

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



May 2007

ABC/NE Date Data

Ministry With Children Event
May 4-5, Camp Merrill

Camp & Conferences Department
May 8, Camp Merrill

Work Days at Camp Merrill
May 6-12

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC
"Fun for the Family"
May 28
Camp Moses Merrill

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Dr. David Laubach Set to Speak At Family Reunion in September

One of the most delightful and engaging speakers in ABC life is Dr. David Laubach of ABC's National Ministries. Dr. Laubach has agreed to speak at this year's Family Reunion, Sept. 21-23, 2007 in North Platte.

Dr. Laubach has been a pastor, a teacher, and now serves as National Ministries' Associate Executive Director for Program Ministries.

The 2 Corinthians 5:17 passage provides inspiration to Laubach: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Laubach says, "In relationship to God through Christ, every day brings new beginnings, new creativity for each of us."

His work includes a focus on NEW LIFE 2010 goals of starting 1,010 new churches and reaching 1,000,010 new disciples by the year 2010. Promoting evangelism isn't a "hard sell" to David Laubach. "We are inviting people to a transforming relationship with God," he says. "Evangelism is how we tell the story of what God has done in our lives. We invite others to discipleship so that together we can do God's work."

Dr. Laubach has a DMin, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lombard, IL; a MTh, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ; an MDiv, Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA; and a BA, English literature, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. He was commissioned an American Baptist home missionary in 1987. He serves on the Baptist World Alliance as a member of the executive committee for Evangelism and Education and as secretary of the work group for Evangelism and Mission.



HONOR MEMORIAL DAY AT CAMP MERRILL



Camp Moses Merrill is the place to be on Memorial Day this year. Please join in the commemoration and good fellowship.

THE WEEKEND: Families and individuals are invited to spend the weekend, May 25-28. Register for Family Camp and do as much or as little as you like. There will be family camp activities throughout the weekend including a special worship service Sunday morning at 9:00 am.

THE HOLIDAY: On Monday, May 28, everyone is invited to gather with friends and family to honor the day. There will be a **service of honor** at 11:30 followed by a picnic from noon to 2pm. The rest of the afternoon will be devoted to time together — horseback riding, swimming, visiting, hiking, disc golf, volleyball, basketball, relaxing, renewing. There is no charge for Memorial Day activities or picnic. A contribution basket will be available at the picnic.

Challenge game: Swimming pool volleyball - Omaha churches versus everyone else!!

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

God is at Work

It is with joy that I write: God is at work in our midst. It is important to recognize this, affirm this and expect God's continued work. We need to be intentional about discerning God's work and investing ourselves in it. We need to demonstrate our thanks continually. Our greatest witness is the way we live our lives as people of faith.

One of the ways God is at work in Nebraska is in the emerging response to the Churches Helping Churches Initiative. We are realizing more and more that my ABC church and yours are connected and can help each other in new ways. The old Association model still works in some places and doesn't in others. We are finding new ways to begin to think of how clusters of churches can encourage one another. This can be planned or spontaneous. The structure can be much more informal than in the past.

Another way God is at work in our midst is in the calling of pastors to serve our churches. We have wonderful pastors in the ABC/NE. They are gifted and dedicated. We need to respect and love them. We need to encourage them and care for them. We need to give careful training to new believers so that they understand that we don't hire pastors to do the work of the church, we hire pastors to lead and, together, we all do the work of the church.



God is also at work by providing an amazing group of lay leaders in our churches. We are blessed!

God is at work in Nebraska in specialized ministries. We have chaplains at work on our behalf. We continue the ministry to motorcyclists in the Black Hills each August. [You'll read in this issue of *The Messenger* that a small, open country church is following the example of Sturgis and exploring a ministry at ATV rallies.] Focused ministries continue at Maple Crest in Omaha and through the Roger Williams Fellowship in Kearney.

