

# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



**March 2008**

## ABC/NE Date Data

Personnel Committee  
March 6

Interim Ministries Seminar  
March 10-13  
Moses Merrill

EASTER March 23

Jr. High/Sr. High Retreat  
March 28-30  
Moses Merrill

Western Men's Retreat  
CANCELLED for this year

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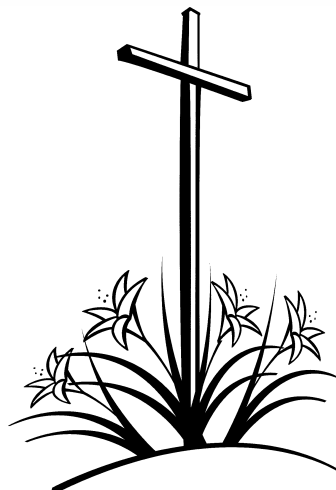
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## *Celebrate, with JOY, The Resurrection of Our LORD*

*May you be blessed in this holiest of seasons. May the joy of resurrection continue to transform you and your congregation.*

*—The Board & Staff of ABC/NE*

## AFC Offering . . .

## Home Mission on Nebraska's Doorstep

The America For Christ Offering impacts mission and ministry in Nebraska. Most ABC/NE churches receive this offering in March each year. This offering provides support to:

- Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center  
The ABC/NE office provides critical support for the work of the camp. The costs of this support ministry are paid in part by AFC dollars.
- Sturgis Ministry  
Logistical support for the ABC Emergency Services Center at the annual Bike Rally are provided by AFC.
- The Good Soil Project  
A group of churches in Nebraska are receiving training. Some of the costs are provided by AFC.
- Administration of Disaster and Relief Grants  
Money that goes directly to victims of disasters comes from the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Administrative costs to get the money to the places of need in the US are funded, in part, by AFC.
- Volunteers in Mission  
The ABC/NE Pastor-to-Pastors Program is funded by AFC. This pays travel costs for Dick Peterson and Paul Kondy as they respond to the needs of our pastors. AFC covers some of the costs of our local emergency coordination.
- Leadership Education  
Some of the costs of seminars and training events, not covered by The Carpenter Fund, are paid for by AFC.

In this partial list, there are ministries of evangelism, caring ministries, church vitality, disaster response, and leadership development. Investing in America For Christ is investing in ministry in Nebraska and across the USA.

## From the Executive Minister . . . . . Susan Gillies

### A NEW BEGINNING

In this issue of The Messenger, Steve shares, in his column, his joy in the resurrection and Dave, in his column, gives us a new image for refreshing even our good habits. I think both of these reflect on Easter as a beginning and a time of renewal. There are probably three or four points of beginning each year: One is the first of January - New Year's Day; another is the beginning of the school year (which in my opinion should be the first of September but in schools today is in August); another is a person's birthday - starting another year of life. But the most significant beginning is Easter. The day Jesus changed everything forever.

#### Easter calls us to refresh and renew our personal lives.

As Dave's column suggests, it is easy to get into ruts. A popular word today is the word, "mindful." I'm supposed to be "mindful" when I eat. This will cause me to slow down and not be so distracted that I eat more than I need. I'm supposed to be "mindful" when I exercise. This will make me think about each exercise and do it correctly. Being "mindful" when I pray causes me to think more deeply about each person for whom I'm praying . . . not just hurrying through a list. Being "mindful" when I pray changes my prayer from a "To Do List" for God to an awesome

conversation. My prayer this Easter, at this most important beginning, is that I become more "mindful."

#### Easter calls us to refresh and renew the life of our congregation.

Is your congregation filled with joy on Easter? The reason we worship on Sundays instead of Saturdays is in order to honor and re-enact the joy of the resurrection. Shouldn't every Sunday be overflowing with joy and encouragement and hope? Shouldn't every visitor on every Sunday be welcomed as Jesus would be welcomed? [And, shouldn't we welcome each other as we would welcome Jesus?]

#### Easter calls us to refresh and renew the life of our region

We are called to bear witness to the joy of Easter in the way we live out our ministry and mission in Nebraska and around the world. We see this when churches pray for other churches. We see this when churches cooperate in the transformational ministry of Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. Our mission action, our mission giving, our mission prayers all say that we are an Easter people.



