

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

Conflict is normal and inevitable - whether in the home, school, community, church or workplace. Leaders in all walks of life often have a responsibility to help others work through their conflicts. The Mediation Skills Training Institute presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. The five-day institute also includes a component on congregational mediation and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory. Although focused primarily on the church setting, the skills learned are directly transferable to other settings. Thus managers in business, attorneys, experienced mediators, and others in leadership will be enriched by the training as well.

July 9-13, 8:30AM-5:00PM
Judson Baptist Church
8517 Parkview Blvd., Omaha, NE

Contact the Region office for more details or to register.
Registration is \$695 when paid by June 8th.
Pastors: Carpenter funds are available.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister.....Robin Stoops
Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula
Director, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center
.....MaryBeth Robertson
Facility Manager, MMCCCEric Byrd
Office Manager Sue Gammel
Office Assistant.....Margaret Brown-Moore
Church Life ConsultantA. J. Wagstaff
Pastor to Pastors (VIM).....Dick Peterson
Social Media Consultant (VIM) Dee Riggs

Glynis LaBarre continued from page 4

contained church to one with missional goals. The church's ministry extended to sustaining church plants among Romanians, Hispanics, African-Americans and Anglo-Americans.

Additionally, LaBarre developed a ministry training program for Native Americans at All Tribes Community Church, Tulsa, Okla., which resulted in 11 tribal elders becoming licensed ministers.



For you own FREE **Messenger** subscription
call 556-4730 (Omaha) or toll-free (877) 244-7339
Or send your name and address to:
Messenger@abcnebraska.com

Return Service Requested

6404 Maple Street
Omaha NE 68104-4079
Phone: 402-556-4730
Fax: 402-556-1910

NE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
OF NEBRASKA
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO 712

the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



July/August 2012

ABC/NE Coming Events

Mediation Skills Training
July 9-13
Judson Baptist, Omaha

ABC/Convention
September 21-23
North Platte

Mission Study Tour
Sept. 28-Oct 8
Bulgaria, Serbia

Fall Pastor's Seminar
October 15-17
MMCCC

E-Mail Addresses:

campmerrill@nntc.net
messenger@abcnebraska.com
rstoops@abcnebraska.com
gmamula@abcnebraska.com
sgammel@abcnebraska.com



6404 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104-4079
Phone402-556-4730
Toll-free877-244-7339
Fax402-556-1910

D SPIRITUALLY
E
E
P Missionally
WIDE

Ephesians 3:18,19

ABC/NE CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 21-23

Sandhills Convention Center
2102 South Jeffers
NORTH PLATTE, NE

Expanded Children's Program

A
B
W
M

Convention Preacher

A
B
M

Youth Retreat @ Camp Maranatha

MISSIONAL EXPERIENCES & TESTIMONIES

Talent

Workshops & Displays

From the Executive Minister Robin Stoops

“Church! Why would I ever go there? I was already feeling terrible about myself. They’d just make me feel worse!” This is a quote from a woman who had made some terrible choices with her life and was seeking help from a counselor. Obviously her understanding and experience with “the church” was not what we would hope our image in the community would be.

I often think, what comes to peoples mind when they hear “First Baptist Church”. Do they see a great facility, needed programs, wonderful music, how about relevant preaching? When they hear about us do they think, Jesus, or hypocrites? Is it a painful feeling, hurt or loss of a part of their life? Are they angry because of our selfishness?

Jesus calls us to be a light, a city on a hill. He means for us to live and worship in a way that would draw people to Him. According to the scriptures He’s not interested in our religiosity, He called the Pharisees, blind guides, hypocrites, whitewashed tombs, because they played religious games instead of serving God.

We must get serious about reaching our community for Christ! He has not called us to sit and wait while they come and visit. Each one of us is called to go, go to the neighbor, go to our families, our friends and even our enemies, inviting them to know Jesus. We have no excuse, no reason to ignore His command. He reminds us the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few.... Why aren’t we more involved in sharing Christ with our communities? Nebraska? The world? My excuses sound good to me, the question is what will they sound like to Him?



