

the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



Aug-Sept 2009

ABC/NE Date Data

ABC Emergency Services Center
Black Hills of South Dakota
August 1-9

ABC/NE Personnel Committee
1:00 Lincoln August 6

Men's Conference at Camp Merrill
August 7-8

Dept. of Professional Ministry
10:00 am Grand Island
August 10

Camp & Conference Dept.
5:00 Moses Merrill August 11

ABC/NE Foundation
2:00 Omaha August 13

Mission Dept 10am Grand Island
Exec. Comm Noon Grand Island
ABC/NE Board 1:00 Grand Island
All three on August 22

FAMILY REUNION Sept. 18-20

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Incorporated as
The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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Family Reunion Set for Kearney

*“The JOY
Of the Lord
Is My
STRENGTH”*



Baptists in Nebraska are invited to Kearney to participate in a joy-filled weekend of worship, fellowship and learning.

The theme is “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” ABC/NE President Ted Hartung had a vision for this theme for over a year. “It reflects who we are as Christians,” he said. “We are people strengthened by the joy that comes from knowing Jesus.”

The Family Reunion (annual convention) of ABC of Nebraska will take place at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney, Sept. 18-20. Speakers include Rev. Eddie Cruz of National Ministries and Duane & Marcia Binkley, missionaries to the Karen people.

Registration materials are included in this issue of *The Messenger* and can also be found in local churches or from the ABC/NE Office in Omaha.

Jr/Sr High Youth Convention

American Baptist Youth from across Nebraska will gather for their convention at the same time the adults and children are in Kearney. The youth will be at Camp Comeca on Fri & Sat and then join the adults and children on Sunday morning.

Coordinators Brad Wiese and Jason Workman promise a great event.

Children's Program

ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant, Nola Oberhelman, will once again lead the program for children during the Family Reunion. There will be programming for pre-school and elementary youngsters. There will be childcare for infants and tod-

Kelli Wellensiek Foreman Becomes ABC Missionary

Nebraskan Kelli Foreman was commissioned an ABC Missionary at the annual convention of Alaska Baptist Churches.

Assoc. Executive Director of National Ministries, David Laubach, presided over the event.

Kelli serves at Kodiak Baptist Mission in Kodiak, Alaska. She is from Gibbon Baptist Church, Gibbon, NE. Kelli's husband, Steve, teaches in the Kodiak Public Schools.



Steve & Kelli Foreman with David Laubach at Shiloh Baptist in Anchorage.

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

THE "GUTSY" STRENGTH OF JOY

When we gather in Kearney in Sept., our theme will be "The Joy of the Lord Is My Strength." That makes many of us think of a chorus of the same name. It is usually sung in a style that reminds me of bobble-head dolls. Light and smiley. The title comes from Nehemiah 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is your strength." I don't think the verse is calling for bobble-headedness!

I think this verse is astonishing. It doesn't say "The power of the Lord is your strength." Or the wisdom, or the judgment, or anything else. Strength can be obtained from the JOY of the Lord. Joy gives us our strength. Sounds like joy is pretty gutsy.

What makes this idea surprising to us is that we tend to think of joy as style rather than substance. "Happy" might be style. "JOY" is a strong, core response. It has tremendous power. It has to have power if it gives us strength.

When I was in sixth grade we studied electricity. (I know this dates me!) My dad took a half-day off work and came to my class and gave us a demonstration of how electricity works. He made a model with a battery almost the size of a Pringles potato chip can. The wires came from the battery to a switch and from there to a light bulb. He showed us how it worked. It was great. We learned, very clearly, that you need a power source if you want something to happen. The demonstration my father pre-

sented to the class that day would now look like something out of a history museum. But the learning point is still valid. You've got to have a power source.

Our bodies derive power from the food we eat. Our homes get power from gas, oil, electricity, solar, thermal, coal or wood. Our minds are fed by food. [Many in the scientific community argue that the kind and quality of food we eat has a great deal to do with how well we think.]