A new beginning — Praise God

## From the Associate Executive Minister . . . . . Steve Bils

### Because He Lives, We Have Hope

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the cornerstone and centerpiece of the Christian faith. After all, how can one believe in the central theme of the Gospel - that eternal life is guaranteed to all who put their faith in Christ alone - if Christ himself is still dead? How can we trust someone who couldn't raise himself from the dead to raise us from the dead?

The apostle Paul recognized this when he wrote to the church in Corinth concerning doubts that had arisen concerning the whole question of the resurrection.

*"If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."*

*1 Corinthians 15:17*

Clearly, the value of our faith and our standing before God as people whose sins have been paid for is linked to the resurrection of Christ from the dead. In his summary of the Gospel (good news) of our salvation in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul mentions the death, the burial, the resurrection, and the post-resurrection appearance of Christ to many.

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved . . . For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, after that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once . . ."*

#### • Christ died for our sins.

This was "according to the scriptures" and was further confirmed for the skeptical by the fact that *He was buried*.

#### • Christ rose again the third day.

This, too, was "according to the scriptures" and was further confirmed for the skeptical by the fact that *He was seen* by a large number of people in the days and weeks following his resurrection.

The resurrection of Christ is indeed central to our faith. Paul recites a cascading litany of unpleasant consequences that we

must face if there is no resurrection from the dead:

- *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen."*
- *"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is also vain."*
- *"If in fact the dead do not rise, then we are found to be liars because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ."*
- *"If Christ is not risen, your faith is in vain; you are still in your sins."*
- *Then also, those who have died in Christ have perished."*

*(1 Corinthians 15:13-18)*

But, fortunately, this whole discussion is purely hypothetical, for

*" . . . now Christ is risen from the dead  
 . . . and in Christ shall all be made alive!"*

*(1 Corinthians 15:20, 22)*

In John 11 Jesus consoled his friend, Martha, who was grieving over the death of her brother, Lazarus. He said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus is found to speak about how we can have eternal life by trusting Him completely and exclusively. He came to earth to be our substitute by dying in our place for our sin. The "wages" for the sin that separated us from God was death. Since Jesus had no sin of his own to pay for, he was able to pay for our sin for us. That is why he can offer eternal life, *"Most assuredly, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."* John 6:47

Christ did die for us! He did rise victorious over death and offers eternal life freely to we who simply trust Him! *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."* 1 John 5:13



## Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman  
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five destinations for Sunday School field trips:

1. Visit another class in your own Sunday School.
2. Take a driving tour of churches in your town/ location and make a photo collage.
3. Tour your own building with a member "docent" who can provide history and insights.
4. Go through the "back room" or working area of a local thrift shop.
5. View the public areas of a care facility and attend its church service with the residents.

## Passion Play in Arnold Attracts Visitors from Wide Area

First Baptist of Arnold is the host church for a production of the Passion Play on the day before Easter. Heading up the production is Rev. Irv Jennings, pastor of First Baptist.

Thirteen churches from six communities are participating in this year's production. There will be 150 performers in the pageant and an expected 1,000 in the audience.

**Everyone is invited** to see this extraordinary production. The performances will be at 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm on March 22.

The production will take place at a setting about half way between Arnold and North Platte. Contact Pastor Irv for more information about the location 308-530-1475

## ABC Leaders Travel to Thailand

American Baptist Leaders traveled to the refugee camps along the Thailand border with Myanmar (Burma), Feb. 11-21. They ministered to the ethnic Karen people groups in the camps, gained a better understanding of the refugee-to-resettlement process, and reaffirmed the historic ties between American Baptists and the Burmese people.

Baptists in the United States first came together to form what is today known as ABC's International Ministries, following the arrival of Baptist missionaries Adoniram and Ann Judson to Burma in 1813. Baptist work in this Southeast Asian country grew, especially among ethnic minorities in Burma, who have been persecuted in one form or another for the entire time Baptists have been in the country. A political change in the Burmese government in the 1960s forced foreign missionaries to leave, including American Baptist missionaries, but International Ministries still maintains strong ties with the Myanmar Baptist Convention, which is over 100 years old.

