341

- Electronic Submissions: ABHS@abhsarchives.org.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Our denomination has an active press release service. Since we will not repeat all announcements here, we encourage you to **subscribe directly to the American Baptist News Service** to receive press releases from our national offices. Subscribe to their e-list by visiting [THIS PAGE](#) and signing up. You can also [CLICK HERE](#) to access their press release archive.

ABC/WI Ministry Partners News & Beyond

1. "Do We Still Need the Church? Theology and Mission Lectureship with Stanley Hauerwas" - **Happening This Week - Live Stream Available! - New!**

- Northern Seminary is pleased to sponsor this event Thursday, June 8 - Friday, June 9, 2017
- Do you find yourself wondering "**Do We Still Need the Church?**" **The Theology and Mission Lectureship with Stanley Hauerwas** may have an answer for you.
- Why are people who love God not attending Church anymore? Have they lost hope in God working with and through the church to heal a lost world?
- Join renowned theologian Stanley Hauerwas as he shares his vision for creating a church the world can believe in.
 - This event will be held at The Lindner Conference Center, Lombard, IL - [610 E. Butterfield RD., Lombard IL 60148](#)
 - The lecture spans two days - starting on Thursday, June 8, 2017 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. It will then continue on Friday, June 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - **Live streaming is available as well.**
- Please [click here](#) for all details
- [Click here](#) for the registration page. Pricing is based on your levels of participation and is very reasonable ranging from \$5 - \$20.

2. MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, invites you to the Opening of **THIS IS HUNGER!** - **New!**

- The MAZON sponsored, **This Is Hunger**, is a mobile exhibit and hands on experience that promotes awareness and activism through learning, engagement, and advocacy. Find out what life is like for the 1 in 8 Americans who don't have enough to eat.
- The opening event is held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m., but the This Is Hunger truck will remain through Sunday, June 25, 2017.
- The truck will be parked in the Congregation Emanu - El B'ne Jeshurun parking lot; 2020 West Brown Deer Road, River Hills, WI.
- Please RSVP for the opening by calling (414) 228 - 7545 by Tuesday, June 20, 2017.
- For other tour dates/times and to reserve free individual or group tickets please [click here](#).

3. An Important Message from the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee - **FEMA: Resources to Protect Your House of Worship - Vital!**

- The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee has shared with their members important information for all Houses of Worship, from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).
- These resources offer guidance, planning, and preparation practices should a disaster strike your house of worship.
- As much as we don't like to think it can happen, attacks on places of worship do happen. It's better to be prepared for dangerous situations such as an active shooter or a bomb threat, so that lives can be saved. The link to the FEMA website offers expert advice and resources on preparedness, trauma and even stress management for after-the-fact. You can:
 - view webinars, request information to share, and set up training
 - Create and test a plan
 - Access information from many government agencies including the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, Disability.gov and the US Department of Education.
- Please view the [website here](#).

4. Help the Lutheran Social Services Refugee Program (Find Church Office Space)

- The Lutheran Social Services Refugee Program is looking for office space in a church, maybe one that is vacant or one that has extra space to rent out.
- The space needs to be near the south side of Milwaukee, have parking, be on the bus route, have eight offices, a meeting room, a file room, and a kitchen - would be a plus.
- If you know of any space available, please contact Keith Lang, Executive Director at KLang@lsswis.org or 608-219-5848

Links to NEWS AND EVENTS of some of the PARTNER MINISTRIES supported by your United Mission giving to ABC Wisconsin:

1. [Milwaukee Christian Center](#)
2. [Wisconsin Council of Churches List of Events](#)
3. [Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee](#)

Job Postings -

1. [Associate Exec/Director for Mission and Stewardship - The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts](#) - **New!** - Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 20, 2017
2. [Executive Director - American Baptist Women's Ministries](#) - **New!** - Application Deadline: Monday, July 31, 2017
3. Pastor - The First Baptist Church of Sterling, Illinois - **New!** - For information and to apply, please contact Carol Eberly at eberly1505@comcast.net, by mail at 1505 Country Lane, Sterling, IL 61081, or by phone at 815 - 626 - 0621.
4. [Burmese Community Liaison - ABC/WI](#)
5. [Director of Organizing - Interfaith Worker Justice](#)
6. Executive Assistant - Calvary Baptist Church of Milwaukee - Please contact the church at 414-372-1450 for details.
7. [Interim Executive Director - The Crossing](#)
8. [Head of Archives and Special Collections/Archivist - American Baptist Historical Society](#)

- Job Postings Resources for you to visit:

[ABCUSA](#)
[AB Home Mission Societies](#)
[International Ministries](#)
[Central Seminary Postings](#)

- The Wisconsin Council of Churches compiles an occasional list of job postings throughout the state. To get on their email list, contact WCC directly.
<http://www.wichurches.org>

Guidelines for submissions to this newsletter: Keep announcements to two paragraphs or less. Include pertinent info (who, what, where, when, why, and how). Links to other webpages are preferred. No attachments please. Deadline: Submission must be emailed in final format to betsy.k@abcofwi.org by the last Thursday of the month by 12 Noon.



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