

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



May 2008

ABC/NE Date Data

Christian Ed Conference
May 2-4 Moses Merrill

Project Week
Moses Merrill
May 4-11

ABC/NE Executive Committee
Finance Dept & Mission Dept
May 17 Grand Island

REGIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
May 25

Memorial Day Picnic
Moses Merrill
May 26

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The Vision of *Building Bridges* Is Coming to Life! *And You are Invited to Join In . .*

The culmination of the Building Bridges Campaign is the construction of an **Activity Building**

"In keeping with our commitment to excellence in preparing children and youth to be effective disciples for Jesus Christ, we seek to teach stewardship of our bodies through healthy activities and of our minds through creative endeavors. The new activity building will make it possible for us to provide appropriate recreation, craft, and dramatic arts space."

The **Activity Building** will provide a large indoor recreation area, as well as space for crafts, rest rooms and storage. It will also provide dining space for groups larger than Weaver Hall can accommodate. It will provide large conference and event space.

The **Activity Building** will be located across the road from the front of Weaver Hall. The plans call for a patio to be constructed in the area currently used for tether ball and horse-shoes. The Snack Shack will be relocated to one side of the patio area. Next to the Activity Building itself, there will be an outdoor play yard.



REGIONAL DAY OF PRAYER . . . MAY 25

ABC/NE President Darren Stroh has proclaimed May 25 as an ABC/NE Day of Prayer. He requests all Nebraska Baptists to focus prayer on these five concerns:

1. That funding for the fulfillment of the Building Bridges Vision is in hand by Family Reunion time. [Sept. 19-21]
2. That God would begin to prepare those who will be speaking and teaching at the Family Reunion
3. For wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the Board of Directors and the delegates at the Family Reunion as we explore possible new ways of doing business as ABC of Nebraska
4. For the support volunteers: the host church First Baptist of Fremont, the nursery workers, the youth programming, the administrative pieces, etc.
5. That God would begin to work in the hearts of those whom he wants to attend and that they would begin to make plans now to be a part of this amazing time.

Make Plans To Attend This Year's Family Reunion — September 19-21

The ABC/NE Annual Convention (Family Reunion) will be held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Convention Center, September 19-21. Great things are being planned. Don't miss it!

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

NOW IS THE TIME

When I saw the call for a Regional Day of Prayer from ABC/NE President Darren Stroh, I was immediately overcome with the thought, "Now is the time." My mind was filled with a clear sense of direction and power . . . "Now is the time." Most of you know me well enough to appreciate that my next thought was to throw a question back to God, "Time for what??" But before I could get the question out, the answer was coming back to me.

ABC/NE has had a prayer emphasis each year. This year, as delegations from churches traveled to other churches for prayer, wonderful stories filtered back to the region office. You know, as well as I, that when the people of God get serious about prayer, amazing things can happen.

NOW IS THE TIME for Nebraska Baptists to rejoice in the Lord! God is moving in ways we couldn't have imagined. Small churches are coming to life through Good Soil. Larger churches are being surprised by doors opening to mission and ministry opportunities. Camp Merrill is reaching more people, touching more lives. We can barely keep up! Praise God!

NOW IS THE TIME for Baptists in Nebraska to intensify our prayer. Re-read the challenge from the President on the front page of this issue. The call to prayer includes prayers for the completion of the Building Bridges Campaign for Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. It also includes prayers in preparation for our Family Reunion (annual convention) in Sept. These two concerns are vitally important. Why? Because they are the major ways we connect, energize and build for the future.

NOW IS THE TIME for each of us to prepare to make financial gifts to the Building Bridges Campaign. The completion of this campaign includes the Activity Building and the Waste Water Management Project. [Don't you think Waste Water Management sounds classier than Sewer Project?] The WWMP (sounds better yet!) is required by the state of Nebraska. We have our backs to the wall on this one. We need to begin this work now – and we don't have enough money. We will begin general fundraising in June for the Activity Building. We need major challenge gifts for that now and gifts for the WWMP now.

NOW IS THE TIME for each of us to ask God what is required of us and then offer more. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are surrounded by love and joy. We are surrounded by real evidence of God's work among us. May God lay on your heart the conviction that **Now Is The Time** for you.



From the Associate Executive Minister Steve Bills

Got Style? Evangelism for the Rest of Us!