In the past decade, increases in persecutions have prompted tens of thousands of Burmese to leave their homes and flee to refugee camps in neighboring Thailand. In the past two years, nearly 14,000 Burmese refugees that have fled Burma have been placed in the United States for permanent resettlement under the government's Refugee Resettlement program. American Baptist Churches USA through National Ministries assists some of those refugees resettled through the Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program.

The ABC delegation filed blog entries during their trip which can be accessed at: <http://abcthai.blogspot.com/>

## Churches Praying for Churches 2008 Prayer Emphasis



Each ABC/NE church has been invited to send delegations to one other ABC/NE church in the first quarter of 2008 as a part of this year's Prayer Emphasis. In the picture above, members of First Baptist, **Columbus**, are praying at the door of First, **Freemont**. Their prayers were for the ministry of the church, its pastor and people. They also prayed for strangers and seekers who might pass through these doors in 2008.

Interim Pastor at Guide Rock and Superior, David Sherwood, reports that the **Guide Rock** church group recently visited **Hastings**. The group started their prayers in front of the church building. Hastings Pastor Larry Harvey welcomed the group.

Pastor Sherwood reports, "We sent two people to each corner of the church to surround the church with prayer, we asked God to put a hedge of protection around the church not to keep people out but to keep Satan out. Then we went inside and had prayer in the fellowship area, the sanctuary, and at the Baptismal. We closed our prayer session by gathering around Pastor Harvey and laying hands on him and praying for him and his wife and their ministry at Hastings."

Sherwood continues: "**We all felt blessed to be able to participate in this and hope that others around the state will, if they have not already, willingly and eagerly participate. The church needs prayer today it seems more than ever. I thank God for this initiative.**"

## GRAND ISLAND MEN HAVE "OUT OF BUILDING" EXPERIENCE

On Saturday, February 9th, eleven men from the Grand Island ABMen's group gathered for a biscuits and gravy breakfast at the church. Immediately following the meal they traveled to the Platte Generating Station south of Grand Island. They were briefed on plant operations and then given a two hour tour that covered all of the operating systems. They saw the turbines, the boilers, the control room, and the coal conveyers. They stared at huge machines, felt the heat of the incredible coal fires and saw the flames. They walked on open grid steel catwalks where they could look down between their feet and see clearly four or five stories down. All very manly things to do. The trip was a first for the Grand Island ABMen but other similar "out of building" experiences are planned. About a third of the group were men who don't usually attend ABMen.

## THOUGHTS FOR LOCAL CHURCHES:

## Church Organizational Structure

Many churches are using the same structure they used at a time when the church was either much smaller or much larger. The structure can become cumbersome or mis-matched to the current congregation. Here are just a few things to think about before entering into re-structuring:

Determine first what the congregation wants to be . . .

1. A church that sees itself as a destination. Many programs. Activities for everyone. A place for people to live their faith. Almost a safe escape from the world. The members seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus to each other.
2. A church that sees itself as a refueling station. People live their faith in the world and come to the church for training, motivation, encouragement, and nurture. Then they head back out to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.
3. A church that seeks a balance between #1 and #2.

Church #1 may need more committees than church #2. But those committees need to appropriately fit the congregation.

The committees needed by church #2 may look very different from those of church #1. **Most churches have never made a decision to be #1, 2, or 3, but most churches function pretty clearly as one of the three.** Don't re-design your church structure without a conversation about what kind of church you want to be.

Other Ideas to consider:



Don't discard committees without thinking first whether having the committee helps everything work better or makes church life more tedious. In one church a flower committee may be an albatross left over from 1955. If the church wants flowers in worship, is there someone who is willing to take care of it for six months or one year at a time? [Time limits are always good. They can be renewed or rotated. You want someday out in case the volunteer insists on ragweed arrangements in a church full of people with allergies! You also simply want to share the fun.] In another church there may be some folks who find real joy in bringing and arranging

flowers from members' yards during the growing season. Let them do it! Again on limited or rotating terms.

Many churches today have found a single board structure works well. Be sure to have terms of office and rotation of office holders. Some churches have fallen prey to over-organizing with the result of no spontaneity being possible.

If you think about a revision of your structure, you may want to consult with your region staff. There are a number of options you may want to consider. The staff has experience with other churches that can benefit you.