But what about our spirits? As believers, we can tap into an extraordinary source of power. Our spirits – our personalities – get power from God. And God uses joy as one of the wires that transmits that power to us. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

What is particularly amazing to me is that we control the switch. Not God. God has given us free will. God is letting us make decisions. God invites us to open the switch and let his power get to us through the various "wires" available to us. I contend that joy is one of them. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

I define joy this way: Joy is a deep, positive, feeling response to God's love as we experience it. It can be, at any given time, effervescent or sustaining. It is the result of being assured of God's presence and love. It generates confidence as well as humility. The experience of it leads toward wisdom.



From the Associate Executive Minister Dave Lundholm Getting Together

Heb 10:23 **Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

We've all seen it happen over the years. Fast friendships are taken for granted. Contact falls off. We see each other less often. Soon we are down to occasional e-mails and finally the friendship fades to a point that our friend is just one name among many on our facebook page.

We've seen it in our families. Our brothers, sisters and cousins scatter to the ends of the earth. Time commitments cause them to miss the holidays at home or the family reunions and after a few generations relations no longer realize that they are related.

We've seen it at church as well. People begin coming less often. Soon they drop out all together and we wonder where they went.

That is why getting together as churches at events like the Family Reunion or at Association meetings is so very important. Gatherings maintain relationships. The passage from Hebrews says that the purpose of gatherings is to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" and to "encourage one another." Strong friendships can help us get through hard times. Strong families and churches can too.

Let's gather in September to spur one another on and to encourage each other so that we can be strengthened in the mission that God has given the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska.



Fall Continuing Ed Events:

- **Fall Pastors' Seminar**
**"Dealing Biblically with Conflict:
 For Family, Church & Community"**
 Moses Merrill Oct. 12-14
 Speaker: Dr. Dan Buttry, International Ministries Global Consultant for Peace & Justice.
 Author of several books, including *Bringing Your Church Back to Life: Beyond Survival Mentality*.
 Content: Dr. Buttry will offer Bible study, sermon ideas, practical tools on dealing with personal, church and wider conflict.
- **Vital Church Leaders Conference**
"Best Practices"
 Moses Merrill Nov. 2-4
 Speakers: Dr. Tom Johnson, former pastor, teacher and denominational leader.
 Rev. Robin Stoops, pastor, FBC, Norfolk
 Content: Practical help & idea sharing. Presentations on Centering on the Positives, Connecting With the Community, Leading Change (even microscopic change!), and Celebration. There will also be presentations on technology in the small church and humor in ministry.

*Encourage your pastor
 to take the time & space for these
 continuing education opportunities.*

Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelmen

ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five on-going summer/fall projects for your Sunday School:

1. Mow a senior citizen's yard
2. Conduct a yard sale and send the proceeds to Murrow Indian Home
3. Begin collecting items for Samaritan's Purse
4. Volunteer help for VBS
5. Invite the neighborhood to a church lawn party.

ABC/NE To Vote on Amendments

At the Annual Convention of ABC/NE in Kearney in Sept, delegates will vote on a proposed constitutional amendment. This amendment was proposed at last year's convention and will be voted on this year.

The purpose of the amendment is to make it possible to form a Nominating Committee without basing membership on associations. Only four of the nine associations are functioning. It also removes the requirement for Assoc. representatives to sit on the Board but still requires geographic representation.

The region board encourages those Associations that find value in meeting, to continue to do so. The board intends to initiate ideas on other ways churches can support and encourage each other.

ABC-USA Biennial Wrap-Up

Twenty-two ABC/NE folks made the trip to Pasadena, CA, for the ABC-USA Biennial Convention. They are in general agreement that the Biennial was excellent with very good speakers, worship, break-out sessions, exhibits and meal events.

Three events honored Nebraskans: 1. The Sparrowk Presidents' Award was presented to Bob and Margene Phares of North Platte. 2. The Board of National Ministries affirmed the commissioning of Kelli Foreman as an ABC Missionary. 3. ABC/NE Adjunct staff member, Htoo May, received an honor from Karen Baptist Theological Seminary in Insein, Myanmar (Burma) in recognition of her 40 years of serving God since her graduation. The award certificate was presented to Htoo May at the Biennial.

