

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



Feb-March 2011

ABC/NE Date Data

Finance Dept. Meeting
Grand Island
Feb. 19, 10 am

ABC/NE Board Meeting
Grand Island
Feb. 19 1:15PM

Spring Mission Festival
Holdrege
April 8-9

Family Reunion
Sept. 16-18
Kearney

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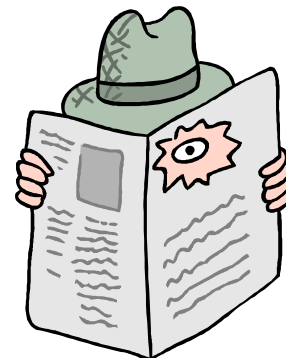
Incorporated as
The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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Omaha, NE 68104-4079
Phone 402-556-4730
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PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

“Mission Possible 4 U”

Spring Mission Festival
First Baptist Church, Holdrege
APRIL 8-9, 2011



Don't miss the ABC/NE Spring Mission Festival, April 8-9, at First Baptist of Holdrege. Everyone is invited to this enjoyable time of learning more about mission in the United States and around the world. The Festival will kick-off with a dinner on Friday night, including a retirement reception for Moses Merrill Facility Director Clarence Reiss and his wife Trudy.

The keynote speaker for the Festival will be Victoria Goff of the ABC Home Mission Societies. Vickie will bring the front lines of mission in America to life. She was a key player in ABC response in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. She bears witness first-hand to the impact of White Cross gifts from ABWomen's groups. Vickie also will share the stories of Volunteers in Mission, a program she coordinates.

There will be a special SKYPE hook-up with an international missionary. Mission activities that will be highlighted include the Sturgis Ministry, disaster response, Moses Merrill Ministries, and other missions at home and abroad.

Registration information will be available in local churches in March.

Touching Lives, Transforming People

MATTHEW 9:35

ABC of Nebraska churches are receiving the America For Christ Offering in February, March and April. ABC/NE Executive Minister Robin Stoops is encouraging churches to make a special effort this year for mission in America. "AFC makes a difference right here in Nebraska as well as across the United States. Let's do everything we can to set a record with this year's AFC offering."

AMERICA FOR CHRIST gifts support Christ-centered ministries that touch lives and transform people across the United States and Puerto Rico—through evangelism training, church renewal and discipleship resources, volunteer disaster response plus initiatives that fight poverty and so much more.



From the Executive Minister Robin Stoops

ALL THINGS NEW

It is always exciting to get something new. There is a “new” smell to something when we first bring it home. The smell is so much in demand you can buy it in a can without buying the new thing. What is it about something new that makes us feel so good? New clothes make us feel a little more attractive, a new car feels powerful, (and the first thing we do is wash it), a new house gives us the opportunity to start new memories, new friends and neighbors can change our lives as we are exposed to new experiences and backgrounds. It is true, something good is often new.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) These very simple words of Paul have a profound meaning to the New Year in front of us. Whatever we have left behind us in 2010 is behind us. We cannot change it, remake it, relive it or in most cases hide it. However in Christ we have a promise, the old no longer has the power to direct our lives. The mistakes we have made, the failures we have struggled through, the missed opportunities are all gone. What we find in their place is not judgment and condemnation but a new start, another chance to live the newness that is present in us through the power of Christ in our hearts.

I am excited to be your new Executive Minister!
My vision for our churches is to expect growth both deep

and wide. I believe we can reach new people together sharing Christ by widening our outreach. Working together we can reach more people in more places from more varying backgrounds. I believe we can learn together how to be His disciples as we study the scriptures, spend more time in prayer and give more of what God has entrusted to us to share.

My goal is to be a support for your church. Let me come along side of you to pray for the work you are doing in your community. My hope is to be a resource for changing the course of the work of the church in Nebraska. I want to serve you, encourage you and help prepare you for a ministry involved in changing lives for the sake of the Kingdom.