## Here's A Great Idea . . . . . For getting unchurched kids to camp

*First Baptist of Lincoln is serious about encouraging unchurched kids to attend Camp Merrill. The church pays 1/2 of camp registration costs for members of the church. If a child or young person brings a buddy who hasn't been to camp before—from outside the church—the church pays 100% of the buddy's costs. This takes a commitment on the part of the entire church to the whole idea of Christian camping. Let's get our own kids there but let's also be very creative and intentional about reaching to a wider world of kids who would be blessed by a camping experience.*

## ABC/NE HERITAGE . . .

### HAVE YOU HEARD OF Mary Mann?

Mary Mann made a big difference in the lives of many people in Omaha. A native of Zanesville, Ohio, Mary served as a church visitor at Calvary in Omaha in 1912. By 1917 her work became a joint venture between the Nebraska Baptist State Convention (ABC/NE) and the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society (now part of National Ministries). This work was part of the Christian Friendliness Movement.

Mary worked with public and private agencies in seeking out families new to the city and in need of Christian friends. Activities included devotional times, socials, work meetings and varied projects. A report of one week of special meetings held in the spring of 1932 listed twenty as having accepted Christ.

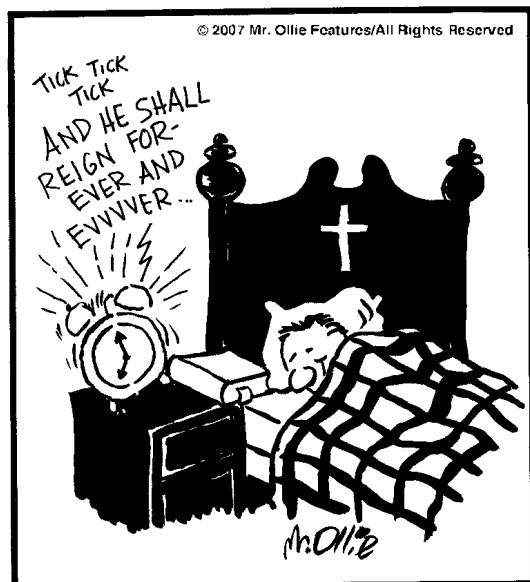
The Mary Mann Mission was located at 20th & Grace Streets in Omaha.

Mary Mann lived out the end of her life at the Baptist Home of Nebraska (Maple Crest). She died in 1967 at the age of 95. According to *The Messenger* in Sept of 1967, "Even at the time of her death individual expressions of appreciation for her spiritual impact on lives many years before were forthcoming."

Share this story of a woman who, in the name of Jesus, was a friend to newcomers.



## Book of Timothy







## Make a Difference!

God made us for relationship - with God, with each other and with creation. In the beginning, in the time of creation, God made the heavens and earth, the sky and sun and stars, the day and the night, the green of the plants and the blue of the water, and all creatures to walk and fly and swim. God called it all good! Experience the beauty of God's creation at Camp Moses Merrill this summer. Come to camp this summer to learn about being created in God's image.

Whether you are in elementary school or high school or college or far beyond, you can **Make a Difference!** Come to camp this summer and learn how God's loving care for you makes a difference in your life. Experience living in community with others who want to **Make a Difference!**

Learn how the choices you make and the ways you use the skills and talents God gives you can **Make a Difference!** In the assurance of God's love and care, you can **Make a Difference!** in your family, in your neighborhood, at school and in the world around you. Start at Camp Moses Merrill this summer!

## Dates Set for Project Days



Two weeks have been set aside for Project Days this spring: April 7-12 and May 5-10. Everyone is encouraged to plan to "Make A Difference" by helping get the camp ready for summer.

Individuals and groups can come for one day or several days. Days are spent painting, cleaning, repairing, etc. Evening Bible studies and fellowship times are available for those interested.

Those who participate in Project Days usually pay a discounted rate for their rooms and make a contribution toward meals.

Contact camp for details: 402-666-5639.

## Moses Merrill News

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

E-mail: [campmerrill@nntc.net](mailto:campmerrill@nntc.net) Web site: [www.campmerrill.com](http://www.campmerrill.com)



Camping Director Clarence Reiss, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center Director MaryBeth Robertson and Associate Executive Minister for Mission Development Steve Bills got together near the site of the proposed new Activity Building on a very cold day in February. They are part of a strategy team trying to find ways to fund the construction of the building. Bills said, "The ministry of the camp cannot be separated from the mission outreach of each ABC church in Nebraska. This is a place that is making a difference and we must have adequate facilities to continue this ministry."

