

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



DEC 2010/
JAN 2011



ABC/NE Date Data

Christmas Vespers
Moses Merrill
11/28, 12/5-12/19
4:00 pm

Christmas Eve
Friendship Chapel
Moses Merrill
5:00 pm

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Incorporated as
The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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May Your
Celebration
of Jesus' Birth
Be Filled With Joy

—The ABC/NE Board & Staff



Robin Stoops Elected Next ABC/NE Executive Minister

The Board of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska has elected Rev. Robin Stoops to be the new Executive Minister of the region.

The Board, meeting in special session on November 20, received the recommendation of the Search Committee and had a discussion with the candidate. Following that, the board voted enthusiastically to extend a call to Rev. Stoops to become the next ABC/NE Executive Minister.

Robin Stoops is well known to many Nebraska Baptists. He is currently pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk. Prior to that he was pastor in Fairbury. He has been active in camping ministry leading camps and serving on the Department of Camps & Conferences and currently serves on the Department of Professional Ministry. He earned his B.A. at Ottawa University and M.Div. at Sioux Falls Seminary. He has served churches in Kansas and Iowa and also has secular management experience. Among many other gifts and skills, the search committee noted Robin's "insight, vision, and passion for our ministry together."

Rev. Stoops will begin his ministry with ABC/NE in January.

The ABC/NE Constitution calls for the Executive Minister to be selected by the Board of Directors for an indefinite period upon recommendation of a Search Committee in consultation with the General Secretary's Office of ABC-USA. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary of ABC worked with the ABC/NE Search Committee. The Search Committee was chaired by Rev. Tom Wiles. Also serving on the committee were Ernie Denniston, Rev. Onnie Drain, Beryl Hornberger, Barb Hoxworth, Rev. Stan Murdoch, and Rev. Harry Riggs.



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

La plus ça change....

One of my favorite classic phrases that I remember from French class is this: *La plus ça change la plus c'est le meme chose*. Which means: "The more things change the more things stay the same."

The American Baptist Churches of Nebraska are in the midst of huge personnel change: Susan Gillies our Executive Minister is in the process of retiring; Clarence Reiss the Moses Merrill Facility Manager has announced his retirement in March; and Paul Kondy has announced the end of his time as Pastor to Pastors at the end of this year. That is a lot of change.

As I write this, we are nearing the calling of a new Executive Minister, and a new person at camp, as well as figuring out how to continue to provide pastoral ministry to our ABC-NE pastors. Many things will change.

But many things won't. The mission of the ABC of Nebraska will stay constant. We will continue to **encourage, challenge and empower one another to be transforming Christian communities in the world**. We will continue to help churches find excellent pastors. We will continue to help people move through the ordination process and to provide top notch opportunities for continuing education.

We will continue to be churches helping each other through the **churches helping churches** model. We will continue to support and coordinate the ministry to the bikers at Sturgis

each August. Should the need arise, Region staff will continue to provide consultation and support for churches facing difficult situations.

We will continue to provide a full summer of youth camping and full year round conferencing at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. (And we will continue to need people to volunteer to help with both camp maintenance and program resourcing. We will also need people to strongly support the 2300 emphasis by committing to give \$23 to camp each month.)

And we will still gather each year in September for education, worship, a little business, and to reconnect and enjoy each other at the Family Reunion.

And above all we will continue to remember and to celebrate that our work together as the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska is God's work and God's mission. And we will seek to be faithful to the tasks God is calling us to.



Although the key faces will change (and we will miss them greatly) the key missions and functions of the Region will not change.

As we move into 2011, I think that French phrase is really true for us: The more things change the more things will stay the same. Praise God for the opportunities!

Thanks to Pastor-to-Pastor Paul Kondy

For most of the last decade, Paul Kondy has served as the ABC/NE Pastor-to-Pastors for the western part of the state. The work of a Pastor-to-Pastors is mostly unseen. The visible part is participating in church celebrations, being a part of Pastor Seminars and region conventions. The unseen part is the countless conversations with pastors to encourage and advise, the "walking through the valley" with pastors in tough times, and quietly being an advocate for pastors in various places and times.

Paul will be ending his service as a Pastor-to-Pastors at the end of the year.

Rev. Tom Wiles, chair of the ABC/NE Department of Professional Ministry said,

"Paul Kondy is one of God's marvelously unique gifts to the church. He has used his God-given gift of storytelling in a most Christ-like way. His stories are filled with humor and insight. As Paul shares his life-parables, you often find yourself confused, convicted, and convinced. I have found myself in places of exquisite questions and delightful insights in the presence of Paul's stories.