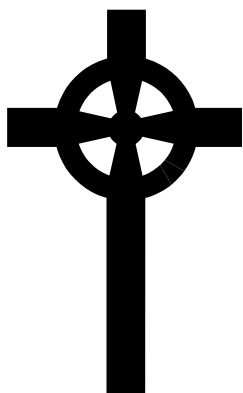
In 2011 our slate is clean; and before is opportunity. Opportunity to love Christ, and love those He has created, to yield more fully to Him and allow our lives to shout out the “new” perspective we have gained by following and putting our faith in Him. It is a new year, do not waste a moment, do not be side tracked at all, pour your life into Him who makes all things new.

Wow, it smells good around here, must be something new!



From the Associate Executive Minister Dave Lundholm

The Power to Bless



Many of you have heard me say that my favorite part of the worship service is the benediction. At first consideration, you might take me to mean that I am glad that the service is over but in reality, I really enjoy delivering the benediction. The benediction (meaning “good saying” or “good words”) is a blessing.

In Biblical times it was believed (and I still believe it) that words brought about a change in reality. For example the words “May your wife

be like a fertile vine bringing forth many sons,” would actually increase the likelihood of that happening. Likewise the words “May your children become orphans and be driven from the land,” would also increase the possibility of that happening. Biblical people thought that blessings and cursings worked. That is the reason that Jacob stealing Esau’s blessing was such a big deal.

The New Testament tells us in several places to bless those who curse us. I had been driving for many miles on a hilly, winding road and as usual I was sticking right to speed limit. There was a car behind me that was trying to intimidate me

into driving faster but I just kept it to the speed limit. Finally the road widened and a second lane was added. The car whipped around me and then slowed right next to me so the passenger would have the opportunity to “flip me off.” At that point I raised my right hand and sketched the sign of the cross and smiled at him. I could see him say “Oh, my God! It’s a priest,” and then watched as he slid down in the seat so he was unseen and his partner hit the gas and raced away. I gave him a blessing and he gave Linda and me a good laugh.

All of us have the power to bless. Pastors, don’t just pray to end your service but bless your people. Wish them a good week; speak words of prosperity, health and happiness over them. Proclaim words of comfort, hope and forgiveness as they leave the worship service. People, you too have the opportunity. Speak words of hope: “Have a good day.” “It will all work out.” “God loves you.” “I forgive you.” or “May God Bless you.”

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace. Amen.



Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five (+ one more!) questions to consider when developing or evaluating curriculum for your discipleship program:

1. What is the goal of Christian education in your church?
2. How does your congregation understand the Bible and how will you use it then in your ministry?
3. What are the settings in your church where your educational program functions?
4. What content will you teach?
5. What part will the teacher play in educational ministry?
6. What role will the student play in the program?

These basic elements are developed in *Christian Educators' Guide to Evaluating and Developing Curriculum* by Nancy Ferguson. Get it from Judson Press.



Haiti . . . A Year Later



New ABC/NE President Takes Office

The new year has begun with a new President and Vice-President for ABC/NE. Rev. Dr. Onnie Drain is the new President. She holds M.Div. and D. Min degrees from Sioux Falls Seminary and currently serves as pastor of Parkside Baptist Church in Omaha. Prior to that she was on the staff at King Solomon Missionary Baptist in Omaha.

The new Vice-President is Rev. Larry Harvey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hastings. He graduated from Fuller Seminary. Dr. Drain said, "I am excited to work with Larry and with our new Executive Minister Robin Stoops. This is a great team!" She indicated her commitment to the ABC/NE Churches Helping Churches Initiative. Her church gives help to First Kachin Baptist, hosting them at Parkside. Her church received help from Hol-drege when their youth led Bible school at Parkside last summer. She affirmed, "We are in ministry together as ABC churches in Nebraska."

Thank You from International Ministries

A message from Angela Sudermann
Volunteer Coordinator, ABC-USA's International Ministries

The news from Haiti last year rocked the world, and set our emails, phones, and internet messages blazing. The loud cry from our U.S. and Puerto churches, "How can we help?" set us in motion! A year later, International Ministries is honored to have supported 270 volunteers -- individuals and teams -- to serve in Haiti. To put this in perspective, the number of volunteers going to Haiti, served by International Ministries in 2009, was just 36.