You may remember reading about National Ministries' "Got Style?" evangelism program on one of the **America For Christ** bulletin inserts your church used to educate the congregation about how that money is invested in mission. NM's Office of Evangelism advocates a Natural and Relational style of evangelism.

In the Natural style, evangelism is linked to personality, not spiritual giftedness. God uses personality to reach outside the church, and spiritual giftedness is used to equip and empower inside the church.

We consider six distinct personality styles in our understanding of evangelism: Assertive, Analytical, Storytelling, Relational, Invitational, and Incarnational. These styles are adapted from the Willowcreek Association's evangelistic training program, "Becoming A Contagious Christian," and "The School of Evangelism" of the Evangelical Covenant denomination. Each model has a biblical parallel as indicated in the following chart.

Assertive	Analytical	Storytelling	Relational	Invitational	Incarnational
Philip	Paul	Blind Man	Matthew	Woman at the Well	Dorcas
Acts 8	Acts 17	John 9	Luke 5	John 4	Acts 9
Confrontational	Logical	Engaging	People-oriented	Event-oriented	Needs-oriented

Understanding your own personality style and the style of those you encounter can produce more successful efforts. When the style of the person you are sharing with is different from your own, it may be a struggle to 'click' with them. We often suggest that local churches or small groups construct teams of folks with various styles: these teams can help "match" folks with similar personalities. This way, you may be able to accomplish something together that you could not do alone.

The point, here, is that even though a person, or a whole church, may not have the gift of evangelism, God has wired people and churches in such a way that they can still "do" evangelism. It is just a matter of discovering their system and working within it. Though a person, after coming to faith in Christ, should "wait" for a time before taking on leadership roles and responsibilities within the church, there are no restrictions on how soon newfound faith should be shared. With the same passion (personality) that Paul persecuted the church, he, following his conversion, promoted it.

I have had the opportunity to provide this training in a number of our churches over the past few months. If your church is looking for ways to become more effective in its outreach and evangelism, have your pastor give me a call to schedule a time for me to provide this training for you.



Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five helps for praying for children:

1. Be specific.
2. Pray scripture passages out loud.
3. Write down your prayers.
4. Pray God's desires for your children.
5. Pray for your children's futures.

These steps in prayer are from Sherrer and Garlock book, *How to Pray for Your Children*, Gospel Light, publisher, Regal Division.

Spring Pastors' Seminar Addresses Spiritual Leadership

Twenty three pastors and region staff met at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center April 14-16 for the Spring Pastors' Seminar. The topic was "Spiritual Aspects of Leadership." The leader of the seminar was Rev. Dr. Dwight Stinnett, Executive Minister of the ABC of the Great Rivers Region. Dr. Stinnett used clips from the movie, "Apollo 13," to start off each of five sessions on leadership. He addressed issues of dependence, using God's gifts, focusing on Christ, looking for God in the fire, and practicing the presence of God.



Above: North Platte Associate Pastor, Greg Mamula, participates in a contest to remove cedar seedlings during a break at the pastors' seminar.
Left: Exec. Minister Susan Gillies and Guest Speaker Dwight Stinnett, Executive Minister of the ABC of the Great Rivers Region.
Below: Kevin Walden, Miracle Hills, takes the lead in a rock-gathering work group.



Upper left: Sara Day, MMBB, with a bucket of cedar seedlings.
Left: Pastor to Pastors Dick Peterson; Harry Riggs, FBC Lincoln; Bob Molby, Lincoln Second; and Robin Stoops, Norfolk.

Extraordinary Opportunity . . . Mission—Fishing—Fellowship

Grand Island Pastor Charlie Gregory will once again lead a group to Canada for a Fishing/Mission/Prayer Retreat. This year's event will include a study of prayer and devotional practices, fellowship building in the great outdoors, and a focus on global missions. The mission emphasis will be provided by ABC/USA Global Consultant Mike Mann. Mike's missionary experience in Thailand is extensive and he now works with our mission partners around the world on agricultural and water issues.

This event is designed for those who love to fish. The group will spend 10-14 hours each day for three days in boats. Lac la Ronge has 1500 miles of shoreline and runs to 140 feet deep. It has great walleye, northern pike, and lake trout fishing.



The price includes cabins for four nights, all meals, unlimited boat, motor and fuel, one guide for every five people, fish filleting and freezing, all transportation between La Ronge, Saskatchewan, and camp, your three-day license, and taxes. Not included in the price is your transportation to La Ronge, fishing tackle and sleeping bag.