"But even more astounding than Paul's stories is Paul's presence. He has given his entire life to be present with God's people. Whether in the pulpit or the coffee shop, in the saddle or at the hospital bed, Paul has consistently been "the hands and feet of Jesus" to people within and without fellowship.

"I have been uniquely blessed to serve as Paul's pastor as well as being pastored by Paul. He has always encouraged and challenged me. He reads widely and is never threatened by a new thought or fresh perspective. I long ago quit trying to stay ahead of Paul. It has been a delight to simply be privileged to journey alongside him."

Paul's counterpart in the eastern part of the state is Rev. Dick Peterson who will continue as Pastor-to-Pastors. The Pastor-to-Pastors program in Nebraska is supported by the Volunteers in Mission program of the ABC Home Mission Societies.

The Volunteers In Mission program, also called, Volunteer Ministries facilitates individual volunteer missionary appointments, summer service opportunities, group mission experiences, specialized service projects, and disaster response.



Rev. Paul Kondy (right) with Rev. Newton Old Crow doing something they love to do . . . visit with each other and a horse in a pasture!

Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five "ways to involve class members."

1. Plan your session with structure for discussion.
2. Begin simply.
3. Be in control -- you're the teacher.
4. Encourage constantly.
5. Be a model -- let others talk.

These suggestions are compiled from Jan Chartier's list of ten appearing in the summer issue 2010 of *Journeys* teacher edition.



Check this out . . .

Year-end Check-List

INDIVIDUAL and FAMILY:

- Make an idea list for you or your family for 2011.
 - What are the main rest/relaxation/recreation plans for the new year? Schedule a vacation. Whether it's time with a tent in the backyard, a family get-together at Moses Merrill or a trip to the mountains.
 - Schedule a game night once a month or once a week. No TV or computer — just people!
 - Mission Outreach. What project could your family adopt? In addition to regular church and mission projects, your family could pick one ABC special interest missionary or mission site and pray for it regularly, read about that mission, even visit that mission. Or, take a more active part in a local mission activity.

CONGREGATION:

- Design a plan to let people change the jobs they've always done (or nearly always). Ask "What new thing would you like to do this year?" and "What thing would you like to trade off for a time?"
- See if your pastor took all his/her vacation in 2010. Ask the Pastoral Relations Committee to see that full vacation is taken in 2011. It's a matter of stewardship!

FACILITY:

- As good stewards of any facilities your congregation owns, the end of the year is a good time to group projects into categories. Which things need to be done to keep the building safe? Which projects are standard maintenance? Which changes would increase the "usability" of the space? Then brainstorm ways to get the jobs done . . . Members, hired contractors, neighbor churches, or, in an emergency or safety situation, should you call on American Baptist Men?

HIDDEN BLESSINGS:

- Take time as an individual, family or congregation to share stories of hidden blessings. These are stories of people who have been the hands and feet of Jesus in quiet ways.
- Send notes of appreciation to people who have made a difference because of their faith.

A Testimonial for the Retired Ministers And Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

by Dave Lundholm



RMMO Gratitude for Those who have Gone Before

There are at least two American Baptist pastors to whom I owe a great deal.

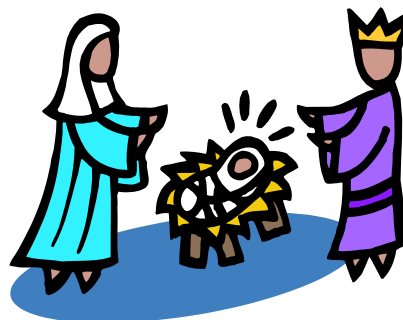
The first was the unknown saint that was the pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church in North Omaha in about 1960. This was the man who explained the plan of salvation to the unruly group of sixth grade Sunday scholars of which I was a part. This was the man who heard me pray the "prayer of faith." This was the man who led me through the six-week pastor's class and the man who baptized me on April 17th, 1960. I never thanked him, but I wish I could.

Then there was the remarkable Rev. Jeannie Sherman. She was the pastor who taught me as a new kid fresh out of seminary how to perform funerals, she blessed my ministry (by publicly asserting that she would no longer return to the church to do funerals, baptisms or weddings,) she mentored me, ordained me, and provided housing for my wife and children in a time of medical crisis (without realizing who these people seeking shelter were.) She is also the one who, nineteen years ago called to scold me for "leaving the ministry" when she heard that I had accepted the call to the Nebraska Region Staff.