From school and home construction in Grand Goave, to building projects in north Haiti, 270 men and women served from one week to nine weeks. Work was hot, hard, and dusty, and each left a piece of their heart in the community they served in. Medical teams, led by Kristy Engel and Moises Sifren, drove from La Romana to Port-au-Prince to offer medical care and food to tent camps, seeing an average of 300 patients per day. When the cholera epidemic moved to Limbe, volunteers answered the call to serve at the Ebenezer Health Clinic with Nancy and Steve James. Medical personnel served in the Grand Goave area as well, offering the community basic care and traveling into outlying villages as well. In all, 130 medical and non medical people offered their time and talent to bring health and hope to Haitians in need. Eight others served in Haiti with ministries to children and education.

We are profoundly grateful to each volunteer, each person who supported the volunteers through prayer, monetary donations, and supplies. You each made a difference in someone's life, for even a brief instant your touch, your smile, your laughter and your tears were an encouragement and reminder that we all stand together in grief, in joy, and in the hope of Jesus Christ.

The work continues. For more information, go to:
www.internationalministries.org

It has been a year since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Along with the world, American Baptists were deeply affected by what happened. American Baptists responded with an extraordinary level of giving. As of December 31, 2010, \$2.8 million was given for Haiti relief through One Great Hour of Sharing.

"In spite of economic recession and uncertainty, people have focused on things that really matter and have reached out in remarkable ways to our Haitian brothers and sisters," commented Reid Trulson, American Baptist International Ministries' (IM) executive director.

"In addition to generous giving," commented Lisa Rothenberger, American Baptist Churches' World Relief Officer, "hundreds of churches sent health kits to Church World Service, volunteers traveled to Haiti to assist with rebuilding efforts or provide emergency medical treatment, and churches around the world prayed for a better future for the Haitian people."

In a continued spirit of collaboration, American Baptists worked with both Baptist and ecumenical partners in Haiti to respond to the immediate needs and help build the foundation for a stronger future.

ABC/NE Trivia Answers

1. A. Executive Minister Robin Stoops was born in Wichita, KS.
2. B. Fairbury & Norfolk
3. A. Mike Mann
4. D. Bethel Neighborhood Center located in Kansas City.
5. D. There is no beauty shop in the building owned by ABC/NE. There are the region office, 5 private apartments, and an Irish Gift Shop.



HISTORY MATTERS . . .

Keeping Your Church's Story

WHY KEEP HISTORICAL RECORDS?

They identify your unique congregation, record its decisions, and leave a visible trail of activities and ministry. Identifying and preserving records of value is an important task for each local church. Records enable a congregation to fulfill its legal and financial obligations, but historical records also can:

- Serve as a resource for current ministry,
- Remind people about mistakes that still apply to the present,
- Provide illustrations for publications,
- Provide information for writing the history of your community, region or state.
- Document the role of churches in political and social movements,
- Assist persons seeking to know more about their family history,
- Enrich anniversary celebrations.



GETTING STARTED

1. Appoint a History Committee and Historian/Archivist
2. Establish Guidelines for which materials will be saved
3. Find space; determine start-up funding and budget for future expenses
4. Select and Organize Historical Materials

Survey the building for materials. Look into files, storerooms, cupboards, attics, and basements, even the furnace room. Clearly mark "to be saved" any historical items you find. Put a notice in bulletins or newsletters or write former clergy or members, asking people to remember and let you know where they have seen things stored or put for future reference.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

RECORDS OF ARCHIVAL VALUE include all documents made or received by the church in its ministry and operation and judged to be of permanent value for legal, informational, or illustrative purposes. The key records to look for and save are

Legal Documents:

Deeds, mortgages, blueprints, trust agreements

Official Congregational Records:

Minutes of congregational business meetings and church boards
 Membership rosters
 Annual financial reports, audits
 Biographical material for pastors, paid staff

Official Organizational Records:

Minutes, publications, and related items from youth, men's, and women's groups, the Sunday School, special committees

Published materials:

Annual reports, newsletters, worship bulletins, church histories, membership directories, special events (e.g. anniversaries, installations, retirements)

Ephemera/Memorabilia:

Scrapbooks, pamphlets, photo albums, tangible objects (e.g. various hymnbooks used for worship, communion sets, plaques, etc.)—**if clearly identified.**

[from The American Baptist Historical Society]

An Encouraging Story . . .