Two ABC/NE youth were Regional Youth Representatives: Jacob Conley of North Platte and Casey Howard, representing ABGirls.



ABC-USA General Secretary Roy Medley and President Mary Hulst present the Sparrowk Award to Bob and Margene Phares

"This was an outstanding Biennial," said FBC Lincoln pastor Harry Riggs. "The event was a great time of connecting and reconnecting, a time of holy worship, and a time of learning about exciting new things happening in the family."

At the Saturday business session of the Biennial, delegates narrowly defeated the by-law changes brought by the General Board. 377 delegates voted in favor of the changes and 217 opposed them, with 20 abstentions. Two-thirds of the delegates present are needed for by-law changes to be accepted.

"It was a very narrow vote," said A. Roy Medley, ABCUSA General Secretary. "Just over 63% voted for the changes. We've asked the delegates to give us suggestions and critiques. Now, we'll take that information into consideration as we continue to work on the new structure."

Plans Underway for 2009 White Cross Convoy

What is White Cross?

Any church can participate in collecting supplies & materials needed by missionaries in the US. (White Cross supplies for overseas missionaries are obtained through cash contributions.) Find out what's needed by checking with an AB Women's Ministries person in your church or another ABC church OR contact the ABC office in Omaha.

Why a "Convoy"?

For the past few years, people from Nebraska have taken the supplies to the missionaries or mission sites. It's a great experience of working together. It's also a tremendous way to learn about mission in America. The volunteers load up the supplies from Nebraska in cars and vans and travel to the mission site and back.

Who goes?

If you are interested and want more information, contact the ABC office in Omaha. Kathy Brown of FBC, Omaha, and a member of the ABC/NE Mission Dept. will be leading this year's convoy.

Where is the Convoy Going and When?

This year's trip will be to Murrow Indian Children's Home and Rainy Mountain Church. They are both in Oklahoma but in different parts of the state. The trip will probably take place in late October.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Contact the ABC Office 877-244-7339 (in Omaha 556-4730).



VOLUNTEERS . . . YES !

Young, old or some age in between, men and women, individuals and groups: volunteers bring their skills and gifts to Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. This year our youngest volunteer (still in a baby carrier) helped mom and dad mark trails. Our oldest volunteers continue to help maintain and improve our facilities. Individuals offer specialized skills; groups, such as a youth mission team, bring energy and enthusiasm to MMCCC. Volunteers contribute to the ministry of MMCCC in multiple ways!

Facility Volunteers so far this year have given over 2900 hours of work, that's more than 368 8-hour days.

If only paid minimum wage of \$6.45 per hour, this work would have cost MMCCC \$18,705.

Tasks Done: painting the RV Loop bathhouse interior, marking trails for easier hiking, annual cabin maintenance, support of the horse program through providing feed and winter quarters, maintenance of the deck at Callender House, electrical work, tree trimming, furthering the renovation of Parkgrove Lodge, meal preparation and kitchen help and camp brochure mailings.

Program Volunteers develop program & activities and serve as cabin leaders for children and youth camps.

Eighty-nine (89) volunteers helping in summer camps during 2008 donated a total of 11,570 hours (an average of 130 hours per volunteer) and touched the lives of 330 campers through the good news of Jesus Christ.

Without these volunteers, the cost of a week of camp could easily double.

Volunteers enable MMCCC to stretch the budget and accomplish so much more than can be done by paid staff alone. We are grateful to each person who has shared his/her gifts with us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

[Just a few examples]

- Help with regular trail maintenance;
- Become a trained, volunteer, substitute cook to help out when needed;
- Help complete Parkgrove Lodge renovation for volunteer housing;
- Take the lead in developing Hopevale, a gathering area among the trees below Ward Conference Center for small groups;
- Become a trained, volunteer, substitute caretaker or caretaker couple to assist with weekend events; [or Become a summer camp "grandparent."]
- Volunteer to assistance with receptionist duties or meal preparation as MMCCC is "discovered" by more people and groups;
- Volunteer to lead a summer Sunday worship service and/or December Advent service.
- You are invited to join the crew of volunteers who make Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center an exciting and beautiful place to schedule a retreat, family reunion, a conference, or church activity. Contact: MaryBeth Robertson, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.