Members of the group will need to get to the town of La Ronge on Monday afternoon, July 7 and leave Friday morning, July 11.

The event will take place at Cornhusker Fishing Camp in Northern Saskatchewan (1325 miles from Omaha), owned by members of First Baptist of Broken Bow.

This trip is open to adults and mature youth.

For more information, contact Dr. Charles Gregory, FBC, Grand Island, 308-382-6129.

GOOD SOIL Yields a Good Harvest in Albion

First Baptist of Albion participates in the Good Soil Project and is reporting positive results. Pastor Blaine Pritchett says, "First Baptist has been experiencing some phenomenal renewal generated through the Good Soil Project and fervent prayer." Since December, the church has received 13 new members. Other new families are attending and participating in the life of the congregation.

Wednesday evening fellowship suppers and small group meetings continue to grow, now averaging 90-95 plus 25 take-out meals.

The church exceeded its goal for the America for Christ Offering by 35%!

The Good Soil Project helps small churches move toward full health and vitality. For more information, contact Assoc. Exec. Minister Dave Lundholm, 308-389-4818.

Another "out of building" Experience!

In the last two issues of The Messenger, Grand Island and Norfolk reported 'out of building' experiences. Sunset Hills in Omaha is now planning one and inviting others to join in.

Sunset Hills' singing group "Forgiven" has been invited to sing the national anthem at an Omaha Royals baseball game August 26 at Rosenblatt stadium in Omaha. They've invited other ABC/NE churches to join them (at the game — not with the singing!).

Norfolk FBC Building Rises

The Norfolk FBC building was destroyed by fire in late 2006. The new building is now nearing completion.



Annual Conferences Set For Women and For Girls

American Baptist Women's Ministries:



The Annual Conference for American Baptist Women will be held at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center, **June 6-8**. All women are invited to participate in this great weekend of fellowship and renewal.

The guest speaker will be Terri Simpkins. Terry is the national president of American Baptist Women's Ministries. She is a popular speaker known for her great insight and great humor.

To register, contact Vera Duncan, 402-879-4616, kd53155@alltel.net

ABGirls:

The annual retreat of ABGirls will be held at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center simultaneous with the Women's Conference, **June 6-8**.

The theme is "Come to the Edge and Set Sail." The scripture is 1 Corinthians 16:13

This event is for girls who have completed grades 3-12. They do not have to be a part of an ABGirls group. The registration fee is \$65 per girl.

For registration information, contact Cora Redwine, 402-438-9447, werathome@alltel.net



ABMen Seeks Award Nominees

ABMen of Nebraska is seeking nominations for two annual awards. Each year the organization makes awards to the "Outstanding Layman of the Year" and the "Outstanding Clergy-person of the Year."

Layman of the Year nominees must be current members of ABMNE, known for outstanding service in men's work and active in local church programs. The award will be presented Aug. 8-9 at the ABMNE conference at Camp Moses Merrill.

Clergy Person of the Year nominees must be current pastors of an American Baptist Church in Nebraska or a current or past professional staff member of a ABC/NE church, or affiliated ABC institution; known for outstanding work and service to his or her home church, Nebraska churches and Region programs; and known for support of ABMNE men's work. The award will be presented at the annual Family Gathering on Sept. 19-20 in Kearney.

Nominations for both awards must be sent by June 1 to Terry Anderson, 8011 Ontario St., Omaha NE 68124 or to [tnanderson\(at\)cox.net](mailto:tnanderson(at)cox.net). Nomination forms are available at www.abcnebraska.com then click on "American Baptist Men" and then click on "nomination forms."

ABC BLITZ BUILD ON THE GULF COAST!

National Ministries is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge and the Carter Work Project 2008 on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA to build 11 homes for 11 deserving families in a Blitz Build. Some of these families were displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and have permanently relocated to Baton Rouge.

The first week, April 28 – May 3, workers are framing exterior and interior walls, raising roof trusses and roof decking, and installing windows, doors and vinyl siding. During the week, May 12 – 17, 50 volunteers are needed to focus on completing vinyl siding, taping and floating sheetrock, painting, and installing trim work, cabinets and landscaping.