From the Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula

I am not very good at celebrating. I don’t celebrate most holidays with any sort of genuine enthusiasm. I often forget people’s birthdays until Facebook reminds me. And even if I do remember birthdays I usually fail to do much beyond a phone call. I cringe to admit it, but I once forgot my anniversary. I am bad at celebrating. I don’t know why, I just am.

However, my wife is great at celebrating things. She gets ready for holidays weeks in advance. She would put a Christmas tree up at Halloween if I didn’t remind her we had Thanksgiving first. She used to celebrate her birthday the entire month of September! As we get older it has been downgraded to a birthday week. She finds fun ways to celebrate our marriage and our children. My favorite way is the full color, 20page photo book she makes containing pictures of our children, of me and our children, her and the children, and me and her for every Father’s Day. The book is a pictorial celebration of our amazingly blessed life together.

As I look around ABC NE I want to celebrate with you in a way that would make “celebrators” like my wife proud. I want you to know about the great ministry going on in our churches. The great things our pastors are doing. That over 30 pastors and leaders attended the pastor’s conference in May. You need to be aware of the amazing MCLE projects that happened this spring and are still happening now. I want you to know that our churches without pastors are filled with great interims who are doing fine work and that these same churches are nearing the end of their searches. You need to know that our region staff continues to be trained and attend continuing education opportunities so we are better equipped to serve you. You have to hear about the people in our Region who are traveling all over the world sharing the love of Christ. You need to know about the churches big and small who are making a difference in their community’s one relationship at a time. I also want you know there are still even greater things around the corner.

The best place to hear these stories this fall is going to be at the Regional Convention in North Platte, September 21-23. Come out and celebrate how *Spiritually Deep and Missionally Wide* we are becoming. Come fellowship and celebrate with your fellow ABC NE churches and leaders. Bring the whole family out to join with the extended Christian family as we worship, sing, and celebrate the great things that God is doing in Nebraska.



I hope to see you there. I hope you will come celebrate with me.

Baptist-Congregational Federated Church

Closed after 140 years of ministry

Baptist Congregational Federated Church of York closed its doors on May 6, 2012 after 140 years of ministry and service to the York community. The original First Baptist Church of York began services in 1873, within a year of the First Congregational Church. The two congregations merged in the 1930s.

From their beginning, community influence of the two churches was strong. A college was one of several areas of ministry in the early years.

Stan Jensen, a faithful member of the church and active leader in ABC-NE life remarked on the importance of the church, “It very much so feels like family.” What better witness for a church than to be part of God’s larger family through the years!

The cornerstone of the old First Baptist Church building, will be moved to Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center to become part of the planned garden commemorating those saints, including Margaret Jensen, who have so faithfully served God through the years.

Plan for summer and fall events!

SUMMER CAMPS	—	Moses Merrill
Family Week		July 1-7
Mid High Camp		July 8-13
Junior II Camp		July 15-20
Children’s Music and Drama		July 22-27
Performance at 6:30 pm		July 27
Primary II Camp		July 27-29
Horse Care and other interests Camp		July 29-Aug. 3

MEN’S CONFERENCE

August 10-11 — Moses Merrill
A special time of inspiration and fellowship for the men of ABC/NE churches and friends. Bring a friend!!

ABC/NE Region Convention

Sept. 21-23 North Platte

A not-to-miss experience! The annual gathering of Nebraska Baptist will offer great music, speakers and lots of fellowship. More information is included in this Messenger.



Moses Merrill News

2849 Rd. 31 Bldg. 3, Linwood, NE 68036
(402) 666-5639

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

“I bet you’re busy getting ready for summer camps!” How often we heard these words in late May.

