

# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



October 2007

**ABC/NE Date Data**

Adult Ministries  
Moses Merrill  
Oct. 1-4

Women's Fall Retreat  
Moses Merrill  
Oct. 5-7

Pastors Seminar  
Moses Merrill  
Oct. 15-17

Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors  
Sunday, Oct. 21

Vital Leaders Conference  
Moses Merrill  
Nov. 5-7

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## Lay & Clergy Leaders Invited To Conference on Church Vitality

Lay & clergy leaders from ABC/NE churches are invited to attend a special conference on church vitality to be held at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center, Nov. 5-7, 2007. Sponsored by ABC/NE and surrounding regions (Dakotas, Central, and Mid-American Baptist Churches), the event will draw from a wide area.

Guest Leader is Rev. Dr. **David C. Laubach** who spoke at the Family Reunion in North Platte. He is author of *12 Steps to Congregational Transformation: A Practical Guide for Leaders*.

Missionary in Residence at the event is **Duane Binkley** who has served as a missionary in Thailand for 15 years. Duane and his wife Marcia now serve both in Thailand and the U.S., assisting with Karen refugees from Myanmar (Burma) who are coming to the U.S.

Workshops will be offered including one on "Best Practices of Generous Congregations." It will be led by **John Grisham** of the Great Rivers Region staff.

Significant funding to underwrite the cost of this event has been provided by the Clark Grant (National Ministries ABC/USA).

Registration is \$100 per person and includes housing and meals. ABC/NE Pastors' registration fee will be paid by The Carpenter Fund. Pastors may register by phone 877-244-7339 (in Omaha 556-4730). Others should register with a form available from the region office or online at [www.mid-abc.org](http://www.mid-abc.org) - click "online registration" payment by credit card only with online registration.

Those who register by midnight October 7th will receive a free copy of *12 Steps to Congregational Transformation*.



## World Communion Sunday Joins Christians Around the Globe

World Communion Sunday is celebrated the first Sunday in October. Churches recognize on this day that Christians around the world are participating in communion all on the same day. For ABC-USA churches it is also the beginning of a month when we participate in the **World Mission Offering** demonstrating our partnership with brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Some churches use songs, prayers and other worship resources from Christians in other parts of the world. Often churches celebrate communion on this day with bread made in the style of other cultures. One ABC church serves trays of bread that include Indian fry bread, African flatbread, tortillas, lefse, etc. These serve as symbols of communion being taken by Christians around the world. We are part of a big family -- the family of God.

The special day (first called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and, after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.

Today, churches of many denominations and others with no denominational ties, celebrate Christians' oneness in Christ in the midst of the world we are called to serve.

*From the Executive Minister . . . . . Susan Gillies*

## RELATIONSHIPS

There is an old saying that has been used for both men and women . . . “Men! You can’t live with them and you can’t live without them!” And in that flippant expression of frustration or teasing, we are reminded of the challenge of living in relationship.

God called us into relationship with himself and with each other. But God didn’t make it easy. Let me share some perspectives on our relationships with each other.

First, we were each given unique personalities. People have tried repeatedly to group types of personalities together. One of the most famous is the Myers-Briggs indicator. I usually test as an ENFP. I can look in the book and find out things about my work and relationship characteristics. I can even find out how to relate to people like Dave Lundholm who is an ENFJ and Steve Bills who is an ENTJ. (I think Dick Peterson is an ESPN!) These psychological groupings are attempts to help us understand ourselves and each other but they are not magic. They are attempts to make scientific something that isn’t scientific.

Second, communicating with each other is not as simple as it seems. The act of communication is transferring an idea in my head to your head, and doing it accurately. But a lot can happen to that poor little idea. First, I can choose words that don’t really capture what I’m feeling. Next, something happening around us can influence what you think I mean. Then, you may have a different understanding of the meaning of the words I’ve used. Or you may suspect I have a motive for what I’m saying and that suspicion may or may not be true. The more we understand about the challenges of effective communication, the more we are amazed that we manage to communicate at all!