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

## Ruts of Good Habit

Recently, I ran across the phrase "Ruts of Good Habit." The phrase really captured my attention. All through my life I've heard that it's important to develop and consistently practice good habits and I've tried to do that.

You know the kinds of things I'm talking about: The habit of going to church, doing a private daily prayer time, reading the Bible, praying the Lord's prayer, our characteristic participation in the special offerings or even tithing.

These things are great to do, but they become a rut when we no longer think about them and just do them because we've always done them.

An easy place to see this is with the Lord's Prayer. How often do we just "rattle it off" instead of actually praying "...thy will be done..."? How often have we read the Bible passage from our reading plan without knowing what it really said? We scan the page without the brain engaged. How long has it been since we pondered our gift to America for Christ and asked God what we should give instead of just giving what we've always given?

And even the tithe. How long has it been since we asked the question "Why 10% of our income? Why not 11% or 15% or 20%?"

All of our Christian habits are good but without periodic examination they can become blocks to further Christian growth.

How about you? Which of your good Christian habits have gone unexamined long enough to have become "ruts" that prevent you from further growth?



## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

### April Deadlines

**March 5, 2008 - Print Copy**

**March 10, 2008 - E-Mail**

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Subject: Messenger

**ARNOLD FBC:** Great energy in the church is being focused of preparations for the Passion Play the day before Easter. (See the story on p. 3)

**BELLEVUE KOINONIA:** The fellowship is now three years old and celebrated the anniversary at a special service Feb 17.

**COLUMBUS FBC:** Feb 3: Columbus FBC went to Fremont FBC to pray for their congregation, pastors and ministries. (See p. 3) AB Girls had a bowling party with their mothers and grandmothers. Feb 17: Valentine's Dinner sponsored by the Diaconate Board. March 9: Camp Sunday will be observed.

**GRAND ISLAND FBC:** On Feb 9 the men had a very unusual meeting. (See the story on p. 3) The church continues to participate in The Good Soil Project.

**GUIDE ROCK:** A delegation from the church went to FBC Hastings to pray over the church as part of the 2008 ABC/NE Prayer Emphasis. (See story on p. 3).

**HASTINGS FBC:** A Valentine's Banquet was held Feb 10. The church's website is accessible through the [www.abcnebraska.com](http://www.abcnebraska.com) website and is getting increased use.

**LINCOLN SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH:** The

Senior Adult Ministry sponsored a trip to the Baker's Chocolate Factory and SAC Museum. Afterwards they had dinner and attended a play at Mahoney State Park. The AB Men sponsored the 42nd Annual All Church Valentine Banquet on Feb 16. Special guests were "Forgiven" a men's singing group from Sunset Hills Baptist Church in Omaha. Feb 6 the AB Women had a speaker from the Lincoln Police Dept. The youth collected for the "Souper Bowl" on Super Bowl Sunday. Funds collected go for our Mission Support to Matt Talbot Kitchen. On Feb 22 & 23, several of our youth attended the "Dare to Share" weekend at Pershing Event Center. We also hosted a youth group from Kansas that attended the event for a couple of nights. The Wednesday night children's program made Valentines as an outreach to Desert Ministries and KGBI "Cards 4 Kids At Heart." The Valentines are distributed to elderly people.

**LAVISTA JUDSON:** In January the J.O.Y. Club met for a short business meeting and then broke into teams to play Chicken Foot dominoes. During the month of February the AWANA kids held a food drive for the Food Bank. Congratulations on a great job as several grocery sacks were filled by the kids and members of the congregation. The AB Women were treated, at their February meeting, with guest speaker, Nina Jean Meth. Nina Jean talked about the ABC mission trip to Eastern

Europe. Judson has had several on-going Bible Studies for many years, but it is exciting to see another one begin. The Saturday night outreach program - The Gathering - has changed their meeting night to Sundays. The February Fellowship meal honored all who joined Judson through the waters of baptism or transfer of letter in 2007. Judson's new library is open and well visited. Each week in the Judson news-letter, *The Lighthouse*, someone contributes a book report on a book they have read. The women of Judson are already planning for their "Spring Fling." That means Spring can't be too far away.