ABC/NE Trivia [Answers on page 8]

- As of April 15, how many ABC/NE churches are actively seeking pastors or assoc. pastors?
a. 15 b. 11 c. 7 d. 5
- Which ABC/NE churches have the largest per capita giving to United Mission so far in 2008?
a. Lincoln Second & Omaha Benson
b. Palestine & Norfolk
c. Miracle Hills & Sunset Hills
d. Beatrice & Belmont
- Which ABC/NE staff persons are members of the Teamsters Union?
a. Clarence Reiss & Steve Bils; b. Clarence Reiss & Dave Lundholm; c. Dave Lundholm & Paul Kondy; d. Paul Kondy & Dick Peterson.
- When was the first annual meeting of the Nebraska Baptist State Convention (ABC/NE)? [Double points if you can name the town in which the meeting was held.]
a. 1850 b. 1868 c. 1880 d. 1901
- For whom is a very high point at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center named?
a. Adoniram Judson b. Luther Rice c. Moses Merrill d. Eliza Merrill

OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED:

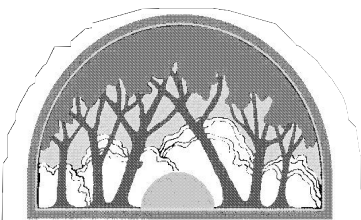


ABC/NE President Rev. Darren Stroh participates in the cedar seedling removal contest at the Pastors' Seminar.

Book of Timothy



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Moses Merrill News

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

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

Car Pooling to Camp

With gas prices "challenging," this is a great year to car pool to camp. Start by finding out which children and youth in your church are attending which camps. Next check with near-by churches, or churches on the route between your church and Moses Merrill.

Another strategy is to recruit more kids to attend camp so that the car or van from your church will have more people in it!



It's Going to Be a Great Summer at Moses Merrill DON'T MISS IT!

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC — You don't have to bring anything but yourself and a car full of friends. The food is provided by the ABC/NE Department of Camps & Conferences. A brief Memorial Service will take place at noon, followed by the picnic and horse rides, swimming, hiking, games. It's an afternoon of fun & fellowship.

CAMPING — Bring your tent or RV to camp for a great time of rest and relaxation. Make reservations by calling 1-402-666-5639. At certain times during the summer, cabins & lodge rooms are available. See info on Family Camp below.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CAMPS — It's not too late! REGISTER NOW! A wide variety of camps from primary to senior high. The theme for the summer is "Making A Difference." The Christian camping experience will make a difference in the life of a young person you know. This is the summer! Call 1-402-666-5639 or 1-877-244-7339.

Your Family Will Find Fun & Freedom At Family Camp

This year, bring your family to Moses Merrill for Family Camp. Rent a cabin or lodge room, or bring a tent or RV.

You'll enjoy time to relax, hike, play games, read, swim, ride horses, sit around the campfire and count the stars!

Call Moses Merrill or ABC/NE to receive a brochure about family vacation specials. **Family Week is June 29—July 6.**

Special family weekends are Memorial Day and Labor Day. Other weekends are available as well.
1-402-666-5639, or 1-877-244-7339



Friendship Chapel
Summer Worship
Sundays 5/25 through 9/31
10:00 am

Thank You . . .

- To everyone who helped with Project Week in April (you're welcome to come back in May!)
- To the wonderful donors who have gotten things started by giving for the Activity Building.
- To EVERYONE WHO REGISTERS EARLY!
- To our Prayer Partners across Nebraska who are praying daily for this summer season. Please join us.

From the Associate Executive Minister Dave Lundholm

Local Church News

I got a note this week asking me to "... help us at ____ to get something in the state news letter." I thought that would be a great topic for my article this time.

Information flows to the Home Town News section by two channels. The most important channel is our Home Town Editor, Darlene Rimpley of Arnold FBC. She receives newsletters from many churches, reads through them for news to share and then compiles all of that news and sends it to me.

Darlene's address has changed recently so please be sure the address you send your newsletters to is Darlene Rimpley, 912 N. Carroll, Arnold, NE 69120. The post office has notified Darlene that newsletters sent to the old address will no longer be forwarded.

The second channel is by e-mailing your news directly to me at area.minister.ne@charter.net. I collect these e-mails and when it's time for the Messenger I combine them with Darlene's work, do some preliminary editing and send them on to the Region

Office where Steve Bils puts the hometown news in final form.

It's really helpful to me if you use the word Messenger in the subject line of the e-mail and if you tell me exactly which First Baptist Church this news is about. (Most of our churches are called First Baptist Church.)

And now a word about content. We are most interested in ideas you've tried successfully that other churches might be able to adapt for their use. You do not have to list every thing that happened in your church building during the month. Please understand that we must edit articles that are too long.