A very popular book in business circles these days is *The Speed of Trust* by Stephen M. R. Covey. The author has “discovered” that an environment of high trust improves business results. Is this a surprise? Are we amazed to learn that we like to do business with people we believe are being honest with us? It is easy for me to chuckle that business people are picking up on a basic elements of the living out of our faith . . . integrity, honesty, quality work, etc. But then I am caught up short. One of the reasons some people stay away from churches is because of low trust. They are afraid they will be manipulated if they go to a church. I am re-examining the book through the lens of church life. [I’ll be addressing this in the digging deeper sessions at the Adult Ministries Conference at Moses Merrill the first week of Oct.]

Third, our expectations of each other are often unrealistic. I am convinced that one of the reasons so many churches have so much conflict is that we expect church to be heaven. It isn’t. The church is filled with regular people; people with differing ideas, tastes, desires, understandings, levels of patience, etc. Roger Fredrikson wrote a book titled, *God Loves the Dandelions*. In it he says that the church is not a hothouse for orchids; it is a place full of weeds. We are just folks trying to be faithful. We stumble. We get up and try again. We make mistakes. We hang our nerve endings out so that we get hurt easily and then we play the martyr. Be are capable of being petty as well as being inspired.

Our relationships with each other are a source of God’s richest blessings to the human race. We must treasure the possibilities of this gift. We must learn and grow in our understanding of how to have healthy relationships. Our families and our churches will be the better for it.



*From the Associate Executive Minister . . . . . Steve Bills*

## The World Mission Offering: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

The mission of International Ministries is to glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ (*Go Global*).

What does “make disciples” mean? International Ministries (IM) carries out hundreds of mission activities designed to make disciples in three dimensions. The people they touch will . . .

- **come to Christ:** People enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- **grow in Christ:** Followers of Jesus mature in their faith and use their gifts for God’s glory
- **change their world with Christ:** God uses maturing believers to “turn the world upside down” — which is to say, “rightside up!”

In our world, over 2 billion people identify themselves as Christians. But more than twice that many — over 4 billion human beings — have not received life in Jesus’ name. IM missionaries are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in over 30 countries around the world, while IM is working with partners to share the gospel in over 70 countries. But more followers of Jesus want to become missionaries and more churches and missions around the world want to partner with IM. Your

increased giving to the World Mission Offering (WMO) will help IM to make disciples with more people in more places. Those who do not know Jesus — and those who have never heard — deserve the opportunity to *come* to Christ, *grow* in Christ and *change* their world with Christ.

During the present decade, IM is giving priority to:

- **Evangelism and discipleship:** Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, urging others to believe in and to follow Jesus and seeking to become more obedient followers ourselves.
- **Christ-like mission:** Demonstrating how the love of God in Christ responds to every human need.
- **Equipping leaders:** Encouraging and preparing those whom God calls into leadership in every local setting.
- **Mission education:** Sharing with the whole American Baptist family what God is teaching American Baptists and their partners through cross-cultural mission.
- **Urban mission:** Seeking transformation in Christ for the cities of our world.
- **Mission explosion:** Helping as many American Baptists as possible to join with believers around the world as participants in God’s mission to, from and within all the world’s continents.

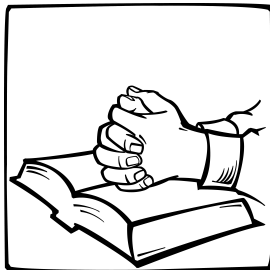


# Annual Reunion brings the Family together



Clockwise from upper left corner: **Stan Jensen** (L) of York visits with guest speaker **Eleazer Zihembere** of International Ministries. Kearney Associate Pastor **Dwayne Bennett**, Roger Williams Fellowship Director **Eric Wood** and wife, **Andrea**, listen to Grand Island Pastor **Charlie Gregory**. **David Laubach** of National Ministries, Executive Minister **Susan Gillies** and Associate Executive Minister **Dave Lundholm** share a lighter moment. Holbrook Pastor **Dale Whitson** and wife, **Loida**, with **Opal Buchta** of Broken Bow. Holdrege Pastor **Gary Winget** and wife, **Sue**, visit with Pastor-to-Pastors **Paul Kondy**. Region President **Darren Stroh**, Pastor of convention host church, FBC of Bridgeport .