**MASON CITY FBC:** The church sent a delegation to Gibbon to pray for the church there as part of the ABC/NE 2008 Prayer Emphasis. Steve Bils spoke at worship on Feb 17.

**NORFOLK FBC:** The church hosted a "Identifying and Working with Sexually Abused Children" workshop Feb 9 co-sponsored by Northeast Community College. The church had a table at the Children's Festival at the mall on Feb. 10. The church is holding a Marriage Retreat Feb 29—March 1 at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.

**NORTH PLATTE FBC:** Fund-raising for camp got underway with a special dinner served by the youth on Feb 13. The youth traveled to Denver for a game between the Nuggets and

the Detroit Pistons on Feb 25.

**OMAHA BENSON:** An adult Sunday School class completed a study of *Down By The River* side about Baptist history. The youth participated in the *Dare2Share* in Lincoln. A Ministry Fair was held on Feb 24. Many church and outreach ministries had table displays highlighting ways each person can be involved and serve. Feb 10 was Blanket Sunday raising funds for the blanket ministry of Church World Service.

**OMAHA FIRST:** The men served a Valentine Dinner on Feb 9. Pastor Kip provided music throughout the meal. MaryBeth Robertson visited worship on Feb 10 with pictures and stories about Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. The church cabinet participated in a retreat at Moses Merrill the last weekend of Feb.

**OMAHA KING SOLOMON:** The church has "gifted" the ABC/NE family twice in recent weeks. Associate Pastor Onnie Drain became the pastor at Parkside and Associate Pastor Charlene Morris-Quarells became Chaplain at Maple Crest Care Center.

**OMAHA SUNSET HILLS:** Pastor Ron's series, "8 days 'til SONrise," began Feb. 3 and takes a week-by-week look at the eight days from Palm Sunday through Easter. A 7 pm service is planned for Maundy Thursday. The youth's Souper Bowl collection was used to buy food for the Benson Baptist pantry. The annual Omahaland Men's Prayer Breakfast is March 1 at Sunset Hills with Missionary Mike Mann. Forgiven provided the program for Lincoln-Second Baptist's Valentine's Dinner on Feb 16. Sunset Hills will continue its yearlong 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June with outdoor music, food and activities. Details to come.

**OXFORD FBC:** Our annual business meeting was held on Jan 21. A carry-in dinner followed our worship service and Sunday school classes. Following the dinner we had our annual meeting. Looking back we re-viewed the following: A community Singspiration is held in on the fifth Sunday of a month, with all the area churches participating. We also donated to our community food pantry and participated in the "World Day of Prayer" program. Our church multi-purpose room continues to be

used for our community Vacation Bible School program.

**YORK BAPTIST CONGREGATIONAL:** The congregation voted to call Barb Johnson to be pastor. Barb is a graduate of the Education for Lay Ministry Program (ELM).

### New members:

Lincoln, Second Baptist Church: Don and Vera Lamb, Coyla Nutter, Pat Schroeder, Samuel Rik  
Omaha, Strangers Rest: Eddie Stones  
Omaha, Sunset Hills: Linda Kilpatrick.

### Don Shoemaker Celebrates 60 Years of Ministry

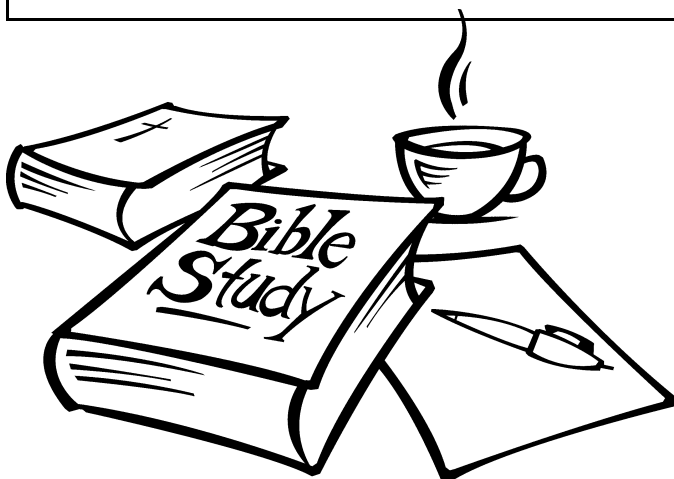
Don & JoAnne Shoemaker, who served in Arthur, Oxford/Wilsonville, and Fairbury, will be celebrating 60 years of marriage and 60 years of ministry on March 29 at First Baptist of Battle Lake, MN, 2-4 pm. For more information, contact Gina Slecta 402-991-0875. Send cards to: 2224 Ridgewood Drive, Fergus Falls, MN, 56537.