God continues to amaze us at Camp Moses Merrill. We've seen the impossible become possible. Our job is to see that more children and youth get to camp. Invite neighbors. If your congregation doesn't have many children, give to the scholarship fund so that other kids can have the opportunity to experience the powerful spiritual growth that comes through outdoor ministries. Talk with children and grandchildren. Help them get to camp this summer.

God led the Baptists in Nebraska to form the Nebraska Baptist State Convention 140 years ago and God continues to bless this ministry today. Thank you for being part of it. Thank God, from whom all blessings flow!



From the Associate Executive Minister Steve Bills

Invite a Missionary to Join You

Kristina Gutiérrez (see photo), an ABC missionary to Nicaragua, was recently in Nebraska to share her mission and vision with several groups. She was scheduled to be at the Northwest Association Missions Banquet but that visit was scratched due to blizzards between Alliance and the Denver Airport. She did, however, manage to join the York Association at their April meeting held on a Saturday at Camp Merrill. The following day she spoke at FBC Grand Island in the morning and at the Spanish language service there in the afternoon.



Also in Nebraska in April was Walt White, our global consultant for Islamic ministries, who was available for a Sunday evening meeting at New Life in Bellevue after spending that morning at an ABC church in Council Bluffs and before going on to Sioux Falls to be with our pastors at the Tri-Region continuing education event the next week.

All too frequently I hear from pastors or church leaders with the request that "the next time there is a missionary in the state we would like to have them come to our church." While it is true that often I will try to schedule a visiting missionary in additional churches or association or ABWomen's meetings in order to make the most of their presence, the reality is that some church or group initiated the missionary's visit in the first place. The bottom line is that you don't need to wait for someone else to

schedule a missionary to come to Nebraska — you can contact me and request a mission speaker for a church service, missions banquet, association meeting, or other appropriate event.

International Ministries encourages its missionaries to be available to ABC churches and groups and will often bend over backwards to fulfill a request for a speaker. They suggest getting requests to them as early as possible for the best chance at securing the missionary or dates you desire. National Ministries makes similar suggestions when requesting a home missionary visit.

The travel to and from Nebraska is paid for by IM and NM. It is the responsibility of the host church or association to provide lodging, meals, and transportation while the missionaries are here. When we schedule a missionary for more than one meeting during their visit we expect the several hosts to work together to coordinate these needs.

If you would like a missionary to come to your church for a Sunday worship service or other special event, please call or email me with as many specifics as possible (preferred date, alternate dates, preferred missionary (or preferred region of the world where ministry is being done). The further out we can plan and make this request, the more likely you will get the dates and speakers you want!



Lisa Harris & Karen Horseman Speakers For June Women's Conference



The Annual Conference of American Baptist Women's Ministries is scheduled for June 1-3, 2007. All women are invited to this time of fun, worship, fellowship, and learning!

The theme is "Born Again . . . To be Wild About Jesus." The theme scripture is Colossians 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord . . . It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Karen Horseman of ABW Ministries will be the keynote speaker and Lisa Harris, Executive Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, is mission speaker.

Five workshops are planned for Saturday. There will be a purse auction as well with proceeds going to the mission project—Bethel Center.

Great Opportunity for Nebraska Girls

The ABGirls State Retreat (for girls who have completed grades 3-12) will be June 1-3 at Camp Moses Merrill. The guest speaker is Cindi Dodd. The Retreat begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday night, and ends at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Cost of the retreat is \$60.00. This includes program, meals and lodging. Send \$10.00 registration deposit, to Karen Howard at 1303 E 4th St, Fremont, NE 68025. The registration deadline is May 18, 2007. If you have questions, contact Karen at 402-721-4038 or e-mail at: BKJJMPT@msn.com

AB Girls groups are asked to assist with providing one, or more, complete school kits to be sent to Church World Service.

Church World Service School Kits [bring to Women's Conf. Or ABGirls Retreat]

Items to put into the kit are: 1 pair blunt scissors, notebooks or pads of 8 ½ x 11 ruled paper (140 – 200 count), 1 - 12 inch ruler, one pencil sharpener, 6 new pencils with erasers, one large eraser, 12 sheets colored construction paper, 1 box of 24 count crayons and one 12"W x 14"L finished size cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure of Velcro, snap, or a button.