### ABC/NE Prayer Focus for October:

- For our pastors and their families. **Please make this a priority! Thank you.**
- For all the special events at Moses Merrill this month and next.
- For the White Cross Convoy traveling to Montana.
- For a generous World Mission Offering
- For great worship experiences in each ABC/NE church.

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 list each month.

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

## Hispanic Ministry Underway at First Baptist, Grand Island

First Baptist of Grand Island has licensed Enrique Contreras to preach and lead a congregation of Spanish-speaking people at First Baptist. FBC Pastor Charlie Gregory said, "Mission has indeed come to our doorstep. We rejoice in all we are learning from our new friends. This is a mutual ministry."

Pastor Contreras and his wife have become members of First Baptist and are successfully gathering a congregation for Spanish language services.

## History Headlines

- Nebraska Baptists purchased the Chautauqua grounds near Fullerton, NE, in 1943. The amount of money needed to complete the purchase contract was delivered a day or two ahead of schedule. The naming of the new campsite was the next major step. The records indicate that after much prayer and serious consideration Mr. Joe Anderson, a member of First Baptist in Omaha, moved in the Board of Managers' meeting to designate the property as the Moses Merrill Baptist Camp, to be popularly known as Camp Merrill. When the camp moved to Linwood, the name changed to Camp Moses Merrill and more recently changed to Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. But it will probably always be popularly known as Camp Merrill.
- In 1966, Nebraska Baptists baptized 589 persons. [62 churches]
- In 1916, Rev. A.A. Layton, formerly a colporter in Northwestern Nebraska, began his pastorate at Alliance. Colporters or colporteurs traveled from town to town distributing Christian materials. Some churches in ABC/NE were begun by Chapel Cars but this is the first reference found about a colporter becoming an ABC/NE pastor.
- An item in the May 1916 Nebraska Baptist Bulletin reports that F. M. Sturdevant, the pastor in Chadron was traveling as far as 25 miles in a one horse rig to reach each of his five preaching locations. "His influence is great throughout that whole region. His ministry would be multiplied threefold if he were provided with a Ford car."
- Also in the May 1916 Bulletin was an item announcing that the church in Dannebrog was changing the language of the worship services from Danish to English.

## Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman  
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

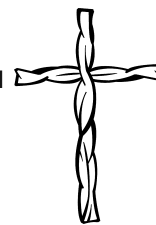
TAKE FIVE ways adults in the congregation can support students in local schools:

1. Hold homework help sessions at church.
2. Collect and distribute school supplies.
3. Have report card day parties.
4. Be visible at programs and games.
5. Pray often by name for the success of students and their teachers.

## Honoring "Invisible Missionaries" Chaplains & Pastoral Counselors Sunday — October 21, 2007

ABC churches recognize and honor Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors in October each year. This year the special day is October 21.

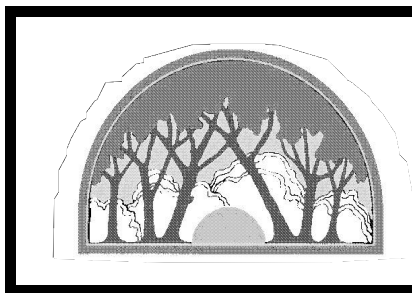
Currently among ABC chaplains serving in Nebraska are three hospital chaplains. Tom Webb serves in Lincoln. Dale Pracht serves in Norfolk. Jim Cummings is currently in hospital chaplaincy training in Omaha. Also related to ABC/NE are Diane Jorgensen, chaplain at Maple Crest Care Center; and



Often called, the invisible missionaries, chaplains often serve out-of-sight of local churches. "It's time for this to change," according to Susan Gillies, ABC/NE Exec. Minister. "I encourage churches to invite chaplains to come to their churches and share about their work. We need to pray for and encourage these specialized clergy. Let's make them *visible* to our people."