Is it time to update your will?

The strength of ministry in Nebraska is, in part, due to the faithfulness of those who have gone before us. Please consider including your church, Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center and ABC of Nebraska in your will. For assistance contact ABC/NE staff or John Sundquist, ABC Foundation. 708-205-9599.

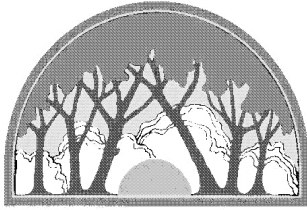
Summer ABC/NE Trivia

1. The Silver Creek Baptist Church building was later attached to what other church?
 - a. Kearney, b. Arthur, c. Tekamah
 - d. Union
2. The Center Valley Church building was later attached to what other church?
 - a. Kearney, b. Arthur, c. Tekamah
 - d. Union
3. What is the origin of Weaver Hall at Moses Merrill Camp & Conf. Center?
 - a. designed from scratch on-site,
 - b. came from an Iowa camp,
 - c. came from a park in Grand Island,
 - d. purchased from a catalogue.
4. Which of the following are in a building project? [Two right answers]
 - a. Miracle Hills; b. Parkside;
 - c. Bridgeport; d. Arnold
5. T or F Only delegates can attend the region convention.



Book of Timothy





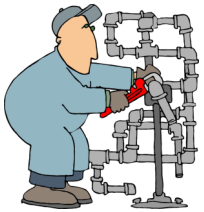
Moses Merrill News

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Next Phase of Building Bridges . . .

WASTE WATER PROJECT UNDERWAY



After several years of planning and frustration, the new waste water/sewer project at Moses Merrill is underway. The new system, required by the state, will replace the outdated system that served half the property and make possible the eventual construction of the multi-ministry facility. Bids were opened on June 12 in Columbus. The contract was awarded to Obrist & Co, Inc. of Columbus. The project will cost about \$266,000.

The best time for construction is mid-August. Immediately after Men's Conference 8/7-8, it is hoped full-scale construction will begin. Part of the project will require excavating the road between Friendship Chapel and Weaver Hall. During this work, there will be at least a week in which no groups will be able to use Weaver or have food service in the conference area.

Eagle Scouts Make A Difference!

Moses Merrill has benefited from several valuable projects done by Eagle Scouts. Nathan Steele is at work on the current project and he is inviting others to help:

To my family in Christ,
Hi,

I am Nathan Steele and I am doing my Eagle Scout project at Camp Moses Merrill. I currently have one-third of the funding raised but I still need \$2,000 more to complete the project. I need your generous donations to make it possible to build and complete a new Snack Shack. Make checks payable to Troop 235 and send them to Nathan Steele at 3619 N. 60th Street, Omaha, NE 68104.

May god bless you and keep you.

Your brother in Christ,
Nathan M. Steele

P.S. A big thank you to donors past and future.

Put November 14 On Your Calendar!

Plan now to make a trip to Moses Merrill November 14 for a special day called, **HOLIDAYS WITH THE MERRILLS**.

The day will be filled with:

- Activities—wagon rides, music, etc.
- Many craft persons with wonderful gifts for you to get for your friends
- Great food to eat and holiday treats to sample (recipes available)
- Exhibits of Thanksgiving and Christmas decorating ideas
- Fellowship.

If you want to stay over Friday or Saturday night, make reservations early.

For those of you coming from the west or others traveling a long distance, there will be a worship service in Friendship Chapel on Sunday morning. Come for Holidays with the Merrills, stay overnight, enjoy worship and then head home.

This is a really great summer at Moses Merrill. Campers and their parents come and go on the weekends and during the week the kids have been singing, learning, playing, worshipping, exploring, horse back riding, swimming and making friends.