Assoc. Exec. Minister Dave Lundholm, wife Linda and granddaughter Shéalynn lead a camp song at the dinner in honor of Dave's 25th Anniversary of Ordination. The dinner was held at First Baptist of Grand Island with folks from many ABC/NE churches.

Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Ed Consultant

Take five secular read-aloud stories that help the lap-sitting crowd learn Christian values.

1. *Baker's Dozen*, A. Shepherd
2. *Quiltmaker's Gift*, J. Brumbeau
3. *William's Doll*, C. Zolotov
4. *Love You Forever*, R. Munsch
5. *Elbert's Bad Word*, A. Wood

Check your local library or bookstore or go to Amazon.com, find a child to read to, and enjoy.

ABC/NE Trivia

1. Which ABC/NE staff member has ridden a bucking bronco?
a. Lundholm; b. Bils; c. Reiss, d. Robertson
2. Which ABC/NE staff member used to live in Florida?
a. Lundholm, b. Bils, c. Reiss, d. Robertson
3. Which ABC/NE staff member was once President of the ABC of Michigan?
a. Lundholm; b. Bils, c. Reiss, d. Robertson
4. Which ABC/NE staff member has lived in the most states?
A. Lundholm; b. Robertson, c. Reiss, d. Gillies
5. Which two ABC/NE staff members have the strongest affection for ice cream?
a. Gillies/Bils; b. Reiss/Bils; c. Robertson/Lundholm; d. Reiss/Lundholm



Benson Youth Helping Out— It's Just the Way They Do Things!

Youth from Benson Baptist in Omaha heard (and saw) that the front of the ABC/NE Office Building needed painting. Executive Minister Susan Gillies had gotten a bid from a painter to do the job for \$1,795. "He is a good man and a good painter but we just couldn't swing the price." Benson youth came to the rescue.

Benson youth are pictured above doing the painting. They wanted to help out but it was also a way for them to say "thanks" to ABC/NE. The youth will be going to the gulf area this summer to continue construction related to Hurricane Katrina and the group got the final Katrina Relief grant from ABC/NE to help with costs of the trip.

Three Open Country Churches Still Meeting Needs

Prairie Union Baptist near Stella. Pastor Art Chapin
Riverside Baptist near Decatur. Pastor Beverly Melchor-Young
Palestine Baptist near St. Edward. Pastor Carl Edwards

ABC/NE has three open country churches. All three churches are vital congregations responding to the needs in their areas.

Riverside is currently working to make a long-time dream come true. After receiving a bequest, they are now making their church building handicapped accessible.

Prairie Union is an active congregation with regular mid-week services, two candidates for baptism this spring and an annual picnic and kite flying contest just completed.

Palestine is enjoying new visitors. They are exploring a new ministry at ATV rallies and they are putting in a new flag pole. They have a special activity every month and in April it was the annual cemetery clean-up.

Stop by and visit one of these churches engaged in unique and vital ministry.



During the ABC of Nebraska's 140 anniversary year, we are looking into stories from our history:

In the May 1913 Nebraska Baptist Bulletin (predecessor to The Messenger):

"Do you know that the Nebraska Baptist State Convention is an organization of all the Baptist churches in the state for all the Baptist interests in the state, in a relationship of the strong helping the weak and the weak contributing to the strong? They are together become a blessing to each other, to the communities in which they are, and to the world."

This sounds like our current **Churches Helping Churches Initiative!** Partnering with another ABC/NE church is a great way to learn and grow.

The same issue of The Bulletin reported that a fatal, widespread disease among horses in the state caused a great loss to many farmers. A great blizzard hurt Baptists in the western part of the state. "Then on Easter Sunday the terrible tornado that struck Omaha, and the fearful destruction of life and property which was left in its path. This awful disaster effected every man, woman and child in the state, and everything else was forgotten for the time being in our eagerness to render assistance to our own helpless and homeless. It was out of the question to mention missions to any one at such a time, and, coming upon us just at the close of the (fiscal) year, it surely cut our missionary offerings very much."