## ABC/NE Trivia (see answers on page 8)

1. A week at Junior Camp at Camp Merrill in 1970 cost how much?  
a. 15.00      b. 24.50      c. 38.50      d. 42.00
2. The ABC/NE office is located at 64<sup>th</sup> & Maple in Omaha and has been at this location since 1970. Where was it before that?  
a. downtown Lincoln, b. downtown Omaha, c. on the grounds of Camp Merrill, d. First Baptist, Grand Island.
3. The current region office building has 2 office suites (we use one and rent out the other), five one-bedroom apartments, a conference room, a kitchen/gathering area, and store rooms. What was the cost to the region (in 1969)?  
a. \$95,000      b. \$150,000      c. 200,000      d. \$225,000
4. How many acres make up Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center?  
a. 168      b. 368      c. 568      d. 768
5. How many years has Susan Gillies been Executive Minister of ABC/NE?  
a. 5      b. 7      c. 10      d. 12




# Moses Merrill News

2849 Rd. 31 Bldg. 3, Linwood, NE 68036 (402) 666-5639  
E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net Web site: www.campmerrill.com

Dear Friends,

*I wish you were at camp to watch the squirrels getting ready for winter. I've given up trying to chase them. They work too hard. I'm glad my work is a little easier. My normal day includes greeting visitors, napping, checking out the RV area, napping, keeping an eye on the staff, napping and clearing mice.*

*The grounds are beautiful in every season but if you haven't seen the place in the fall, you really need to plan a trip. We'd love to see you!*

— Camp Cat 

## WORK CREWS NEEDED:

Fall is the best time for volunteer work crews from churches or individual volunteers to work at camp. Work crews are needed for some specific projects this fall.

1. Renovation of Parkgrove Lodge. This former bathhouse is being transformed into lodging for volunteers.
2. Roofing Director's House and other building maintenance.
3. Tree crews for widening trails and general clean-up.

As much as we need the volunteer help, we really need for you to contact **Clarence Reiss at 402-666-5639** to schedule a time when there will be work for you to do & equipment for you to use. Your time is valuable . . . Put it to excellent use. Making a difference at Moses Merrill helps to make a difference in people's lives.



### Enjoy Thanksgiving at Moses Merrill

*Those who don't have extended family nearby are invited to join in a festive meal and good fellowship. Please let us know by Nov. 8 if you will be able to be with us. 402-666-5639*

## Moses Merrill Fall Schedule Features . . .

### Retreats & Conferences

#### Adult Ministries Conference Oct. 1-4

A wonderful gathering of seniors & others who enjoy good presentations, good conversation, good food, good activities and good rest. Bible Study Leader is Dr. Paul Welter who will talk about the questions of Jesus. Missionaries Newton & Amelia Old Crow will share about the work at Lodgegrass, Montana. Susan Gillies will lead the Digging Deeper sessions.

#### Women's Fall Retreat Weekend Oct. 5-7

Women from around the state gather either at Moses Merrill or at Camp Rock for a retreat with time for worship, reflection, sharing, and not doing dishes! The focus leader at Moses Merrill will be Janet Coleman who has been AB Women's Ministries' Coordinator of the Mid-Western Region.

#### Fall Pastors' Seminar Oct. 15-17

Focusing on "Missional Leadership," ABC-USA Assoc. General Secretary Jeff Woods will lead this seminar for ABC/NE pastors.