Both of these people of God have gone on to be with the Lord by now. I never thanked the pastor that led me to Christ. I thanked Jeannie some but she deserved far more.

I can no longer offer them thanks but I can offer thanks to the group of people they represent: all of the people that have gone before us, that have served before us and that have now ended their formal active service to the church. I can do that by contributing generously to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) this season.

Who do you need to thank but can't? RMMO is an excellent way to say thank you for our heritage of excellent pastoral, missionary and chaplaincy service.



*Let this Christmas season be very special.
Enjoy choir and children's programs
Worship with an open heart.
Let joy reach the depths of your soul.
The Good News is for YOU!*



GROWTH IDEAS !

Grow spiritually
Grow in mission impact
Grow in numbers

"A congregation without a mission is a club, not a congregation." says author Kennon Callahan. Whether small or large, a church needs to know why it exists if it is to grow in any way. A church will also be stronger if it understands its particular call. It exists to proclaim the gospel but what are the unique ways this particular congregation will do that?

A NEW GROWTH IDEA IN EACH ISSUE — ABC/NE MESSENGER

Does It Seem Impossible?

You In Puerto Rico!

The Biennial Convention of American Baptists will be held in Puerto Rico in June 2011. Is this the time you, your pastor or someone else from your church attends?

The Baptist Convention of Puerto Rico will open its arms to American Baptists everywhere to celebrate our common mission and ministry for Jesus Christ in all the rich diversity that makes the American Baptist Churches unique in the world wide Baptist family.

Highlights include:

- ✦ Missional experiences, both before and after the Biennial
- ✦ MMBB 100th anniversary of ministry celebration
- ✦ The Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico mark their 50th anniversary as a region within ABC
- ✦ Sunday morning worship in local churches
- ✦ Musicians from around the island will inspire us with their music
- ✦ Speakers that will impact us with their messages

Join us in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as God leads American Baptists into the future!

You can find more information at www.abc-usa.org

Trivia Answers

1. B. Kearney Sept. 16-18, 2011
2. A. North Platte
3. D. Silent Night
4. C. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
5. A. Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

*Sharing on Chapter four of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations,
Rev. Dr. Brian High of First Baptist, Tekamah, Neb.*

The title of this book will excite some people while others will not be intrigued to read it because they are not risk takers. Most of us are not risk takers in our own lives, let alone in mission and service. Our region has been studying the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. This is an enlightening book which should enrich any person or church if taken seriously.

Chapter four is entitled *The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service*. I like this chapter because of the focus on mission and service. It gives many ways to practice mission and service with the key factor focusing on one question. The question is, "Are you willing to take the risk?" I have at times been a risk taker, and yet I need to take the risk in a planned way. With the Lord's help I should strive to make it happen every year.

This past summer our youth took a risk by traveling to Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Kansas. This was their missions and service trip. This may not sound like a risk to some, but it was for our youth. It becomes a risk when you take on a project where people make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purpose of Christ. Even though it may seem local it is a step into another world. For a rural Nebraskans to stay and work in a metropolitan city for a week is another world. To play, learn, help, and serve with brothers and sisters who speak differently, look different, and are from different parts of the world is a risk to them.



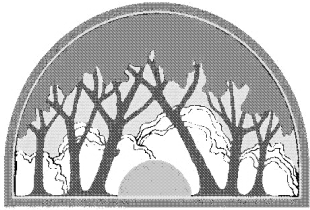
BETHEL CENTER IN KANSAS CITY

The people of Bethel Neighborhood Center are mainly Hispanic and Asian. The Center's director, Mang Sonna, is from India. He is well fit to minister in this multi-culture of people who are trying to find their way in this land foreign to them. The center helps with food, summer programs for youth, after school programs for youth, senior's ministry, and sharing Christ. This is at the center of all they do.

Our Youth entered a new world when they went to the Center. It was a great risk-taking time for them. They participated in the activities at the Center and by taking the risk they grew spiritually.

One of the important parts to risk-taking for a church is shared by Robert Schnase in his book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. In the book he states that risking taking in church life, "... is so critical that failure to practice it in some form results in a deterioration of the church's vitality and ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ." This brings me to an important part of the purpose and mission of the church. Our focus should be to make disciples. You and I must embrace this principle of Risk-Taking Mission and Service to be alive as a church. We become outward rather than inward in our thinking. This, in turn, leads to outreach in our churches.