[The tornado was March 23, 1913, about 6pm]



Carl Edwards, pastor of Palestine Baptist near St. Edward, is installed as President of York Association at its meeting by outgoing President Joyce Gallu of FBC Norfolk.

ABC/NE Prayer Focus for May:

- For church members to invite friends and neighbors to church this month.
- For children and youth to register for Camp Merrill this summer.
- For all who plant flowers and keep yards looking attractive at our church buildings.
- For the leaders of ABWomen's Ministries in Nebraska.
- For our mission giving and our mission action to reflect our love for Christ.

Prayer is a vital part of our life together as American Baptists in Nebraska. Each year we have a special prayer emphasis. In 2007, The Messenger is featuring a prayer focus each month.

CLIP OUT AND PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR OR IN YOUR BIBLE. THANKS!

Pontius' Puddle



WHILE JONAH'S STORY WENT ON TO BECOME A FAVORITE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE, THE WHALE'S VERSION NEVER QUITE OVERCAME THE SKEPTICISM OF HIS PEERS.

From the Associate Executive Minister Dave Lundholm

Building Trust

While I was reading a book by Stephen M. R. Covey titled The Speed of Trust a quote really struck me. It went like this: "Having spent many years trying to define the essentials of trust, I arrived at the position that if two people could say two things to each other and mean them, then there was the basis for real trust. The two things were 'I mean you no harm' and 'I seek your greatest good.'" [Attributed to Jim Meehan, British Psychologist and Poet]

I think these two statements are quite true in the life of the church and in the pastor/people relationship. Over my years of ministry I don't believe I have ever met a pastor who set out to deliberately do harm to a parishioner and only a very few who sought their own good over that of the congregation.

Likewise over the years I have known a very few parishioners who actively sought to harm their pastor and an equally small number that have sought their own gain over that of the pastor.

So I think what we can expect in a healthy church is that each person ought to be able to say to any other person in that congregation both "I mean you no harm," and "I seek your greatest good" and mean it. If we discover that there are people in our churches that we can't say these phrases to and mean them then we need to change.

Also if we discover people in our congregation who consistently operate in ways that indicate a desire to hurt or who are only interested in personal gain we're called to challenge that behavior and to urge them to repent.

Our Lord Jesus, I believe, could easily say both statements and mean them. He meant us no harm and he sought our greatest good.

By being able to say and mean these two phrases we can learn to trust each other more and more.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

June Deadlines

May 3, 2007 - Print Copy
May 8, 2007 - E-Mail

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Subject: Messenger

ANSLEY FBC: The Custer Association Spring Rally was held at Ansley on Apr 22. Mary Beth Robertson of Camp Moses Merrill was the speaker for the combined groups meeting. Steve Bils preached. The ABW's special offering went to the Alaska Children's Home, and a video of the work in Alaska was shown.

ARNOLD FBC: The children had a procession of palms on Palm Sunday. A community sunrise service was held at the United Methodist Church. An open house was held at the new church building, giving congregants a chance to study several proposed plans for the church.

BEATRICE FBC: A Maundy Thursday service was held, as well as an Easter sunrise service. The youth led the latter service, and followed it by serving breakfast to those who attended. Pastor Harland attended the Continuing Education seminar at Sioux Falls Apr 23-25. A special offering was taken for ISP, Roger William Fellowship, American Baptist Homes of the Midwest, and American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake on Apr 29.

BELLEVUE NEW LIFE BC: The Omahaland AB Women's Ministries was held at New Life on Apr 17. The program, "Delicious Morsels", was presented by Arlene Deerson.