The 90/10 Challenge

Forest Heights Baptist Church in Oxon Hill, Maryland is not afraid to take chances in the name of Christ. Starting in February, 2010, the church and its pastor, Waymond Duke, began planning for the 90/10 Challenge to be observed on August 22, 2010. This emphasis asked each church member to reverse their tithe for one week, keeping 10% and giving 90% to God through their church.

By planning so far ahead, many would be able to begin saving for the event. Others might not be able to participate financially, but were encouraged to surround the emphasis with prayer. The goal was less a financial one than a spiritual one; when God's children work to put God first in their lives, blessings are sure to follow. As Pastor Waymond wrote, "This is not about how much money our church can get from each of us, but rather how much we are willing to sacrifice to give for God's glory."

Forest Heights is a small congregation, averaging about 56 on a normal Sunday. Many are retired on fixed income. Pastor Waymond came to the church in November, 2009. He sensed a willingness in the congregation to follow God's leadership, but the people needed a focus point. Thus the 90/10 Challenge was born.

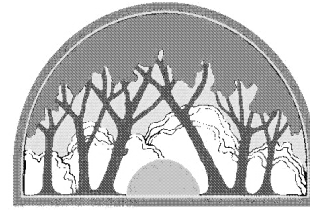
After months of prayerful preparation, including revival services the previous weekend, August 22 finally arrived. On the day of the 90/10 Challenge, there were about 50 present and the offering was \$16,672.96, compared with a usual August Sunday total of about \$3,500.

As Pastor Waymond said, "For this to have been a success only required that those who felt led of God to participate did so as they were able. This was never about seeing how much money could be brought into the church; instead it was about how much we love God and how much we are willing to give Him control over everything we have. Yes, that even includes our finances. It should encourage us to be determined to try to give more for God's work, not because we have to but because we realize that it pleases God and allows others to find God's grace through the things we help support. Surely God will equip us if we are just willing to say, **'Here is everything I have, Lord. Use it as You see fit.'**"



Moses Merrill News

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E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net Web site:
www.campmerrill.com



GOT SPIRIT?

Summer's Coming !

2011 is going to be a great summer at Moses Merrill.
Make plans now to be there.

THEME: Got Sprit? Seeing God In Everyday Life
Scripture: John 4:24

Children's Camps, Youth Camps, Specialty Camps,
Women's and Men's Conferences and Retreats
Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day

Moses Merrill 2300 Team

"We have taken a big step forward with the 2300 Team and we are grateful!" said Moses Merrill Director MaryBeth Robertson. "We can certainly see the results in our year-end financial reports. If we continue to get new members for the team, 2011 will be the financial turn-around year for this ministry."

Last September at the ABC/NE convention, then Executive Minister Susan Gillies challenged Nebraska Baptists to step up to the ministry opportunity of Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. She invited people to join the "2300 Team." Team members contribute \$23 a month to Moses Merrill. Most team members use direct bank transfers. Others send checks and others make annual contributions. Some team members are giving larger amounts each month.

For more info on becoming a member or helping recruit members from your church, contact Moses Merrill.

From Camp Cat . . .

Greetings from Moses Merrill. One of the nice things about life in Nebraska is the changing seasons. I know, I know, it can also be one of the worst things. But, I really like the seasons. Have you seen camp in all four seasons? Maybe that's something you could think about.