So if you'd like your church mentioned in the Home Town News it's really quite simple. Put Darlene on the mailing list for your newsletter, or send an e-mail to me.

I hope this helps.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWSDarlene Rimpley

June-July Deadlines
July 9, 2008 - Print Copy
July 14, 2008 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor (Note New Address)
 Darlene RIMPLEY
 912 N. Carroll
 Arnold, NE 69120

E-Editor
area.minister.ne@charter.net
 Subject: Messenger

ALBION FBC: The church has been enjoying the results of The Good Soil Project. (See p. 3) Steve Bils recently did "Got Style" training at the church.

ARNOLD FBC: The Senior Citizens and the graduating seniors were honored at a potluck supper and program on April 27.

BEATRICE FBC: Rev. Theodora Boolin has begun her ministry at FBC. Her installation service will be held May 4. Kids Time finished their year with a fun time and ice cream sundaes.

BELLEVUE Strangers Rest: Pastor T.S. Gilliam is recuperating from his recent hospitalization. Thanks to all for prayers. Associate Pastor Dylon Young has been filling in.

CHADRON FBC: Four youth and two adults attended "Acquire the Fire" in Denver April 18-19.

COLUMBUS, FBC: Our York Association Spring Rally will be April 27 at the York Baptist Church. The AB Girls will be having a Bible Study for grades 7 - 12. The search committee is continuing their work with much prayer support!

FAIRBURY FBC: Rev. Jim Cutts has been called as Senior Pastor at FBC. He will graduate from seminary in May and will move to Fairbury to begin his ministry in June. LeRoy and Janica Richards celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on April 7, and Dwaine and Vernadine

Friesen their 53rd on April 10. NIV pew Bibles have been ordered for the sanctuary. The Youth-NET lock-in was held at the school on April 20-21, with Rev. Robin Stoops speaking.

FREMONT FBC: An open house was held at the Day Care center on April 14. The Calvary Echoes gospel quartet gave a concert at the church on April 6. Ladies' Day Out was held April 3 when they went to the Burt County Museum at Tekamah. A "40 Days of Purpose" study was begun on April 1.

GIBBON BC: A committee has been formed to plan the 120th anniversary celebration of GBC on July 20. A "New Roof" fund was kicked off with the \$1,000 proceeds from a lunch stand at property sale.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: Pictures were taken for the new church directory that will be published soon. Rev. Steve Bils spoke at the April 27 service. Susan Gillies led a "vision-to-action" session with church leaders.

HASTINGS FBC: Another "no particular reason" potluck attracted lots of food and good fellowship. A group of us had a nice time visiting and praying for the Superior church. Over 100 of us, including the Mayor of Hastings, helped Marie Pearson celebrate her 100th birthday in the church Fellowship Hall. Marie has been involved at First Baptist since the late 1920s. Pastor Larry and his wife Connie played parts in the Community Theater production of "Shadowlands," a story taken from the life of C.

S.Lewis. Leesha Harvey of Alda performed several of her original songs in our worship service Sunday April 6, including "Runyararo" about the longing for peace in Zimbabwe, and "Beautiful Destruction" about the sometimes disconcerting working of God in our lives.

HOLBROOK FBC: The Southern Union Spring Rally was held at FBC on March 30, with Susan Gillies and Rev. Steve Bils as speakers.

HOLDREGE FBC: The youth held a "Bakeless Bake Sale" to help fund their trip to Estes Park, CO to the Youth Gathering in July. The Mary Jayne Circle hosted the birthday party at Holdrege Memorial Homes on April 11. Clarence Reiss and Mary Beth Robertson were present on April 13, which was Camp Sunday. April 20 was Motorcycle Sunday. The Mansion Builders from Southern Valley School's youth ministry presented a musical on April 27. A Garage/Bake sale was held to raise money for the carpet fund.

JUNIATA CC: Christian books, tapes, CDs, videos, etc. are being gathered to send to foreign missionaries.

KEARNEY FBC: Pictures of the Easter Cantata, "The End of the Beginning" can be viewed on the church's webpage: www.kearneyfirstbaptist.org

LAVISTA JUDSON BC: The April ABW meeting focused on "Spiritual Gifts." Judson held its first "Movie Night." Many of the youth had not

seen "Passion of the Christ" so not only did they get to see the movie, but also invited their parents and friends. With the improvement in the weather, The J.O.Y. Club is planning a field trip. Judson's Annual Spring Fling was a tremendous success. The theme was "The Oregon Trail" and the women enjoyed listening to Suzanne Perry, who told all about the hardships, the fun times, and the adventures of that time. The ladies were also entertained by the lilting sounds of a hammered dulcimer - an instrument quite popular with the pioneers. Judson is getting ready to install their Memorial Wall in their new addition. Bricks were purchased in memory or in honor of loved. The bricks will have those names carved in them and will be a lasting tribute.

