



February 28, 2007

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

Joyce Hansen Hays Honored as Hometown Hero in Grand Junction



The church family at First Baptist in Grand Junction is extremely proud of member Joyce Hansen Hays who recently was the recipient of the honor of “Hometown Hero.” This award is presented by the Lions Club to a community member who has donated many hours to volunteer activities. Usually, the honor is given to a number of volunteers in different organizations,



but Joyce gives her time to so many organizations that she was the sole recipient. In February, because of her award, she was honored as the grand marshal of the parade in conjunction with the GJ Lions Club annual fund raising carnival.

Presently, Joyce volunteers at Catholic Outreach Soup Kitchen, the local police department, and the Tree House—a place where middle and high schoolers can come after school and even spend the night in a shelter if they are in a situation requiring that. (Part of her award from the Lions Club was a check for \$1,000 to be given to the organization of her choice—the Tree House.) Joyce has encouraged our church women to become involved

in some helpful activities with the unwed mothers who attend the R5 high school across the street from the church. This is an alternative school administered by Mesa County School District 51. She has served as president of the honorary teachers’ society, Delta Kappa Gamma, and presently is a volunteer with the Mesa County Retired School Employees Association. Mention a need anywhere, and Joyce is there to quietly fill it and encourage the rest of us to help her.

Joyce graduated in 1966 from Ottawa University and received an M.A. degree from Western State College in 1971. A member of First Baptist Church in Grand Junction since 1966, she has served there in many capacities—Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School and Bible School teacher at many levels, and presently as teacher of the adult Gold Band Class. Joyce is active in AB Women’s Ministries and serves as our representative to Church Women United.

Despite the many hours Joyce gives to church and community involvement, she manages to enjoy the outdoors—hiking, skiing, and even riding on her husband, Charlie’s, motorcycle. We are grateful that Joyce is a part of our church family. She is a blessing and an inspiration to each of us to use our spiritual gifts to serve others.

Submitted by Betty Shoaf

ABCRM Training Academy Offers Old Testament Course

On May 4-6, 2007 interested students will have the opportunity to participate in an ABCRM Training Academy Course in the Old Testament. While this course meets requirements for regional ordination in the Rocky Mountain Region, it is open to everyone.

Course Description:

The Old Testament is a rich resource for Christian background, preaching, and Bible study. The Old Testament is also a complex set of books written over a long time period with complicated history and transmission. This course explores various facets of the Old Testament as we put to use Bible study skills, sermon preparation methods, and biblical exegesis while we examine more deeply questions of faith and understanding of the texts.

Course Requirements:

- The first requirement for the course is to watch the Great Courses Old Testament videos (24 lectures/30 minutes each) by Amy-Jill Levine. The transcript books that may also be ordered with the course are very helpful in following her presentations. Videos and transcripts are available online at <http://www.theteachingcompany.com>.
- The second requirement is to keep a journal as you watch the videos recording questions, comments, and disagreements that her lectures raise for you.
- The third requirement is to meet with the class on May 4-6, attending the entire weekend.

- The fourth requirement is to write a 10-page research paper on a topic agreed upon in consultation with the professor.
- The fifth requirement is a sermon written on a lectionary text of your choosing. The paper and the sermon will be due two weeks after the class is completed (May 21, 2007).

Class Details:

The cost of the course is \$200. This amount includes lodging at Candlewood Suites (located directly across the street from the Region office) and four meals: lunches on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and dinner on Friday. Without housing, the cost is \$100.

The course will begin with lunch at noon on May 4, and will conclude at noon on May 6. It will be held in the lower level of the US Bank building located at 6855 S. Havana Street, Centennial, CO 80112. The ABCRM office is located in Suite 220 of the building.

To receive additional information about this course and registration forms, contact Thai Smith at 303-988-3900 or e-mail her at tsmith@abcrm.org. Thai is the Administrative Assistant to the Transitional Executive Minister, Desmond Hoffmeister. She provides support services to the Ministerial Leadership Committee, which sponsors the ABCRM Training Academy.



Professor's Profile:

The ABCRM Training Academy's Old Testament Course will be taught by Judith A. Todd. Judith is the Program Director for Water in the Desert Ministries: A Christian Center for Spiritual Renewal in Albuquerque, NM. She received her B.A. from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, her M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and her Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She taught both Old and New Testaments at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, KS for 12 years. Judith has been teaching in programs for lay pastoral education for over 25 years.

Jeanne Williamson: Answering the Call



Jeanne Williamson and Chuck Kinyon

First Baptist Church of Cañon City was honored to be the host church for the ordination service for member, Jeanne Williamson, on Sunday, February 25, 2007.

Jeanne has been called into full-time hospital chaplaincy, and currently serves as a chaplain for the Centura Health System. Her journey to ordination has been a long one, but she has persevered, and was officially ordained by the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains, in a service that included Mike Oldham, Ministry and Mission Coach for Southeast Colorado and New Mexico; Lu Benson, church moderator, who gave the Statement of the Ordination Council; Chuck Kinyon, former pastor; Jim Gunn, chaplain at Penrose-St. Francis Hospital; and Jackie Leech, Jeanne's spiritual coach.