Sometimes in the winter you notice more of the wild life at camp. I watch for mice but there are also turkey and deer. Fortunately there aren't many skunks. I have NO interest in running into one of them. One year we had a mountain lion. I may be distantly related to mountain lions but I wouldn't invite them to a family reunion! The one we had here wandered off and we never saw it again.

We've had some new volunteers around. If you haven't tried being a volunteer at camp, you should think about it. We need volunteers all year round. Of course in the summer we have a special need for cabin leaders and camp coordinators. You can talk to MaryBeth about that.

Come out and see me — spring, summer, fall or winter!

P.S. Yes, of course I will miss Clarence and Trudy. But if all of us work together, I'm sure the work will get done (and, more importantly, I'll get fed!)



Thanks, Clarence & Trudy

For a generation of children, youth & adults, Camp Merrill and Clarence Reiss have gone together automatically. Clarence and Trudy Reiss came to Moses Merrill in the spring of 1999 and will be retiring March 15, 2011.

There will be a reception honoring Clarence and Trudy at the Spring Mission Festival in Holdrege on April 8. During their tenure the facility has grown tremendously in both programming and facilities. Clarence has had primary responsibility in the strategic design and implementation of the Moses Merrill facilities.

Orin Clinger, Chair of the Department of Camps & Conferences for ABC/NE wrote, "Clarence has had a special role in the transition of our facilities from a mainly summer camp to a true year-round conference center. His legacy will be with us for years and we are grateful."

MaryBeth Robertson, Director of MMCCC, said, "Clarence brought a wide set of skills that have been a blessing to us. Everyone associated with Moses Merrill ministries is grateful to him for his service."

The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

The Practice of Extravagant Generosity

For the past several editions of the Messenger, the Department of Church Vitality has asked us to look at the practices of fruitful congregations.

So far we have explored Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development and Risk-taking Mission.

This column is the last of the series and focuses on Extravagant Generosity.

A key piece that undergirds and enables all of the other practices is the practice of the tithe, or of proportional giving with the ultimate goal of tithing. This kind of generosity “enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, connects people to the Body of Christ, and strengthens congregations to fulfill Christ’s ministries... People who give generously to the church do so because they genuinely desire to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ.”

The chapter makes the point that: “How people use their material resources either honors or dishonors their relationship to God.”

“Extravagant Generosity describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. It describes lavish sharing, sacrifice, and giving in service to God and neighbor.”

The practice of proportional giving and a focus on service to God is in contrast to the values of our culture where “forty percent of the American people spend 110 percent of their annual income each year.”

“A philosophy based principally upon materialism, acquisition, and possessions is not sufficient to live by, or to die by. At some point, followers of Jesus must decide whether they will listen to the wisdom of the world or to the wisdom of God.”

Churches that would be fruitful must consistently teach Biblical stewardship and intentionally develop Biblical stewards.

*Schnase, Robert, Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, Nashville, Abingdon, 2007

Joining Hands, Making a Difference . . .

Men’s Ministries Expanding Across Nebraska

“This is an exciting time to be an American Baptist man in Nebraska,” says President of American Baptist Men in Nebraska, Bob Slechta. “Men in our churches are continuing the quiet ministries they have always done but there is new energy in it and new groups forming. We are finding active groups of men responding to the call of Christ to be engaged in their communities. I am encouraged!”

Men are coming together in many ABC/NE churches to see what they can do to support the ministry of the local church, to reach out to the community, and, in many cases to connect with Baptist men’s work across the state and nation.

In January the men of First Baptist in Omaha held a two-night retreat at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. Pastor Kip Mickelson said, “The experience of being together was powerful. It was a great time of strengthening relationships intergenerationally.” Ages at the retreat ranged from 16 to 82. Participant Fred Walden reported that from helping chop wood and make fire starters for the camp to the Bible study of Peter it was a terrific experience. He also said that it changes how people see each other when they learn each others’ stories.