This small, yet large, trip has been my recent experience of living out the principal and practice in chapter four of Risk-Taking and Service. I want to challenge you and your churches to step out of your Comfort zone and take the risk. It is in the act of risk taking that we can begin to live out the life of true discipleship for Christ.



Moses Merrill News

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

Christmas at MMCCC

The staff of Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center wishes every Messenger reader the rich blessings of Christmas.

We invite you to visit camp during Christmastime:



ADVENT SERVICES

4:00 pm on Sunday afternoons
Dec. 5, 12, 19

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

5:00 pm on Christmas Eve



Come see how the crew did or did not get the Christmas tree into the chapel!!

Now is the time to schedule your church leaders retreat, personal retreat, or family get-away for 2011. As more and more people learn about the terrific possibilities at Moses Merrill, dates will go fast.

Contact MMCCC 402-666-5639

From Camp Cat . . .

I just can't decide what my favorite season is at camp. But I've got to tell you friends, Christmas out here is great! I hope you get to come sometime to the Advent Services and Christmas Eve Service (weather permitting!) It's really beautiful, even to these old cat eyes.

And then January. Wow. If you like peace and quiet, try this place in the middle of winter. Different groups rent the place for New Year's Eve each year. I like the ones that have a campfire. Call and see if there's room for you this year—I don't know if it's rented out or not. [Sometimes MaryBeth forgets to give me a report.]

Winter is great with or without snow. With snow there's sledding, without snow there's hiking. You see so much more of the forest in the winter.

Last winter was so bad, Clarence let me stay in the maintenance building. What a cushy life! I'm not sure yet about this year. Most of the time outdoors is best. Try it!



Have you joined the 2300 Team?

From First Baptist Chadron to First Baptist Union, people are joining the 2300 TEAM to help assure the future of the ministry at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.

2300 TEAM members contribute \$23 or more per month, most through automatic bank transfer. This steady income from faithful friends makes it possible to continue this ministry.

JOIN NOW — contact MMCCC or ABC/NE 877-244-7339

As one year ends and another begins, we at MMCCC are very grateful for all the ministry that has taken place here.

We thank God for abundant blessings.

We thank both our program and facility volunteers.

We thank supporting churches and groups.

We thank construction workers and engineers who completed the sewer project!!

We thank donors who met the challenge of both specific and general needs.

We thank everyone who believes in this ministry and supports it with prayer.

2011 ABC/NE Board

President: Rev. Dr. Onnie Drain, Parkside 1st term (2011)
 Vice-President: Rev. Larry Harvey, Hastings 1 (2011)
 Secretary: Ernie Denniston, Benson 2 (2011)
 Treasurer: LaVonna Cline, Belmont & FBC Lincoln 3 (2011)

At Large Members:

Kathryn Benson, Palestine	2 (2012)
Linda Black, Holdrege	2 (2012)
Karen Denton, Beatrice	1 (2011)
Woody Falkena, North Platte	2 (2012)
Rev. Irv Jennings, Arnold	2 (2012)
Htoo May, Sunset Hills, Omaha	1 (2013)
Sue Pudwill, Lincoln 2 nd	2 (2011)
Joe Roten, Alliance	1 (2011)
Dean Thompson, Arthur	1 (2011)
Kathi Witherspoon, Norfolk	2 (2013)

(Chairpersons of Departments may be re-elected or new chairpersons may be selected by the departments at their first meetings.)

Chair Camp & Conferences -- Orin Clinger, Kearney
 Chair Mission -- Kathy Brown, Omaha First
 Chair Finance -- Rev. John Dennert, Fremont
 Chair Professional Ministry -- Rev. Tom Wiles, North Platte
 Executive Minister -- Rev. Robin Stoops
 2011 Past Board President -- Ted Hartung, Second Lincoln
 ABC-USA General Board -- Beryl Hornberger, Fremont
 Pres. of American Baptist Men -- Bob Slechta, Sunset Hills
 Pres. of ABW Ministries -- Becky Clinger, Kearney
 Ministers Council -- Rev. Steve Wisthoff, Second Lincoln
 Youth Representative -- Katelynn Young, Second Baptist, Lincoln

NEW STAINED GLASS AT BRIDGEPORT

First Baptist Church of Bridgeport is celebrating the addition of two new stained glass windows made especially for the sanctuary of their new church building.