Jeanne's ordination was the culmination of many years of answering God's call. When she finished college, she enlisted in the Air Force Nurse Corps. After an honorable discharge, she began a civilian job at a local hospital, but a tragic series of events taught Jeanne that sometimes medicine is not enough to heal a person. There is indeed a spiritual side to healing.

Not long after, she met Ed Williamson at a camera shop near

her home, where he was working when not at the hospital where he served as a chaplain. And in Jeanne's words, "More developed than just my film!" They were married in 1988. It was Ed who helped Jeanne accept Jesus as her personal Savior, and all the pieces began to fit. After a move to Colorado, Jeanne took steps to answer God's call to attend seminary to become a hospital chaplain. She attended the Colorado extension of Fuller Theological Seminary.

After Jeanne and Ed moved to the Cañon City area, they found their spiritual home at First Baptist Church of Cañon City. Her former pastor, Chuck Kinyon was a great support to Jeanne as she carried out her plans to obtain her theology degree and eventual ordination. He always encouraged her by giving her valuable opportunities to develop her sermon skills. After Chuck retired, it was Jeanne who filled in as a summer preacher, bringing the Word to the congregation, as they went through the process of searching for a new full-time pastor.

Although Jeanne's pulpit supply stint was a great blessing, she realizes that her real gift and calling is in ministering one-on-one to the families of the ill. Her passion centers on "heart issues." Using her innate skill as a good listener, she observes, "Even though things may remain broken, I can help people deal with the brokenness."

We are proud of Jeanne as she begins this new chapter in her ministry. We know that God will continue to bless her and Ed as they faithfully minister to hurting people throughout our community.

Submitted by Lorraine Simpson

Leadership Changes

(since 12/31/06)

Anthony Hayes, pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Arvada, CO.

Paul Martin, retired, Macedonia Baptist Church, Denver, CO.

Jim Peters, retired, New Hope Baptist Church, Denver, CO.

Bill Prather, pastor, American Baptist Church, Fort Collins, CO.

Matthew Sims, pastor, Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Denver, CO.

Scott Thompson, interim pastor, FBC, Lamar, CO.

Jeanne Williamson, standard ordination, chaplain, Cañon City, CO

Gerry Zordell, resigned as interim pastor, FBC, Brighton, CO.



Announcing July 6-14 Mission Trip to the Bahamas

A female mission team of 12 ABCRM regional members will work with Baptists in the Bahamas, by offering leadership training workshops and teaching Vacation Bible School. They will be serving with Dan and Estella Schweissing (<http://www.haitianministries.net/>). The trip is open to young women in college and older.

Application deadline is March 24, 2007. For more information and to apply, contact Mary Tellis, Ministry and Mission Coach for the Metro Denver Cluster, by calling 303-988-3900 or e-mail mtellis@abcrm.org.

ABCUSA Becomes Founding Member of Christian Churches Together

American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) joined with 36 other churches and national organizations last week to form Christian Churches Together (CCT), an ecumenical body whose overall goal is to provide a forum for Christian organizations to grow closer together in Christ in order to strengthen their Christian witness in the world.

General Secretary, Roy Medley, who signed the charter member roll on behalf of ABCUSA, said, "I consider it one of God's minor miracles: the bringing together of Pentecostals, Evangelicals, Mainline, Historic African American, Orthodox, and Roman Catholics to form a common table for dialogue and cooperation."

The gathering, which ran February 6-9, focused on both evangelism and poverty. The theme was "Is Jesus' Proclamation Our Proclamation?" responding to Luke 4:18. Participants in CCT discussed evangelism in their church and faith family contexts and how evangelism shapes or includes actions of social justice and the healing of deep hurts in our world.

CCT also used the opportunity to issue a statement on poverty. The statements' four objectives were to strengthen families and communities, to reduce child poverty, to address employment issues, and to strengthen the educational system. ABCUSA is already a key force in CCT's efforts in this area with the Children in Poverty initiative (<http://www.nationalministries.org/CIP/>) already under way through the work

of National Ministries (NM). Marilyn Turner, NM's associate executive director of Program Ministries, said, "ABCUSA's ongoing commitment to make a difference in the lives of children living in poverty is made even more powerful by relationships with other Christians like these—churches and organizations who, like us, are striving to be the healing and ministering hands of Christ in the world today."

"Christian Churches Together in the USA has been a process of five years of intensive and deliberate dialogue between Mainline Protestant churches, the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Evangelical/Pentecostal and Racial Ethnic groups of the Christian family," said Rothangliani Chhange, director of Ecumenical Formation for ABCUSA. "The participation of churches/denominations and national para church organizations has grown every year since 27 people met on September 5, 2001 to share their longing for a broader ecumenical engagement and a stronger Christian witness in the United States. Participants at the meeting lamented the divided witness of the Christian family in the country and called on churches and all Christians to reconcile and heal the divisions so that the world might believe Jesus as Savior and God.