Campfires are a big part of camp . . . And not just for s'mores. [I don't care for s'mores anyway. Have you ever gotten marshmallow stuck in your whiskers?] At these campfires, the kids and their leaders talk about things that are really important. It's often at a campfire service that kids give their lives to Jesus. Awesome!

This year we've had more people than ever renting space in our RV /camping area. You should try it. We've had our share of weddings and family reunions, too. I suggested that the weddings throw catnip instead of rice but no one has paid any attention yet. Come see us! Your friend, CAMP CAT



Update on Regional Mission . . .

Mission and ministry in ABC/NE is ongoing. Individual churches, groups of churches, and entire region projects are a vital way we make a difference for Christ in Nebraska. Here are updates on just a few current projects:

Sturgis - The ABC Emergency Services Center in Deadwood, SD during the August Motorcycle Rally each year is a joint project of ABC of the Dakotas and ABC/NE. Volunteers staff the Center, located in the Church of the Northern Hills building. In partnership with local and state health agencies and law enforcement, the Center provides help to persons in crisis.

Each year volunteers come home with dramatic stories of how the center has been able to be the hands and feet of Jesus. People's lives have been changed by this ministry.

Omaha Karen Congregation - This congregation has asked for recognition as an ABC/NE church. The Executive Committee has given preliminary approval. The Board will vote at the August meeting. If approved, the church will be welcomed into the ABC/NE at the Family Reunion in Kearney in Sept. The congregation worships in the FBC, Omaha, building.

Omaha Underground - This outreach Bible study group was founded by Trudi Bils. Trudi has moved to Oregon and the group decided to continue. Currently Travis Tabor is coordinating the group.

Moses Merrill - The ABC/NE's **primary mission outreach** takes place through Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. So far in 2009 we have exceeded previous years in total usage of the facility and in numbers of volunteers. Thanks be to God!

PART 2 - Fruitful Congregations

In the last issue of The Messenger, the Department of Church Vitality provided questions for a church to ask itself about whether it demonstrates **Radical Hospitality**.

The Department is studying the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase, from which these questions are taken.

QUESTION FOR YOUR CHURCH:

Is there a consistent plan for welcoming visitors who attend worship, children's programs, studies, support groups, and other ministries of the church?

Comments from two Church Vitality Dept. members:

Our ABW group hosted a dinner for the homeless shelter and instead of going there they invited them to our church and decorated tables and put on a huge spread and intermingled with them all night long. We have had visitors about every Sunday from the shelter and many other places and the constant message is they really enjoy the hospitality they receive when they come in the doors. It feels like they belong and are welcome here and so many churches in our town have not made them feel that way.

Glenn Williamson (Columbus)

Our minister is very dedicated to follow-up with people that have chosen to worship with us, but we do not have a plan in place to contact them soon after, so our church could certainly respond more effectively in this area. Shelley Knott (Arthur)

Other questions for you: What contact do visitors receive and from whom in the first days after visiting? How are they invited to further involvement? How can the practices be improved, better coordinated, and more effective?

This column is sponsored by the Department of Church Vitality. We want you to know that we are praying for your congregation and we'd like to know how these columns are helping. If you would like to report on what your church is doing, send a letter to Dave Lundholm, 4006 Mason Avenue, Grand Island, NE 68803 or email to: area.minister.ne@charter.net

Bridgeport Construction Continues



Outside of new building.

The building features a sanctuary and fellowship hall, a kitchen, restrooms, nursery, conference room and pastors' study.

Two stained glass windows from the front of the current building will be moved to the new building.

A final completion date has not been set.

First Baptist Church of Bridgeport, NE, continues work on its new building. Construction is 60% complete and debt-free. The church will be using an ABEC (American Baptist Extension Corporation) loan to complete the project.



Dave Lundholm tries out "preaching" in the new facility. Lyle and Joy Sanders are his tour guides (and congregation!).