LINCOLN FBC: Duane Brinkley, a missionary who served in Thailand to the Karen Burmese, spoke at the church on April 26 and 27. The morning worship service was done in the Karen language. The We-KARE Mission trip held a garage sale to raise funds for their mission trip this summer. Other fund raising events have been a "Spring Game Pancake Feed", held preceding the Husker's spring game, a silent auction, and hosting the Christian Motorcycle group at dessert time following the prayer vigil at the state capitol. The Second Wednesday supper was held on April 9, with Sunny Hill from the People's City Mission speaking.

LINCOLN, SECOND BC: On March 30, all the adult Sunday School classes came together and the Middle School and High School classes combined to go through the study called "We Are Baptists." Interim pastor, Rev Bob Molby is leading the adults and Joe Wilcox and Larry Young are co-teaching the youth. April 4 the Senior Adult Ministry went on a trip to see the Sandhill Cranes. While in the region the visited Ft. Kearny, the Arch, Stuhr Museum. Our annual Camp Day fundraiser for scholarships so kids can attend Camp Merrill this summer was held on April 6. Leanna Carr lead a group of members to New Life Baptist Church in Bellevue, April 12 to pray for their church. On April 19, the AB Men had their monthly breakfast and then they did their beginning of spring yard clean up. The youth held a Bake Auction on April 20 using recipes from the SBC Cookbook.

MCCOOK FBC: The National Day of Prayer was observed with a prayer breakfast held at the Country Kitchen.

NORFOLK FBC: The Deacons went to Albion FBC on April 5 to pray for the Albion Church. An Evangelism Workshop was held on April 6, followed by a walk through of the new church. The deacons gave a gift card to the Woodland Park School to be used for the children's needs. The Heart Sisters met on April 24, where they made lap quilts and baby blankets to give to Agape Pregnancy Center and nursing home residents. Long time member, Freda Austin, 96, passed away on March 26.

OMAHA BENSON: The Senior Caring Ministry went to a Variety Show at the Rose Theater on April 20, where they heard some well-known music groups. A Prayer Pal Party was held on April 21, when last year's prayer pals were re-

vealed. Movie night was held on April 20. Esther Roose celebrated her 90th birthday on April 10. The ABW quarterly meeting was held at Benson on April 22, where John Parsons, Executive Director of the Omaha Street School spoke.

OMAHA FBC: Eight youth and two adults attended the Youth Retreat at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center in late March. Some of our youth even provided music during this event. One of our members has begun a new Outreach Ministry to not only our church family but also to anyone in the surrounding area. The ministry provides an opportunity for Spanish-speaking people to learn conversational English and English-speaking people learn conversational Spanish. About 40 have attended the first two classes. Another Outreach opportunity took place on April 22 when we hosted the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association "Smoking Cessation Classes" here at the church. Quite a few people from the surrounding area attended this one-day class. A Women's Retreat was held at Moses Merrill April 18-19 with 15 women attending. It was a great opportunity for those attending to get to know each other a little bit better and enjoy a time of spiritual reflection in God's great outdoors. The Quarterly Ministry Update and Potluck Dinner took place on April 20.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: A reception was held to welcome new pastor, Rev. Dr. Onnie Drain, to the church on April 13. A joint choir of Parkside and First Kachin members performed together at a recent worship service. Songs were sung in both Kachin and English.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: Easter events included a Maundy Thursday service and the Easter service with Pastor Ron completing his sermon series: "Eight Days to SONrise." April events include free CPR training and an information presentation on "The Influence of Technology," including internet safety. The men's breakfast on May 10, the day before Mother's Day, will honor the women of the church. The semiannual clothing drive will be that day, too. The BIG Event - with the Upscale Yard Sale, bake sale, pig roast and Sing Until Sunset - is Saturday, June 7, starting in the morning and lasting into the evening. A new Junior Youth Group is meeting on Wednesday evenings, at the same time as The E.D.G.E. middle and senior high youth. Forgiven will sing the national anthem before the Omaha Royals game on Tuesday, Aug 26, and would like it to be ABC Night at Rosenblatt.