"We have all grown together as we met annually to pray and worship, learn about each other's traditions and beliefs, and sought to find ways we could witness together as Christians in a broken society that needs the love of Jesus Christ. It has been an exciting journey and

I am so glad for the opportunity to have represented the American Baptist Churches from the very beginning to this point of CCT's formal founding. While there are still many differences among us, we have learned to listen deeply to each other and to dialogue with honesty, respect and love. It is my prayer and hope that all Christians can practice this model of interaction and being together in their local churches and communities."

ABCUSA News Service

More About CCT. . .

Christian Churches Together provides a context — marked by prayer, theological dialogue and fellowship — in which churches can develop relationships with other churches with whom they presently have little contact. This is one response to our Lord's Prayer that all who believe in Him might be one with God and with one another so that the world would believe in Him as God and Savior. CCT, out of its commitment to grow closer together in Christ, can offer a significant and credible voice in speaking to contemporary culture on issues of life, social justice and peace.

Visit the CCT website:
<http://www.christianchurchestogether.org>.

Enabling churches and Christian organizations to grow closer in Christ in order to strengthen our Christian witness in the world.

A Day of Celebration in Flagler



The First Baptist Church of Flagler and their pastor, Alvin Wilkerson celebrated the recognition of his ordination by the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains on Sunday, February 18, 2007. Alvin has been pastor of the Flagler congregation since December of 2004. He also serves as the geographical representative to the Region Board for the Southeast Colorado and New Mexico Cluster.

The recognition service was a time of joyful celebration of the ministry of Alvin and Beth Wilkerson. Desmond Hoffmeister, Transitional Executive Minister, preached on John 21 and the calling of a pastor. Mike Oldham, SECONM Ministry and Mission Coach, presented the



charge to Pastor Wilkerson and the congregation. A women's quartet provided the special music. Alvin Wilkerson, Desmond Hoffmeister, and Steve Goering, chair of the Deacons, signed a copy of the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches. The worship service concluded with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Prior to the celebration service,



Pastor Wilkerson had challenged members of the church to spend 48 hours fasting and praying for God's vision for the future of the church. Following the worship service, the church had a potluck lunch which concluded the fast.

Truly this was a day of celebration of the leadership of God in the life of this pastor and congregation.

*Submitted by Mike Oldham
Ministry and Mission Coach
Southeast Colorado/NM
& Western Slope*



March 18 is ABWIM Sunday

On March 18, American Baptist congregations are invited to celebrate the tenth annual Women in Ministry Sunday. The American Baptist Women in Ministry staff and the ABWIM of New Jersey have prepared a worship resource that has been sent to all local churches. Copies are also be ordered online at <http://www.abwim.org/Resources/index.asp>

This year's theme, "Called to Consecration and Celebration" is based on Luke 1:46-55. This year's ABWIM Sunday celebration is meant to be a time of remembering with gratitude the contribution of faithful women ministers who have touched and helped to share our faith journey.

At the end of 2006, there were a total of 374 women senior/solo pastors. During the previous year there were 361 women who were recognized. There are 170 women serving as Associate or Assistant Pastors, and 29 women serving as Co-pastors. There are 48 women serving in regional and 43 serving in national executive positions. The information provided demonstrates a steady increase in the placement of women in ministry in ABC.

In the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountain Region, there are currently eight women serving in senior pastor positions and one serving as regional staff. There are many others serving as chaplains and in other ministry settings. To view a list of women in ministry in our Region, go to http://www.abcrm.org/pastors/women_in_ministry.htm.

Threshold Service Offers Global Worship Opportunity



The first Threshold Service, slated to be held on January 21 at First Baptist Church in Denver, was cancelled due

to inclement weather. So on February 18, the first service was held with 60 participants. Seven or eight were clergy (Lutheran, UCC, Methodist, Presbyterian, ABC). Approximately a dozen ABCRM laity joined about an equal number of Presbyterians. Many of the worshippers were unchurched or dechurched. Co-leader, Brad Berglund, said the group that gathered was “Just what we were hoping for.”

Brad received e-mails expressing appreciation for the evocative, authentic, progressive worship opportunity. Respondents said:

- “Thanks for the innovative and Spirit-filled worship last evening.”
- “Thank you for such a rich worship experience last night. All of it was very life-giving”
- “The worship service last evening was wonderful and just what I am looking for to feed my spiritual life.”

The Threshold: A Place for Transformation and Hope

*meeting every third Sunday
at First Baptist Church
1373 Grant (across from the state
capitol) at 5:30 p.m.
with food and celebration following.
Co-leaders are Ashley Seamen
& Brad Berglund*

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MISSION!*