Pastor Jurdan Counts reports the joy of the congregation when the new windows were unveiled in October.

Member Joy Sanders created the beautiful windows in her home across the street from the new building.

When completed they were carefully moved and installed.

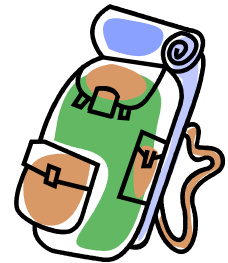
Pastor Jurdan invites all Nebraska Baptists to come see the windows!



FBC Bridgeport Window



ABC/NE Mission Department Asks Your Church To Plan A Mission Trip!



MISSION TOUR

Alaska - Montana - Arizona

MISSION WORK EXPERIENCE

Mexico - West Virginia - Costa Rica

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Hopi Reservation - Philadelphia

VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP

ANYWHERE!!!

VBS Projects

Plan now for a Mission Trip! It can be a trip with members of your church . . . Or a group from several ABC/NE churches . . . Or as part of a large travel group.

Mission trips can be tours of mission facilities with a chance to meet missionaries and persons served. OR, it can be a mission work experience, painting or building, or helping in many other ways.

Youth Mission Trips are always memorable! How about taking a group to Tallahatchie, Mississippi or to Bangor, Maine?

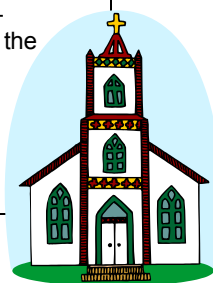
And here's an idea . . . In the meantime . . . How about a VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP. The ABC/NE Mission Dept. can help you plan a fun weekend or a fun night focused on one mission location. SKYPE the missionaries in a great conversation with your congregation.

And don't forget the possibilities of learning about mission through Vacation Bible School (no, it's not too early to plan!)

YOUR CHURCH, Anywhere, Nebraska

What would you write about your church in a space like this? Here are some questions to ask yourself:

1. Do I even know if my church has a mission statement? If it has one, do I know what it says?
2. Am I a supporter of all the church's programs? Do I pray for and encourage the ministries with older adults, young adults and middle adults as well as with children, with youth, and women's and men's ministries? Or, have I been really only interested in what serves me?
3. When I think of the wider ABC family, do I expect it to serve my church . . . Or do I try to determine how my church can help serve the wider mission and ministry?
4. Do I enthusiastically support the ministry of my church financially? Or, do I resent any mention of money?? Have I prayerfully moved toward tithing?
5. Do I consciously try to drop thoughts that judge others when they pop into my head? Do I try to see the strengths of others rather than focusing on their weaknesses?
6. Do I prepare myself in any way for worship? Do I pray for the service ahead of time? Do I think about people I might invite to attend with me?
7. Do I really try to be a steward of my church's resources? Recognizing those resources include the building, the pastor, the people, the various ministries and the finances?
8. Am I a super-supporter of my pastor by praying and encouraging?



First Baptist Church, Columbus

This has been a busy year at FBC, Columbus! On April 4th 2010 the congregation celebrated its 130th anniversary.

The youth group went from every other Sunday night to every Sunday and the group has grown to double digits. ABW members have been busy all year supporting many missions, participating in the White Cross program, and being a part of the shoe box ministry.

Seasonal celebrations are a regular part of the church calendar, including the annual Harvest Home dinner for Thanksgiving, The Hanging of the Greens and The Christmas supper in December.

Pastor Glenn Williamson has encouraged the church to keep the doors open wide for strangers as well as folks well known. The church has been blessed by this.

They have opened the doors to an Hispanic ministry and share God's house with them. The church has started a weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday nights and the numbers keep growing. There is also a Tuesday night "Crazy Love" Bible study.

In the last month, the congregation celebrated four baptisms. The members feel blessed to have visitors every week and share in their joy when they say "I've finally found a church home."

The church hosted missionary Mercy Barnes in October and those who heard her story were blessed.

The church building is being enhanced with the installation of a new sound system and video projector.

The church is active in community outreach, supports AB Missions, including United Mission, America for Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Missions, Retired Minister and Missionaries, & Camp Merrill. They support the local food bank, and have been preparing boxes to send to troops overseas.