### ABC/NE TRIVIA (answers on page 8)

1. What was the approximate cost of the land (568 acres) when Camp Moses Merrill moved to Linwood in the 1970s?  
A. \$100,000 B. \$200,000 C. \$300,000 D. \$400,000
2. When costs of developing the land and the first buildings and initial equipment were added, what was the bill?  
A. \$680,000 B. \$780,000 C. \$880,000 D. \$980,000
3. What building at Moses Merrill was originally referred to as the Faidley Family Center?  
A. Callendar House, B. Palmyra, C. Weaver, D. Visitor Center
4. What were the first 4 churches to commit to building a cabin at Camp Merrill in the 1970s?  
No multiple choice, just guess.

### Have You Checked the Website Lately?

There are two websites that will help keep you up-to-date on ABC/NE and Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. The websites are [www.abcnebraska.com](http://www.abcnebraska.com) and [www.campmerrill.com](http://www.campmerrill.com). On the ABC/NE website there is a place to link with local churches. If your church has a website and it hasn't been linked to the region website, contact Dave Lundholm 308-389-4818 or [area.minister.ne@charter.net](mailto:area.minister.ne@charter.net).



## Training In Business Skills for The Local Church

ABC/NE and other Nebraska denominations are cooperating in a special continuing education opportunity for pastors and lay leaders. Three one-day seminars will be held each year for three years. The focus will be on business skills.

The three seminars offered this year are:

### How to Hire, Motivate and Release Staff (Paid and volunteer)

Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

### Aligning Kingdom Resources for Effective Ministry – Purpose-driven budgeting

Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

### Discovering, Valuing and Working with Different Personality Styles

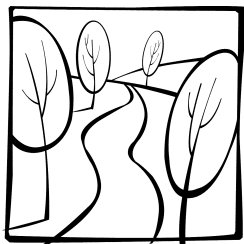
Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Participants can sign up for one seminar or for all. All sessions will be held at Sunset Hills Baptist Church in Omaha.

Pastors may attend with Carpenter Fund scholarships if they have registered through the region office. Discounts are available for lay leaders if they register through the ABC/NE office, making the per person, per seminar lay leader cost to \$50. [The full price without the discount is \$120].

The seminars are being taught by the Institute for Applied Management from Kansas City. The Institute exists to bridge the gap between a solid foundation of theological education and the practical, day-to-day management skills needed to be effective in ministry.

For more information, or to register, contact the ABC/NE office at 877-244-7339 (in Omaha 556-4730).



## Christian Education Conference Set for May

Theme:

### ***“FOLLOW THE PATH”***

**Scripture:** “Lead me in the path of your  
commandments, for I delight in it.”

*Psalm 119:35*

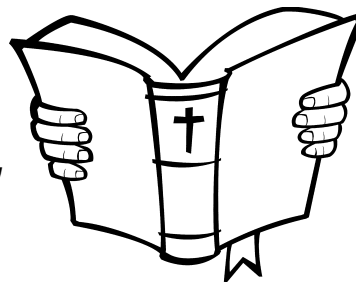
The 2008 Moses & Eliza Merrill Christian Education Conference will be held May 2-4 at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.

Christian educators follow the path in the theme scripture and lead others on the path. The 2nd Annual conference will focus on curriculum and will feature usable ideas for Sunday School teachers, after-school program leaders, Christian Education and Discipleship Boards.

For more information or to register, call the ABC/NE office 877-244-7339 (in Omaha 556-4730).

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***Keep Reading!***

#### Trivia Answers (questions on page 7)

1. A. The land cost \$104,795
2. A. \$680,315
3. C. Weaver was originally a shelter house named after Lloyd Faidley in a Grand Island park. The Faidley Trust contributed the shelter house to camp and it was transformed into a dining hall and kitchen.
4. Grand Island, Benson, Gibbon, Herman

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