#### Vital Leaders Conference Nov. 5-7

Formerly known as the Small Church Conference, this event draws lay and clergy leaders from several states. The Guest Leader this year is Dr. David Laubach. Missionary-in-Residence is Duane Binkley who has served in Thailand and is now working with Karen refugees from Burma. Another feature is a workshop led by John Grisham (ABC Great Rivers) on Best Practices of Generous Congregations.

For registration information on all these events contact: ABC/NE toll free 877-244-7339 (in Omaha 556-4730)

## Please note:

Holidays With The Merrills, which had been scheduled for Nov. 17, will not happen this year so that as many people as possible can attend the World Mission Conference in Kansas City that weekend (see page 8 for details).

From the Associate Executive Minister ..... Dave Lundholm

### Pastor Appreciation Month

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; for the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves to be paid." (1 Tim 5:17-18)

The passage calls us to go "overboard" in honoring pastors who lead well. October is pastor appreciation month. I'd like to share some ideas that might stimulate your thinking as you plan to show appreciation to your pastor(s) this year.

- o Sample Gifts pastors have received: A saddle; a belt buckle; produce; a trip to the Holy Land (pastor and spouse); gift cards for restaurants; season tickets to UNK football; a Jacuzzi; new technology; tickets to Promise Keepers; funding to attend ABC biennial meetings; plaque with an inscription and invitations to dinner.
- o Kindness: Pastors share that some of the most meaningful gifts are cards prepared by the children in Sunday school. Cards of affirmation and appreciation are also cherished.
- o In Worship Services: Testimonies of what the pastor's ministry has meant to individuals. Singing "Pastor we appreciate you" (to the tune of "Heavenly Father We Appreciate You.") Stand and applaud when the pastor (staff) enters the sanctuary on the appreciation Sunday.
- o Clergy Spouses: Clergy spouses would enjoy being included in all of the above.
- o Appreciate Clergy Children: Give a (non church) gift that acknowledges the child's unique interests. Pay for music or karate lessons. Pay their way to camp.
- o Interesting Ideas:
  - o One Sunday school class purchased a box of dog treats for the pastors dog and delivered it with a card signed (paw prints on ink pad) by all the class' pets.
  - o Pounding the pastor. Each member of the church brought a pound of something to give to the pastor: (food, money, candy, etc.)
  - o In one church the congregation smuggled as many bottles as possible of the pastor's favorite soda into a worship service. (It was a fun game to sneak stuff in without it being noticed.) Then the abundance of sodas were presented during a special part of the service.

I hope this helps get you started. For additional ideas try: <http://www.my-pastor.com/pastor-appreciation-ideas.html>; <http://www.christianitytoday.com/holidays/clergy/features/honor.html>; <http://www.thriftyfun.com/tf23362494.tip.html>; or just Google 'pastor appreciation ideas.'

(Many thanks to the pastors and church secretaries that provided input to this article. dal)



Special Note: Judson press is offering a special on pastor appreciation gifts. Order online and save \$10.00 on any purchase of \$20.00 or more! Simply **enter code ES09** in the discount/promotion box at checkout and the savings will automatically be applied. (Note: Order must total \$20.00 before shipping and handling. The offer expires October 31, 2007.

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

### November Deadlines

**Nov. 4, 2007 - Print Copy**

**Nov. 9, 2007 - E-Mail**

### Home Town Editor (Note New Address)

Darlene RIMPLEY

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Arnold, NE 69120

### E-Editor

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Subject: Messenger

**ARNOLD FBC:** The church has received a new electric piano, a gift from Robert and Joyce Howe in memory of her parents; with the dedication of the piano on Sept 16. Good News Club, which is held at FBC, began on Sept 10 and 12 for the community children.