ABMen President Connects Nationally

Bob Slechta, President of ABMen in Nebraska participated this summer in the ABM USA National Board meeting. "I was very encouraged to learn all of the activities men continue to be engaged in and the priority of men serving Christ," reported Bob. The board has worked hard to re-engage in active ministry and various members will be representing ABM USA at many upcoming state, regional and national events over the next 6 months. The meeting was based on 1) study of the Bible, 2) Mentoring to those developing their own faith and 3) various levels of Disaster Relief Ministries. ABM USA Past President, Rev. Manuel Linquin also presented a course on "Leadership Development Training" to the men in attendance and asked the men to use this new tool in their own states. Bob will report further at Men's Conference, Aug



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS . . . Featuring four ABC/NE churches

First Baptist Church Norfolk, NE

According to Pastor Robin Stoops, "Things are good in Norfolk!" The church Mission Statement is: "Our mission is to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make them disciples through teaching, worship, outreach and fellowship." The entire congregation is engaged in giving life to the Mission Statement.

The church building burned in 2006 and was reconstructed with dedication in 2008. This summer the men are pouring concrete to finish out the west side of the parking lot and installing a permanent sign.

The church is engaged in many outreach activities. This summer they had a "B Tween 2" Camp In for 4-5-6th graders. They put up tents in the foyer and had a great time. They have VBS and a summer Soccer camp. Some of the folks will participate in the Sturgis ministry in August. The church supports Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center with adult volunteers & campers, as well as financially and with the pastor serving on the ABC/NE Dept. of Camps & Conferences.

Currently they are working on a total revamping of their men's ministry.

The church has used a wide variety of creative strategies to connect with the community. The pastor will be sharing those at the Vital Church Leaders Conference in Nov at camp.

Worship services are televised on the local cable system. They recently completed development of a 4-week video Discovery Class for new members . . . What does it mean to be a Christian, a Baptist, a Member of FBC and a Disciple? They are available on DVD for seekers. The church has also recently updated its website.



First Baptist Church . . . Tekamah, NE

First Baptist of Tekamah is the oldest church active in the ABC of Nebraska. Founded in 1858 (a few months before FBC, Omaha), the congregation has faithfully served Christ through the years.

Under current pastor, Brian High, the congregation has engaged recently in three visioning meetings (with more to come). The congregation has started a special outreach to non-churched youth aged up to 13. This is in addition to their normal youth group.

Two small groups have begun meeting and another is on the way. They meet for study and have between 7 and 13 people in each.

The church is active musically. They had a wonderful Christmas cantata and participated in the community Easter cantata. Pastor's wife Andrea directed that cantata. They participate in the annual summer Omahaland singing event. They hosted the Omahaland men's prayer breakfast.

As part of its history, the church was blessed by the addition of the Silver Creek Baptist Church. When Silver Creek closed in the 1950s, not only did the members come to Tekamah, but the Silver Creek building was added to the Tekamah building. Later a new building was constructed and members walked from the old to the new singing "To God Be the Glory."

The rich history and traditions of the church are a strong foundation but the congregation believes in looking forward and finding new ways to serve locally, regionally and beyond.

King Solomon Baptist Church Omaha, NE

Founded by Pastor A. J. Wagstaff nearly 30 years ago, King Solomon Missionary Baptist is a vital lighthouse for Christ in North Omaha. The church met in a frame building until 2004 when they built a new building in the same neighborhood. The new building is being finished and occupied in phases. Currently the congregation meets in one finished area while they plan completion of offices and sanctuary.

Pastor Wagstaff is known in the community as someone who is committed to the development of pastors and lay leaders, both men and women. A number of Associate Ministers have received training and experience at the church. Two prominent ABC/NE leaders have been the recipients of Rev. Wagstaff's tutelage, Rev. Dr. Onnie Drain, pastor at Parkside and ABC/NE Vice-President, and Rev. Charlene Morris-Quarells, chaplain at Maple Crest Care Center.

King Solomon makes a difference in the community. Various outreach activities include the annual clothing give-away in July to help local families prepare for the coming school year.

The church continues to develop strategies to help teenagers and young adults make positive choices in their lives. One strategy engaged the church taking a large number of young adults to Moses Merrill for a retreat.

