

PCBA Notes

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ANNOUNCING

PCBA Spring Conference

Oakland • Sat., May 11 • 9:00-3:30

**“The Promises and Perils of Leadership:
Strengthening and Sustaining Those who Lead”**

Guest Leader - Debora Jackson

Exec. Dir., ABC Ministers Council

Seven Workshops

Fostering Effective Leaders - *Debora Jackson*

Leadership from the Pulpit - *Allison Tanner*

Challenges to Ministerial Leadership - *Paul Martin*

Mission Summit: Setting ABC Priorities - *Donald Ng*

Practicing Shared Leadership: Consensus

as Shared Leadership - *Michelle Holmes*

Resolving Conflict among Church Leaders - *Dayle Scott*

Nurturing Leadership - *Karen Yee*

Buffet Luncheon • Association Life • Worship

To Register

\$25 per person (until April 30) \$30 (from May 1)

Lura Bublitz, Registrar

Shell Ridge Community Church

200 La Casa Via, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

925.935.3250 / Fax: 925.935.3281

lura@shellridge.org

Host Church - Lakeshore Ave Baptist Church

3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland

Liberties Help Define Us

Comments by the Editor

Baptists know themselves to be part of the whole church of Jesus Christ. As a particular historic tradition within the greater church, they also know themselves to be in ecumenical fellowship with people of other Christian traditions. Although we all are defined at our core as followers of the way of Jesus, we also, each in our own tradition, are defined further by those things we bring with us as gifts into the "one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."

Recently the First Baptist Church of Seattle published a brief statement celebrating Baptist "liberties" as an important and distinctive contribution to the broader church. The statement bears repeating and reflecting upon:

Every faith tradition has a special genius, an inspired gift, which taken by itself not only illumines its path but brightens the way for other traditions.

- *For the Quakers, it is their silent meeting.*
 - *For the Presbyterians, it is their sense of order and intellect.*
 - *For the Episcopalians, it is their liturgy, exemplified by the Book of Common Prayer.*
 - *For the Catholics, it is the mystery of the Eucharist and the Mass.*
 - *For the Mennonites and Amish, it is their separated lifestyle.*
 - *For the Baptists, clearly, our Liberties are our inspired gift to other believers. No other Christian group more highly prizes liberties than Baptists.*
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Jim Hopkins to Receive Freedom Award

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies have announced that Jim Hopkins, Pastor of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland will receive the American Baptist Religious Freedom Award. The award is for "leadership in defending God-given religious liberty for all." Given in connection with the ABC Biennial/Mission Summit, the Societies said, "Throughout his ministry, Hopkins has been committed to the historic Baptist principles of 'Bible Freedom, Soul Freedom, Church Freedom and Religious Freedom,' resulting in a 'healing presence' and his embracing leaders from Jewish and Islamic faith groups."

Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference

July 15-20 - Gonzaga University, Spokane.

"Entertaining Angels: Peacemaking through Radical Hospitality"

Information and registration at www.bpfna.org.

San Leandro Community Church

After 68 significant years, San Leandro Community Church concluded its ministry in 2012 and its property has been sold.

The Evergreen Association, ABC will distribute \$970,499 in proceeds by the end of March to several ABC-related organizations which have been an historic part of the church's life or within its sense of mission.

These include Evergreen Association ABC; ABC Rochester/Genesee Region, who gave the church a regional home in 2000; AB Home Mission Society for specified ministries; AB International Ministries for specified ministries; ABC Initiative "Transformed by the Spirit"; AB Historical Society; ABSW for an SLCC endowed Scholarship Fund; ABSW for restoration of the two Benvenue cottages; Redwood Glen; Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate; and Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

The sum of \$200,000 will go to the United Church of Christ, with which the church has been dually aligned since 1988, to establish an SLCC endowed Scholarship Fund and also to support other UCC organizations.

Last year \$180,000 was distributed from the Esther Johnson Estate including a gift to PCBA.

The Closure Team consisted of Gene Bass, President; Jan Jones, Treasurer; and Dayle Scott, Secretary.

April BLT

("Baptists Lunching Together")

Wednesday Luncheons at 12:00

*Grand Lake Gardens
401 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland*

Apr. 17 -

**J. Alfred Smith, Jr.
Sr. Pastor, Allen Temple
Baptist Church
"Expanding Ministries"**

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*Reservations by Monday:
Joan Thatcher, 510-350-7008*

Biennial/Mission Summit June 21-23

"Mission Summit" is the new name for the American Baptist Biennial set for June 21-23 in Kansas City.

The theme, "Renewed by the Spirit" will be developed by the speakers, which include **Michelle Alexander**, civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar; **Yam Kho Pau**, General Secretary of the Myanmar (Burma) Baptist Convention; and **John Upton**, President of the Baptist World Alliance.

PCBA members will hear a panel report on the Biennial at their June 22 BLT luncheon.

Delegates and visitors may register through their local congregations, on-line through www.americanbaptists2013.com, or with ABC-USA, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482.

People and Churches

by Joan Thatcher

Retiring after 25 years as music minister at Shell Ridge Church, **Carol Eklund** has now been elected Church Moderator. . . At Grace Baptist Church in San Jose, **Dennis Glover** was commissioned as a Stephen Minister on March 17. He was recently the church moderator. . . At the tenth Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in Dallas in February, **J. Alfred Smith, Jr.** and **J. Alfred Smith, Sr.** of Allen Temple together led a workshop on "The Challenges of Aging Congregations." . . **Children and youth at First Baptist, Palo Alto** have raised \$1,600 to buy 26 pigs for their mission project in Haiti. . . ABSW will award an honorary doctorate to **Donald Ng** at its May 18 commencement in Oakland. He is Pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church in San Francisco and National ABC Vice President.

In Memoriam

Harrison E. Williams, a regional and national ABC executive, died Jan. 24 at age 93. A Grand Lake Gardens resident for the past decade, he was a board member of the Seafarers Ministry of the Golden Gate, active in BLT, and a member of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church. A Colgate Rochester graduate and a Navy chaplain from 1944-46, he was on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay when the peace treaty was signed ending World War II. Later he was pastor at Lyndhurst Baptist Church in Cleveland from 1949-64 before becoming an ABC executive minister in Cleveland and then New York State. In Valley Forge, PA he was the Deputy General Secretary for 39 regional executives..

Surrounded by his loving family, **Jerry Neale** died March 15 at the age of 74 after triple-bypass heart surgery and other serious health problems. An ABSW graduate, he was an ABC pastor in Michigan, followed by a career in teaching. Retiring in the East Bay, Jerry and Wendy became active members of Shell Ridge Church and both also served on the PCBA board.

We also mourn the death of **J. Palmer Watson**, on March 3 at age 86. An ABSW graduate, he was the founding and continuing pastor of MacArthur Community Baptist Church in San Pablo for 42 years.

Shirley Pitman, the wife of Fred Pitman, died March 3 following a long illness. Fred Pitman, of Hayward, was a long time ABC pastor who spent a decade as the deputy executive for the American Baptist Churches of the West in Oakland.

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