**ARTHUR BC:** Preschool started mid-September at the Arthur Church. This is now listed as a program of the church to make use of the facilities possible. Two new Bible studies are being started at the Arthur Church, one for Men and one for the Ladies. Both will meet on alternate Wednesdays with the regular "co-ed" midweek service on the opposite weeks. Adventure club for Kindergarten through grade six meets every Wednesday right after school

and Youth group for grades 7-12 is meeting every other week right after sports practice.

**BEATRICE FBC:** The Institutional Support Offering was received on Sept 16. The ABW Day was celebrated on Sept 16. Kids Time began on Sept 12, with a pizza party to get the year started.

**BROKEN BOW FBC:** Rev. Betty Johnson resigned to accept a call to Mapleton, MN. The church hosted a Farewell Dinner with 75 in attendance including 5 local pastors and Bill Ragan, pastor at FBC Ansley. Broken Bow moved its entire worship service on Sept 23 to the Family Reunion in North Platte.

**CHAPMAN FBC:** Vacation Bible School was held for 6 weeks starting the end of May with good attendance. Thanks to Nola and her helpers all had a good time and enjoyed the lessons/crafts that she chose for this year's theme of "growing/ harvesting during biblical times. Aug 14 was the annual welcome back to the teachers of the Chapman Elementary School. A salad, casserole and dessert luncheon was served. The August weather kind of curtailed any outside activities for the month and now we are starting on getting White Cross projects completed.

**COLUMBUS FBC:** The ABW group is collecting items for the local Food Pantry. The Board of Christian Education sponsored an Ice Cream

Social. Perfect attendance Sunday School pins were presented to the following: Bill Evans III for 27 years; Bill Evans Jr. for 25 years, and Karen Effa for 4 years. ABW held a Salad Supper to "kick start" their season. Following Morning Worship Service, the congregation enjoyed a Church BBQ, prepared by the Diaconate Board. Roy McGee passed away. He had been battling cancer. Roy was 88. He will be missed by his church family and friends.

**FAIRBURY FBC:** The Men and Boys' annual Retreat was held on Sept 15-16. Three couples celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Sept: Dean and Marge Terrill and LeRoy and Bobby Welch, both on Sept 7, and Gail and LaDonna Southwick on Sept 14. The Women of the church celebrated ABW Sunday by being in charge of the worship service. "Adopt-A-Young-Adult" program began, when the people of the church choose a young college student or working young person to pray for and encourage with gifts, notes, or cards. Frankie and Phyllis Valens presented a program on the evening of Sept 8, and one during the Sunday morning, Sept 9, worship. The youth held their annual 30 hour famine during September.

**FREMONT FBC:** The report on the youth mission trip to Norfolk showed that they packed 4,320 meals and donated \$100 to the Kids Against Hunger project, mowed the lawn, painted windows, doors and columns and donated \$100 to the Agape Pregnancy Center, worked at the Norfolk Rescue Mission and donated \$100. The Young Women of Hope are collecting, boxes, items, and money for the Operation Christmas Child project. Cowboy Dave presented a program on Sept 26.

**GIBBON BC:** Teacher Appreciation Sunday was held on Sept 16. A noon soup dinner fundraiser was held on Sept 23. The youth participated in "See You At the Pole" on Sept 26.

**GRAND ISLAND FBC:** Promotion Sunday was held on Sept 2, with a church picnic at Hall County Park that evening. The youth held their annual Hamburger Feed on Sept 15. The Wednesday Evening Suppers resumed on Sept 5. Boxes for Operation Christmas Child were wrapped at Ruth Circle meeting, and members are taking the boxes home to fill and return. Merle and Georgene Crouch celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept 21, by holding a luncheon for the church family at the church.

**HASTINGS FBC:** The Crusaders Musical group performed their southern and contemporary gospel music on Sept 9, and led the worship music. We have re-inaugurated a weekly youth meeting with good kids, serious Bible study, great worship-music times, food and fun. We also now have a Wednesday evening Bible study at the church. A men's trio from Lincoln ("The Crusaders") provided excellent music leadership in our worship service on Sept 9.