Pastor Wagstaff serves as the volunteer Church Life Consultant to the ABC/NE, donating time to consultations with the Executive Minister and other staff..

Worship is the central part of church life at King Solomon with two services each Sunday morning.

United Baptist-Christian Church Wilsonville, NE

Two rich traditions are joined together in an effective ministry in Wilsonville. The Baptist church and the Christian (Disciples of Christ) church joined together. For a time the congregation alternated worship in one building and then the other. One member reported that it was shortly after the period in which the ABC/NE staff was engaged in focused prayer for each church in the region that the congregation was able to finally come to a decision. They rebuilt one of the buildings as a home for the united congregation. "Many of us agree that this decision renewed the spirit of the congregation and we are looking forward to a future of continued ministry in this community."

The Church is active with weekly Bible study (winter) and all through the year a group meets weekly to pray and to send cards to all in the community that would be helped by a card. (get well, sympathy, notes of encouragement etc.)

The church building is made available for community, and family meetings and gatherings. Each fall there is a Harvest festival where pledges are made for both the church and for wider missions. There is a VBS each summer.

They are actively involved with mission in Wilsonville and the surrounding area. This includes providing a program at the senior manor, supporting visitor housing for a nearby prison (in Kansas), supporting a regional crisis center, and contributing to the food pantry in Cambridge.

They also host a fall soup supper and a spring pancake feed as opportunities for community fellowship.

If you can't go . . . PRAY !!

STURGIS Motorcycle Rally South Dakota Aug 1-9
One of the premier and most unusual of our ABC/NE ministries. The mission of the ABC Emergency Services Center changes lives every summer. Headquartered in the First Baptist Church of the Northern Hills in Deadwood our volunteers and those from the ABC of the Dakotas respond 24/7 during the motorcycle rally.

MEN'S CONFERENCE Moses Merrill Aug 7-8
This is a tremendous opportunity for men to hear Jeff Johnson, an extraordinary speaker/teacher. He's a great Bible teacher, a great preacher, a great leader. This is a rare treat to have the chance to meet him, interact with him, and learn from him. Don't miss it!

First Lincoln Celebrates 140 Years

First Baptist Church of Lincoln is celebrating their 140th Anniversary on August 23rd with a special multi-language worship service at 10AM in the morning and a banquet in the evening. Rev. Don Gaines, a long time member and former interim pastor will be speaking in the morning and choirs from the Lincoln Chinese Church and the local Karen Church, as well as FBC will be singing. A brief history will be told through a video.

Dr. Jerry Bockhoven, an American Baptist Minister, Chair of the Psychology Department of Wesleyan University and former interim pastor in our church will be speaking at the 6 PM Banquet, along with Pastor Harry Riggs. A local male quartet, "Homeward Bound" will be bringing special music. Tickets for the banquet are \$13.00. If you are interested in attending, contact Martha Sorenson, (402)489-6082 for reservations.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister	Susan Gillies
Associate Executive Minister	Dave Lundholm
Director of Camping	Clarence Reiss
Manager, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center	MaryBeth Robertson
Camp Staff	Trudy Reiss, Barb Fisher, Bob Schuelke, Denise Harris, Dan Hermesen, Beverly Pacas
Office Manager.....	Sue Gammel
Office Assistant	Margaret Brown-Moore
Christian Education Consultant	Nola Oberhelman
Church Life Consultant.....	A. J. Wagstaff
Mission Consultant.....	Kathy Brown
Karen Outreach Adjunct.....	Htoo May
Pastor to Pastors (W)	Paul Kondy
Pastor to Pastors (E)	Dick Peterson
Emergency Services Consultant.....	Jason Workman

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. C. FBC, Tekamah
2. B. Arthur Baptist
3. C. Weaver Hall came from a park in Grand Island.
4. C. & D. Bridgeport and Arnold
5. False. The truth is that everyone is welcome to register for the Family Reunion (ABC/NE Annual Convention). The only specific duty of the delegates from each church is to vote in the business meeting.



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