First Baptist Church, Holdrege

The purpose of First Baptist Church is to reflect God's unconditional love by:

- Transforming lives through the Holy Spirit
- Affirming the family of God
- Exalting God through worship
- Mentoring to Christ-like Maturity.

The congregation is deeply involved in ministry for all ages. Many different projects and activities fill the church calendar.

One of many projects was a 40-day journey through the book of Hebrews. Different church members wrote devotionals on different sections of the book of Hebrews. Each gave a personal reflection on the passage. These were published and distributed the church family.

Pastor Darren Stroh reports the church launched community groups with weekly get-togethers and a video devotional done by Assoc. Pastor Jason Franklin. The sermons also tied in with the themes of Hebrews, so that those who wished could get a full experience of the book from a variety of angles. There are currently 9 community groups meeting regularly.

The Missions department spearheaded a clothing drive collecting clothing for school aged kids and adults to trade with FBC-Norfolk so that the clothes would be unrecognizable and did a free clothing distribution in both communities.

The youth did missions outreach to Parkside Baptist Church, in Omaha, holding a VBS there. [Part of their participation in Churches Helping Churches.]

Sunday School is healthy and growing!

There are many other activities engaging the church and community in worship, study, and action as they seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Second Baptist Church, Lincoln

Second Baptist is in the second year of Pastor Steve Wisthoff's ministry and after a year of preparation, they are setting forth together on a purposeful journey. This includes:

Examining the role of Sunday school and how Christian Education can be revitalized in the congregation. Is what the church does working? How can more adults and children be involved in educational opportunities in the church?

The congregation had fifty people registered for the *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts class*. For four Sundays during September and October, they gathered after worship for a meal and an hour-long instruction on Spiritual Gifts.

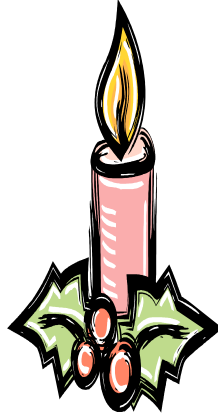
A two-hour session will be held in January to discuss *how to build a culture of Spiritual Gifts at Second Baptist*. How does the congregation take each person's gifts and incorporate them into the bigger picture to benefit the whole church? How should the congregation utilize the data received? How can members be trained and encouraged to offer themselves in service to Christ and his church?

Early in 2011, the congregation will explore the *VALUES of Second Baptist Church*. Aubrey Malphur's book, *Values-Driven Leadership: Discovering and Developing Your Core Values for Ministry* will be the basis for the process of figuring out how to best use Spiritual Gifts. Pastor Wisthoff writes, "If we know our gifts, we still must determine our congregational strengths so we can know how to best use them."

He continues: "This process may be followed by the training of persons to do specific tasks. We will also incorporate this process into our existing Strategic Plan. Second Baptist suffers from many of the same issues and problems found in other congregations. By the grace of God and through our desire to bring change, we believe that God is moving us on a steady path toward renewed ministry."

ABC/NE Trivia (answers on p. 4)

1. Where will the 2011 Family Reunion be held? (The ABC/NE convention)
A. Grand Island, B. Kearney, C. North Platte, D. Lincoln
2. Which ABC/NE church is "famous" for its Living Christmas Tree?
A. North Platte, B. Parkside, C. Union, D. McCook,
3. Which Christmas song was written for guitar?
A. The First Noel, B. Joy to the Word, C. Infant, Lowly, D. Silent Night
4. In what song are these words? "From our fears and sins release us."
A. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, B. The First Noel, C. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, D. O Come All Ye Faithful
5. In what song are these words? "Sing, choirs of angels."
A. O Come, All Ye Faithful, B. O Little Town of Bethlehem, C. Silent Night, D. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.



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

A New Thing in a New Year

What new thing can you do for your walk with the Lord in the new year? This isn't quite the same as a New Year's Resolution. This is a decision to freshen your spiritual life by trying some new habits.

Ideas to get you started . . . What if you decided to twice each month encourage a young person in your church? Put a little chart on the refrigerator door and put a check mark there when you've done it. Or how about reading The Secret Place two or three times a week if you're not in that habit now? What about scheduling a personal spiritual retreat at Moses Merrill in the spring? Or, inviting someone to church? Or, doing a special act of caring each week? Have a great year!

The Secret Place is a daily devotional booklet available from Judson Press. In print or online. www.JudsonPress.com and click on "The Secret Place"



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 call 556-4730 (Omaha) or toll-free (877) 244-7339
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