**HOLDREGE FBC:** Promotion Sunday was Sept 9, and that evening we had a Family Fun Night, with a pork roast and game time. The

Julaine Christensen Women's Conference was held at FBC on Sept 14-15, and Julaine shared during worship on the 16th. Kathleen Skoog celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug 19.

**LAVISTA JUDSON:** The Senior Adults had a game day at the end of the month. The Judson Library is unpacked, inventoried and ready for readers of all ages. Again, our thanks to Calvary for more than doubling our library. It is located in our new addition. AWANA started on Sept 12. Fall Sunday School classes began in the new classrooms. What a blessing. Several of Judson's young people participated at "See you at the Poll" at their schools. To celebrate the start of the Fall Sunday School session a Sundaes on Sunday ice cream fellowship time was held for youth and adults. A wonderful mixture of smells permeated the air at our Ethnic Fellowship Luncheon. The Omaha Hispanic Minister's meeting was held at Judson. Several of our members attended the 2007 ABC/NE Annual Convention Family Reunion in North Platte. Judson is going to have an all-church garage sale Oct 6. White Cross quotas are quickly being met. Stuffed Bears made during Vacation Bible School are being sent to Shekina Baptist Church School in Santa Ana, El Salvador. Happy Fall You All!

**MCCOOK FBC:** FBC led the Heritage Days Church Service on Sept 30 in Norris park,

**NORFOLK FBC:** "Be the Church" kickoff was held on Sept 30. This program includes small group bible studies and special worship services. Eleanor Nordke celebrated her 93rd birthday on Sept 4, Eva Seda her 84th on the 8th, Betty Peterson her 85th birthday on the 8th, Norman Rix his 85th birthday on the 10th, and Darel Heppner his 81st birthday on Sept 14.

**OMAHA BENSON:** "Praises to Him", an evening of southern, bluegrass, and country gospel music was held on Sept 16, with Brian Poole doing some of his own special music. BBC had a float in the Benson Unity Parade on Sept 15. A carnival was held to kick off the KIDS program on Sept 12. The Youth started their new year with a "back to school bash" on Sept 4. Teacher Appreciation was held on Sept 30.

**OMAHA FBC:** First Baptist received into membership four young people who were baptized by their respective parents with Pastor Mickelson assisting. The four new members are: Olivia Wing, daughter of Chris & Michelle Wing, Jamie Gamblin, daughter and step-daughter of Sue Reed and Darrell Reed; Adam and Joshua Cleveland, sons of John and Jennifer Cleveland. A New Member class will begin the first Sunday of October. The Electric Wednesday Program for our children got its "jumpstart" on Sept 12 and both the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir began rehearsals on Sept 19. A new Women's Ministry will "kickoff" at 9:30 on Oct 20 with a Brunch, "Falling Into Friendship" for all FBC women.

**OMAHA PARKSIDE:** The church bowling league began on Sept 13, with members of the team being of all ages. Pastor Joan Stewart announced she will be retiring Oct. 31.

**OXFORD FBC:** Promotional Sunday was held on Aug 26 following the worship service and it was well attended. Our church family enjoyed a picnic on Sunday evening, Aug 30, at the home of Duane & Cheryl Murdoch. It was a great evening of food, fellowship and fun.

**SCOTTSBLUFF FBC:** "Welcome Home Sunday" was held on Sept 9. The day included Promotion Sunday, commissioning of new church officers, a Family Reunion theme in worship, and a family picnic on the church lawn. Julia McClure celebrated her 90th birthday on Sept 16. Ladies Night Out began their fall schedule with a soup supper on Sept 18. FBC has begun gathering items for the Operation Christmas Child project. The Wednesday Night Soup Suppers resumed on Sept 5. The Men's Bible Study group met on Sept 20. Both Middle School and High School BYF Groups have begun. A Baptismal Service was held on Sept 16, with Elizabeth Gross and Zane Wagner being baptized. Our Wednesday evening Soup Suppers have resumed, and our Choir has begun their new season of singing with several new voices joining the group. Preparations are being readied for once again being the Regional Collection Center for Operation Christmas Child. We are looking forward to another good year of God's blessings.