Summer Camps have begun

Youth Music and Drama campers gave an outstanding performance at Lincoln Second Baptist Church on June 16 after their week of rehearsal and camp activities Junior I campers excitedly anticipated activities June 17-22

Primary I campers were introduced to camp June 22-24, leading the Sunday morning worship as camp came to a close.

Yes! We are busy with summer camps. AND there is still time for campers to register for all the opportunities in July..

Family Week

How about bringing your family to Camp Merrill during the week July 1-8?

Morning worship and Bible study appropriate for children and adults

Activities (including archery, swimming and trail rides) led by Camp Merrill staff

Evening campfires and as much free time as you choose

We have cabins and lodge rooms, depending on your need for comfort and convenience. Register now to get your choice of lodging!

“I bet you’re busy....” What opportunities for ministry God has given us this year.

We actually have been busy since before ABC-NE Youth Retreat in late March!!

With opportunities such as:

Every weekend in April reserved for worship or a full weekend retreat

Kachin Christian Family Camp attracted 225+ participants from all over the US

Child Evangelism Fellowship trained 73 youth to lead 5-day Bible clubs

Work week volunteers who took on major cleaning and maintenance projects

Some opportunities yet this summer (in addition to summer camps!)

Three weddings Five family reunions

Summer worship services A youth mission team

Church retreats Men’s retreats

Yes! We are busy in God’s ministry. Thank you for your prayers, your volunteer work and your financial support. Contact us to partner with us!

From Camp Cat . . .

I love summer at Moses Merrill. Have you been out to see us lately?? If you haven't ever been here, you really need to find a way. This place is special. And if it's been more than a year, there's new stuff to see. Now I realize you probably don't get as excited about the things I like -- but both you and I can get excited about being fed regularly and not having to do dishes! And both you and I can enjoy the forest. (You don't have to worry about mice because I take care of them.) There's still time to get here this summer. Picture sitting around a campfire with a zillion stars overhead. (But don't get close to me with those nasty marshmallows. It takes forever to get that stuff out of fur.)





American Baptist Men's Retreat

Men and young men of Nebraska - Please remember to reserve **August 10th and 11th** for our Annual Camp Merrill Conference. We are planning a relaxing, enjoyable, and spiritually uplifting experience. For those who enjoy playing golf, we will meet at 1:00 pm at the Schuyler Golf Course. For most, however, registration and check in begins at 5pm followed by our steak cook-out. That evening, we are asking you to bring your guitars as we will be singing and sharing around a campfire. Saturday morning with quiet time and devotions followed by breakfast. Our speaker will discuss "release and restore ministries". We will adjourn around 4pm. If God is asking you to become involved in men's work, either with our two disaster trailers (more on this at camp) or working as a mentor or officer, please contact me. You can download a registration form on the region website.

Glen Dappen, President ABMen/NE

ABC Emergency Services Center

FBC Rapid City, SD
August 4-12, 2012
For more information see
www.sturgisaid.com



Debbie Kelsey to Speak at ABC/NE Convention

Debbie and Jim Kelsey assist the Evangelical Christian Baptist Union of Italy in ministry to English-speaking immigrant, particularly African, congregations. This includes local church ministry and theological and ministerial training of leaders.

The Kelseys were previously serving in Belgium where Jim provided pastoral leadership at the Pilgrim Church in Oostende, working with them to develop a set of bylaws and training church leaders in areas of preaching, worship leadership and pastoral care. While there, Debbie served in the church's music ministry and led Bible studies while also maintaining a ministry to women in the Red Light District in Ghent.

Now serving in Italy, Debbie and Jim work to welcome new arrivals to Italy who are seeking a better life for themselves and their families. They work with the immigrant churches and train immigrant pastors to strengthen their fellowships and broaden their ministries.

Debbie and Jim assist with the theological training in the migrant churches and provides pastoral care where needed. They help in training Italian congregations in multicultural matters and missions. Debbie also ministers to young women at-risk or victimized by human trafficking and prostitution.