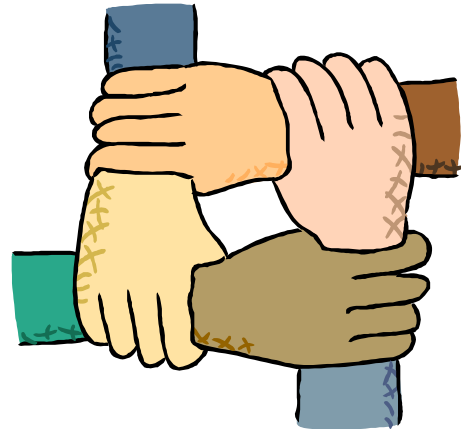
Similar reports come from Kearney men who have had men’s retreats at Moses Merrill each of the last two years. There is a long tradition at Fairbury of having an annual men and boys retreat as well as weekly men’s breakfasts.

Sunset Hills in Omaha has long been known for their active men’s group. They host a city-wide special Prayer Breakfast each year as well as monthly men’s breakfasts.



Men from Benson have been faithful with volunteer work at Moses Merrill but last fall they began a weekly men’s gathering—a rebirth of something that had been absent for a number of years. Men from Tekamah also provide work teams for Moses Merrill. Lincoln Second men have also taken leadership in men’s ministries.

New or continuing men’s groups are active in other churches as well. Let *The Messenger* know what is happening in your church with men’s ministries.



Kenwood Chapel, Chadron

Ministry is going very well at the Kenwood Chapel of FBC Chadron. Kenwood Chapel is unique in ABC of Nebraska. It is a ministry of First Baptist but it has functioned for years in a separate location.

Kenwood Chapel functions in many ways like a separate church but the financial affairs are handled by FBC, Chadron. Kenwood is busy with worship services, teaching, fellowship, hosting missionaries, snow scooping, carol singing, etc.

Pastor Brad Daniels serves both the chapel and First Baptist. He writes of the Kenwood Chapel ministry, "We have had a great year with steady attendance, spiritual growth, great fellowship, blessed times during the holidays and a renewed desire to be a lighthouse for the Gospel in north Chadron."

The congregation was especially blessed at Christmas when the grandson of one of the church families made and set up a beautiful nativity scene in front of the church.

There are plans for some improvements to the building and the parking area for the spring and summer including a new roof and a new paint job courtesy of the hailstorm in July 2010.

The Chapel extends an invitation to Baptists across Nebraska to stop by. "If you are heading for the Black Hills, please stop in Chadron. You can visit Kenwood Chapel as you go and FBC on your return!!"



Gibbon Baptist Church, Gibbon

The Mission Statement of Gibbon Baptist Church is:
Because of our mutual love for God we will:
Worship Him together
Follow His commandments
Share His love
Share the Good News of Jesus

The church called Interim Pastor Linda Bergeon to minister with them while their Pastoral Search Committee is at work seeking a new pastor for the congregation.

The church is very active during this interim time. Six people were baptized in November. The classes held in preparation for Baptism used Skype to keep one member of the class connected when he was not in town.

The church holds special services on 5th Sundays

In January a new adult Sunday School class began. It is using the *We Are Baptist* curriculum published by Judson Press. This is especially helpful as the congregation is getting ready to engage in a visioning process.

Pastor Linda writes, "God has blessed members of Gibbon Baptist Church in many ways over these months and has blessed me by allowing me to be a part of this loving and supportive congregation. I look forward to continuing our ministry together and can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the coming months."

American Karen Baptist Church, Omaha

The first Karen congregation formally welcomed into the ABC of Nebraska is the American Karen Baptist Church of Omaha. It is currently hosted by First Baptist of Omaha. Church leaders are Pastor Nyo Tae and his wife, Lar Say.

The church has grown from about 30 when it began to up to more than 200 now. They have set a five-year plan to continue that growth and acquire their own church home.

Music groups are important to the congregation. They have several choirs. One group, their Double Quartet, came in second in a musical competition at the national Karen gathering in Minneapolis last summer.

Each month one Sunday is given to the Youth to plan and carry out, and one Sunday per month is given to the women to do the same. Every fifth Sunday they have shared worship and a meal with the congregation of First Baptist, Omaha.