BROKEN BOW FBC: A Maundy Thursday

communion service, with the churches of FBC, Lutheran and Presbyterian, was held at the Presbyterian Church. The McClure Family of Eight from Trinity, North Carolina, presented a concert of beautiful music on Palm Sunday night, with a good attendance. An Easter Sunrise Service was held, which included a Biblical skit, followed by a breakfast. The youth choir presented special music during the worship hour. The ABC Men's Emergency Trailer spent time during the week of Apr 8-14 helping clean up following the fire that wiped out buildings on the south side of the square, including piles of rubble. Many local men joined in the cleanup.

CHADRON FBC: A Maundy Thursday candlelight communion service was held, and a "Son-Rise" service at CHS auditorium. A supper was held to honor the Chadron High School JV and Varsity basketball teams. Funds are being raised to supply a van for the Rev. Wheatley Preparatory School in Ghana.

CHAPMAN FBC: hosted the men's Lenten breakfast on 21 Mar with 46 in attendance from area churches. Breakfast consisted of French toast, ham, juice and coffee. Mar 25 was family fun night. Everyone enjoyed tacos and then doing Easter crafts; egg decorating, beaded pens and Easter egg trees. Maundy services

were held jointly with the Chapman Methodist at the Methodist church on Thursday night. Good Friday services were held at the FBC with the Methodist church joining up.

FAIRBURY FBC: Rev. Dr. Gale Mack and his wife, Janet, began interim pastor service at FBC on Apr 22, and will serve until October 28. A covered dish dinner was held to welcome the Macks on the 22nd. Prayer breakfasts, sponsored by the Kiwanis, were held at different community churches during Holy Week, with FBC hosting on Apr 5. A Maundy Thursday service was held, and a Community Good Friday service. Sunrise service, followed by a breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children was held on Easter morning. Leroy and Janice Richards celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on Apr 7, and Dwaine and Vernadine Friesent their 52nd on Apr 10. Easter baskets were filled for the college-age young adults.

FREMONT FBC: The cantata, "Cornerstone" was presented by the choir on Palm Sunday. A Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday morning prayer breakfast at Midland College, and a Sunrise Service and pancake breakfast were held. The family of Norma Johnson presented 51 books to the church library. Others donating books were Margie Poole, Yvonne

Jessen, and Carol Johnson. An All Daughters Brunch, with the theme "O You Beautiful Doll", was held on Apr 14. A special feature was "A Mixed Up Style Show". Mildred Charles celebrated her 90th birthday at an open house in the church parlor. FBC provided services at the Merrick Manor and at Arbor Manor on Apr 22. Fifteen youth and sponsors provided a meal for the 12 young people who live at the Jefferson House, and played basketball with them.

GIBBON BC: A procession of palms by children and youth on Palm Sunday, a Maundy Thursday communion service, and a Community Good Friday Service, which was held at FBC, were observed during Holy Week. An Easter Sunrise Service was held at Pioneer Park, followed by breakfast at the church. Camping Sunday was Apr 22. The Grand Island Association ABW Spring Rally was held on Apr 2, with Sudie Cole of Lexington as the speaker.

GUIDE ROCK BC: The Southern Union Spring Rally was held at FBC on Apr 15, with the theme being, "Victory in Jesus", and special music by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bauer.

HOLDREGE FBC: Easter observances included a Maundy Thursday communion service, a Community Good Friday service at the Presbyterian Church, with Pastor Gary as speaker, and a Sunrise Service and a breakfast, hosted by the youth. Teachers and leaders, and others interested in Christian Education, enjoyed a breakfast and discussion on Apr 15. A "Compassion Ministry", which helps those with various needs in the congregation, has been started by one of the Sunday school classes. Bob and Felsa Lenon celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Apr 25.

KEARNEY FBC: The church celebrated the 20 years of pastoral leadership of Rev. Stan Murdoch on Apr 1 with a reception and program. Also on Palm Sunday, the choir and many others from the congregation presented a cantata/pageant.