Children will have lots of fun at ABC/NE State Convention



The First Baptist Church of North Platte is gearing up to host children up to 5th grade during the main sessions of the State Convention on Friday Night and Saturday. A dedicated team of skilled adults will entertain and teach the children. Friday night will be a movie night with snacks and games. Saturday will have bible stories, crafts, games, music, and lunch. There is also a special surprise activity planned for Saturday afternoon. Children should wear clothes they can play and have fun in. The cost is only \$10 per child. Payment can be made with your regular Convention Registration. For questions regarding the children's time contact FBC North Platte at 308-532-6772

Summer Prayer Priorities

- For campers at Moses Merrill to experience great spiritual growth.
- For Women's, Youth and Men's Conferences to be blessed.
- For the success of the Sturgis Ministry.
- For each pastor to have time for rest and renewal.
- For safe travel for region staff.
- For each church to be surprised in new ways by the joy of the Lord.
- For ABC missionaries in service in the USA and around the world.

Please Give to One Great Hour of Sharing

SHARING BRINGS JOY

TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

SHARING RESOURCES. CHANGING LIVES.

Judson Baptist Church of La Vista Celebrates 125 Years!



The year 2012 marks the 125th anniversary of Judson Baptist Church of La Vista, Nebraska. For those of you who would like to impress your friends that you know a word that has two Q's, this is our quasiquicentennial celebration!

Our congregation started out on September 11, 1887, and was known as Mission Church. From November 27, 1890, until September 6, 1916, we were known as First Baptist Church of South Omaha and we were located at 25th and "H" Streets. From September 6, 1916, until October 2, 1966, we were called Trinity Baptist Church.

Our name changed again in October of 1966 to Judson Memorial Baptist Church to honor Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson. In 1979 we simplified the name to Judson Baptist Church and remained in South Omaha until September of 2000.

At that time, the congregation voted to relocate to La Vista, Nebraska. We sold our old building to a Spanish-speaking Mennonite congregation. For a full year we were technically "homeless" and we rented office and worship spaces in a shopping mall and at Bryan High School. We often felt like we were "wandering in the wilderness." Our Building and Relocation Committee spent countless hours looking for a permanent location to buy or build on, all the time praying for a miracle since we were a small congregation and had very little money.

We received our miracle in the fall of 2001 when Prince of Peace Lutheran Church disbanded and gave us their church building and parsonage located at 8517 Park View Boulevard in La Vista, Nebraska, free of charge! In 2007 we completed a large classroom, office, kitchen, library and social area addition.

Throughout our 125-year ministry we have had 23 pastors. The longest term was Rev. George Van Winkle who served from 1897-1910. Our current pastor is Rev. Matthew P. Rappley who has been with us for two years.

We have three events planned for this year: a soup luncheon held February 12, a picnic to be held on June 10, and a catered luncheon after the church service on Sunday, September 9, 2012. We have invited all living pastors and their wives from as far back as 1959 to join us at this event.

Our theme this year is "Expect a Miracle." We are having a major fund drive to help pay down our mortgage on the new addition. We are confidently moving ahead as we have, indeed, experienced many miracles in the past.

If you would like more information on our upcoming events or feel lead to make a contribution to our building fund, you can contact Pastor Rappley at 402-331-1110.

Glynis LaBarre to Speak at ABC/NE Convention



"I believe many churches have the potential to become vital in their ministry context. They need tools and encouragement to see their potential and to make necessary adjustments to achieve it," says the Rev. Glynis LaBarre, transformation strategist.

LaBarre is most excited about catching a big picture of the future and working with ministers. "These leaders are amazingly talented, trained and called to help churches realize their ministry potential," she says.

Through her work, LaBarre hopes that over time she can make a difference for American Baptist churches in re-tooling for future ministry and ensuring that they receive help.

In her local church ministry, LaBarre was responsible for a turnaround at Delmar Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., a historic church that built a new worship center, doubled in attendance and re-established Sunday school for all ages.

She also initiated transformation at Hope American Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz., moving it from a self-