**TEKAMAH FBC:** Rev. John and Mary Dennert ended their interim pastorate with FBC on Aug 26, with the hopes of "getting some rest, do some of their many projects, and cleaning up their house after some water damage." The fellowship Committee sponsored a "Tasty Luncheon" on Sept 14, with the theme being "tropical". The ABW is once again sponsoring the Angel Tree, which provides the children of prisoners Christmas gifts and Christian contact in their community.



#### NEW MEMBERS:

KEARNEY: Penny Parker, Roy Brush, Kirby Zuerlein, Tracy and Timaree Hanson, Bryan Schwartz, Waylon and Janice Woods, Sam Utterback, June Keaton, Brent and Andrea Upson, Mike and Shawna Roggie, Don and Deb Mittelstadt, Emily Englund, Laura Kreutzer, Jessie Watts

OMAHA FIRST: Olivia Wing, Jamie Gamblin, Adam and Joshua Cleveland

OMAHA PARKSIDE: LeRoy Penry

LAVISTA JUDSON: Corie Byers, Jeanne R. Thomas, Elaine Jerman

SCOTTSBLUFF: Elizabeth Gross and Zane Wagner



Look for the "Idea Bulb" for good ideas you may want to use!

**November 16 - 18**  
**at Central Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**in Shawnee (Kansas City), Kansas (www.cbts.edu)**

**Join the Nebraska delegation to the**  
**World Mission Conference!**  
**We will have a great time together this fall!**

*International Ministries is eager to give you the chance to catch a glimpse of what God is doing in the world through the missionaries you support.*

*At the WMC you can develop or deepen a relationship with missionaries engaged in a variety of cutting edge ministries. Through programs, videos and workshops, you'll learn how your missionaries help others to put their faith in Jesus, and be personally transformed.*

**REGISTRATION AND MEALS** - Visit the [www.cbts.edu](http://www.cbts.edu) web site for program details and to download the registration forms. (Call the Region Office for this material if you do not have access to the web site.) Fill them out and send them in ASAP.

**HOUSING INFORMATION** - A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn a few miles away from the seminary at a room rate of \$89 (discount code:ABC). To reserve a room call, 1-913-248-1900 (toll-free:1-800-HAMPTON).

**TRANSPORTATION** - We will travel on our own and meet in Kansas City. If you are driving and have room for passengers, or if you would like to ride with someone from our region, please call the region office as ask for the mission conference carpool coordinator.

**ABC of Nebraska Staff**

Executive Minister .....	Susan Gillies
Associate Executive Minister .....	Dave Lundholm
Associate Executive Minister .....	Steve Bils
Director of Camps & Conferences .....	Clarence Reiss
Camp Program Director .....	MaryBeth Robertson
Camp Staff .....	Jerry Buss, Trudy Reiss, Denise Harris, Joe Huss, Beverly Pacas
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Office Assistant .....	Margaret Brown-Moore
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Church Life Consultant .....	A. J. Wagstaff
Pastor to Pastors (W).....	Paul Kondy
Pastor to Pastors (E).....	Dick Peterson
Youth Ministry Adjunct .....	Jason Workman

Trivia Answers (questions on page 4)

1. b. The cost of a week of junior camp in 1970 was \$24.50.
2. b. The region office from 1937 through 1969 was located at 15<sup>th</sup> and Dodge in downtown Omaha.
3. a. The region office building was purchased in Dec. 1969, for \$95,000.
4. c. Camp Merrill has 563 acres.
5. b. She has served us 7 years.



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