LAVISTA JUDSON: Palm Branches were given out to everyone on Palm Sunday. Easter Baskets were assembled and delivered to the shut-ins during Holy Week. The SS kids put on an Easter Program for Immanuel Trinity Village and then a second performance for the congregation. The ABW held a Surprise Salad and Dessert Luncheon. AWANA had a Fun Fair and an Awards Night. The Annual Spring Fling featured Donna Grote and some of her extensive collection of dolls. The special Easter offering will be used to help build a church in Sudan. The Mission Board challenged the congregation to contribute more to the America for Christ Offering this month than they did a year ago. We kept the secret, but can now wish Dave Lundholm well and say thanks for all his years of service to the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska. A movie night was held showing the film, "A Night with the King."

LINCOLN FBC: Holy Week services included a palm procession during worship on Palm Sunday, an evening Palm Sunday service, which included another palm parade, special evening services M/Tu/W, and a Maundy Thurs

day communion service. All of the Lincoln ABC churches joined in a Sunrise Service at Belmont Baptist, followed by a breakfast. A "Bon Voyage Party", to launch FBC on a year of great things, was held on Apr 28, with a carry-in dinner and a time of sharing being the focus. The Children's Ministry Team held a youth and children's teacher/leader training on Apr 21, with another to be held May 5. The FBC Women's Book Club has been organized, and will study together.

LINCOLN SBC: Palm Sunday featured a Palms procession by the children and Chancel Choir which gave its cantata, "THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, THE GLORY FOREVER." There was Maundy Thursday Evening Service, a Saturday morning Easter Egg Hunt, an Easter Morning Youth Fundraiser Breakfast and RESURRECTION CELEBRATION Worship Service filled with music by the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Youth Praise Team and inspiring messages by Pastor Jim and Pastor Renae; Apr 22, there was a Camp Day Fundraiser lunch and program following Worship; Apr 29, ABW Ministries Sunday, with LaVonna Cline, Lincoln First Baptist Church as guest speaker; The Children's Ministries welcomed our new Child Care Worker, Anita Aherns.

MASON CITY FBC: April 15 a retirement recognition was held for Pastor Vic Crawford. The J.F.C. (grade school children) have met on Monday of each week with 15 to 20 attending. The JFC played the bells at two rest homes in Broken Bow during April. The youth group, "The Bold Truth", is raising money for a mission trip to the hurricane area in July. They have held a pancake feed and a spaghetti supper, and helped gather downed limbs and trees after the ice storms. The Baptist and Catholic church women of the community held their annual "Ladies Night Out" on Mar 31, with a salad supper, prizes, and entertainment by "The Crazy Norwegians" of Kearney.

NORFOLK FBC: Rev. Robin Stoops and his wife, Kathy, began their ministry at FBC. A catered dinner was served at noon to welcome the Stoops. "The Passover Seder" was held on Mar 29. A Maundy Thursday communion service was held, with Sunrise Service and breakfast on Easter morning. A Christian Leadership and Spiritual Growth workshop was held on Mar 31. The church building that was destroyed by fire has been demolished, with the stained glass windows removed first. The Babcocks, who are missionaries to Laos, spoke at the church on Mar 25.

OMAHA BENSON: Holy Week services included the musical *Forsaken*, by the chancel choir on Palm Sunday, a Maundy Thursday communion service, a Good Friday service in which David Wells presented a program of favorite Easter hymns, and a Sunrise Service led by the youth, followed by a breakfast. The Easter offering went to Together; Inc. Apr 29 was a pledge Sunday from the church to help the Nasir, Sudan, church. The church family filled totes with toiletries, etc. for the Open Door Mission.

OMAHA FBC: FBC hosted the April Omahaland Ministers Association monthly meeting on Apr 4. Maundy Thursday services