They have a large Sunday School including a class specifically for parents. More than 30 young people are active. They also attended a national conference for Karen youth affiliated with the ABC.

Celebrations are enjoyed by all Karen folks. Besides Christmas, New Year's, and Easter, they celebrate "Sweet December" on November 30. They meet in their homes at midnight for sharing of food and fellowship in anticipation of the joys of December.

Karens from refugee camps in Thailand continue to arrive in Omaha. Karen both in and out of the church need our prayers and support for adjustments to a very different culture, for jobs, and for adjustments between generations.

First Baptist Church, Superior

In the 1870's a number of local residents in Superior, NE, joined together to hold a Sunday Church School. After a few years this group decided to break up and form three local congregations. In February, 1880, the First Baptist Church of Superior, Nebraska was founded. The present building was built on the original site in 1925.

A number of missionaries and ministers have "gone forth" from the congregation over the years.

Currently the congregation continues its vigorous ministry. There is an active American Baptist Women's group that sponsors many mission projects, including outreach to local needy families, local efforts for overseas ministry, and playing an active role in the local food pantry.

Pastor Floyd Richardson serves both the churches in Guide Rock and Superior. He reports, "Like many small farming communities, our membership has dwindled, but we still remain a very active witness in our community."

The church has a full schedule of worship services and Bible study, a Friday morning Coffee Hour and holds regular services, both Sunday and week-day, at the Good Samaritan home.

The church provides communion, monthly, to the shut-ins in the community and to the residents at the Good Samaritan home.

The church is active in the local ministerial association taking part in the Lenten Breakfast they hold each year.

The congregation enjoys its membership in the Southern Union association of ABC/NE churches, and has hosted several of the association meetings.

Plans Underway for Tri-Region Pastor Gathering in May

It is not too early to encourage your pastor to put the dates of May 2-4 on his/her calendar. On those dates, the Tri-Region Pastors Continuing Education Event will be held at First Baptist Church of Sioux Falls, SD.

Pastors from the ABC of the Dakotas, Mid-American Baptist Churches and ABC of Nebraska will gather for a rich time of worship, training, Bible study, and fellowship.

Rich Rusaw will be speaking. He is co-author with Eric Swanson of the popular books *The Externally Focused Church* (2009), *The Externally Focused Life* (2009), and *The Externally Focused Quest: Becoming the Best Church for the Community* (2010).

Leading Bible study will be Brent Walker, director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, DC. The study is titled, *Baptist Principles and the Bible*.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister.....	Robin Stoops
Associate Executive Minister.....	Dave Lundholm
Facilities Manager, MMCCC & ABC/NE	Clarence Reiss
Director, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center	MaryBeth Robertson
Camp Staff.....	Trudy Reiss, Barb Fisher
Dan Hermsen, Bob Schuelke, Denise Harris, Beverly Pacas	
Office Manager	Sue Gammel
Office Assistant.....	Margaret Brown-Moore
Christian Education Consultant	Nola Oberhelman
Church Life Consultant.....	A. J. Wagstaff
Pastor to Pastors	Dick Peterson
Emergency Services Consultant	Jason Workman

ABC/NE TRIVIA

(answers on p. 3)

- Where was the new ABC/NE Executive Minister born?
A. Wichita, B. Kearney, C. Sioux Falls, D. Topeka
- What two ABC/NE churches has he served as pastor?
A. Blair, Norfolk; B. Fairbury, Norfolk; C. Alliance, Fairbury; D. Fremont, Lincoln Second
- What ABC Missionary is known for work bringing water to mountain villages?
A. Mike Mann, Thailand; B. Ruth Mooney, Costa Rica; C. Stan Slade, Central America; D. Dan Buttry, Myanmar
- What mission site has had the most visits from ABC/NE teams?
A. First Crow Indian Baptist Church; B. Keams Canyon; C. Kodiak; D. Bethel Neighborhood Center
- Which of the following is not at 6404 Maple St in Omaha?
A. private apartments; B. ABC/NE office; C. gift shop; D. beauty shop



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