were held Apr 5. A large group came to observe the Lord's Supper and listen to music and scripture depicting the night of Christ's betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane. The youth group provided a continental breakfast on Easter Sunday and donations from that event went to support youth activities. A youth group "lock-in" was held Apr 6 and 7. The Quarterly Business Meeting/Potluck Dinner was held on Apr 15. Ministry leaders provided an update on their team activities. ABW Rebecca-Ruth Circle had a bake sale, Apr 22. Proceeds from this event went toward the yearly quota for the Rebecca-Ruth Circle.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: A Maundy Thursday communion service was held; and an Easter Sunrise Service at N.P. Dodge Park with the Kachin family, followed by an Easter fellowship breakfast, and the worship service, also with the First Kachin Baptist Church.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: Two ministry fairs were held to fill roles in the new Ministry Councils. Among the activities planned are the observance of Sunset Hills' 50th anniversary and a revised web page. Pastor French has presented a series of sermons on the six councils. About 50 attended the Omahaland Men's Prayer Breakfast. Sunset Hills men are exploring mission opportunities in the community, including food and clothing drives. Madeline Karlen was baptized, Pastor French's first at Sunset Hills. A church-cleaning day was planned as Easter approached. A Maundy Thursday service was held, and an Easter Egg hunt following the Easter worship service. Lee and Rita Ray celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Apr 6. About a dozen youth attended and led the music at the spring youth retreat at Camp Moses Merrill. They also presented the Stations of the Cross after the Maundy Thursday "Service of the Shadows." Several church projects are proceeding, including a new street sign. Forgiveness will sing the national anthem at the Apr 27 Omaha Royals baseball game.

OXFORD FBC: Several women of our church attended the "World Day of Prayer" service that was held at the Methodist Church. Good Friday services were observed and well attended. Easter Sunrise service was held at the First Baptist Church, due to the inclement weather. Members of other area churches were invited with breakfast following the service.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: The children held A Palm Sunday palm parade. The Bridgeport FBC joined Scottsbluff FBC for a Maundy Thursday celebration and communion service. A Sunrise Service was held at the Monument, followed by a breakfast at the church. The cantata, "His Last Days", was presented during Easter morning worship. Joyce Rowe, wife of Pastor Jim Rowe, who had served at FBC for 25 years, passed away recently. Thirty young people and sponsors attended "Acquire the Fire" in Denver Apr 27-28. "Take 6", the drama group for Frontier School of the bible, presented a program on Apr 25, with a soup supper preceding the program.

SUPERIOR FBC: A retirement recognition was held for Pastor Les Warner on Apr 29.

TECUMSEH FBC: A Maundy Thursday Communion service was held, FBC hosted the Community Good Friday service, and a Sunrise Service, followed by a breakfast was held on Easter morning. An "International Potluck" was held on Apr 1.

TEKAMAH FBC: Holy Week began with a Procession of Palms by the children, with special music by the bell choir and the chancel choir, and an Easter Sunrise Service. An "Easter Lily Cross" was the special event during the worship service. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels Apr 9-13. A correction of last month's item about the Kids Against Hunger packaging party - 200 people from the community packed 200 cases holding 43,200 meals, and a total of \$4,344.45 was given to buy ingredients and supplies.

Welcome . . .

NEW MEMBERS:

GIBBON FBC: Dale Stearley, Jackie Farrell

HOLDREGE FBC: Michelle Barnes

NORFOLK FBC: Tyler Brandt, Damian Price

OMAHA BENSON: Geene and John Scott, Shaylea Valentine

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: Madeline Karlen.

To all ABC/NE graduates — at every level . . .



Congratulations!

THANK YOU to ABMen for taking their trailer to Broken Bow and helping with clean-up after the fire that devastated one block of the town square.



ABC of Nebraska Staff

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Associate Executive Minister	Dave Lundholm
Associate Executive Minister	Steve Bils
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Pastor to Pastors (E)	Dick Peterson
Youth Ministry Adjunct	Jason Workman

Trivia Answers:

1. A. Dave Lundholm didn't know the horse would be a bucking bronco when he got on — it just turned out that way!
2. B. Steve Bils pastored a church in Clearwater, FL.
3. D. MaryBeth Robertson was Pres. of ABC of Michigan.
4. D. Susan Gillies has lived in 7 states.
5. B. Well, the staff person who loved ice cream the most was Don Gaines but he retired. All the current staff love ice cream but Clarence & Steve love it most!



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