OXFORD FBC: Sunday evening services continue to be held and well attended. Good Friday services were also held and attended. A Community Easter Sunrise service was held at the George Mitchell Park at 6:30 a.m. Following the worship service a breakfast was served at the Methodist Church.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: The "Take 6" drama team from Frontier School of the Bible in La-Grange, WY, attended the Youth Group meeting on April 9 to do some one-on-one discipleship training. Youth from the church attended "Acquire the Fire" in Denver April 18-19. A

"Spring Into Jesus" fellowship dinner and an "All Church Birthday Party" were held on April 27.

TEKAMAH FBC: Rev. Brian High, his wife Andrea, and their children (two still at home) have accepted the call to pastor FBC. They come from Clay Center, KS. Rev. High began his ministry on April 6.

YORK BAPTIST/CONGREGATIONAL: Barb Johnson has begun as pastor. She is a graduate of the Education for Lay Ministry Program. Her installation service will be May 4.

NEW MEMBERS:

OMAHA BENSON: Gerald Samla, Patricia Hagedorn, Brittany Grimaldo

TEKAMAH FBC: Debra Buck, Jennifer Palmer

HELP WANTED

Great Opportunity!

The First Baptist Church of Albion, NE is seeking an energetic director for a two-month summer youth program that would involve kids from our church and from the surrounding community. The main focus of the program is two fold: (1) to reach out to the "unchurched" youth, and (2) to provide the Christian kids with opportunities to grow spiritually. The duties of the Youth Director could include, but not be limited to - involvement with vacation Bible school; Wednesday night youth activities at the church; weekly activities at a local park; special events such as fishing trips, or tubing down a river, leading summer Sunday School; helping to set up the church float for the county fair parade; and ??????

The program would run from May 26 to July 27, 2008. We will provide housing, \$2,000 and lots of experience. If interested, send your letter of application to the Board of Christian Education, First Baptist Church, 305 South 4th Street, Albion, NE 68620. Please include the names of two references, one of which should be your pastor. If you have questions, please call (402)-395-2734.



Biennial 2009

It's never too early to start planning for the next ABC Biennial! In 2009, ABC of Los Angeles and the new association, ABC of the Southwest and Hawaii, will be hosting the denomination in Pasadena, CA. They look forward to sharing with everyone the hospitality of their region. They've sent word inviting folks to consider planning a trip to California in 2009.

F.Y.I.— 2011 Puerto Rico
2013 Somewhere in the Heartland

Camp Merrill Alumni - We need your stories!



Our camp may be best defined by campers' stories. The who, what, when, where and why of our stories are the foundation of Nebraska Baptist camping history and legacy. Whether you attended camp at Fullerton, Linwood, Chadron or the Thompson Ranch you probably have a story to share. Information provided by former campers provides pieces to a beautiful puzzle that we are eager to put together. If you ever attended

camp, or know someone who did, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us via email at camp.merrill.alumni@cox.net or the region office toll free 877-244-7339 (in Omaha: 556-4730)

**Take note:

The ABMen's spring golf tournament will be held May 3. The location is Mahoney Golf Course in Lincoln. If interested, contact Glenn Dappen 402-488-6902. Join in for a great day!

Trivia Answers

[Questions on Page 4]

1. d. Benson (Associate), Lincoln Second, Superior/Guide Rock, Columbus
2. a. The two churches are Lincoln Second & Omaha Benson. The next six churches are the ones listed in b, c, and d.
3. a. Director of Camping Clarence Reiss, an electrician, and Assoc. Exec. Steve Bils who worked for UPS, are both Teamsters.
4. b. The meeting was held in Nebraska City in November of 1868.
5. d. A high point at camp is named in honor of Eliza Merrill, the wife of Moses Merrill.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister	Susan Gillies
Associate Executive Minister	Dave Lundholm
Associate Executive Minister	Steve Bils
Director of Camping.....	Clarence Reiss
Manager, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center	MaryBeth Robertson
Camp Staff.....	Joe Huss, Jerry Buss, Trudy Reiss, Barb Fisher
Christina Pershing, Bob Schuelke, Denise Harris, Beverly Pacas	
Office Manager	Sue Gammel
Office Assistant.....	Margaret Brown-Moore
Accounting Services	Jerry Buss
Christian Education Consultant.....	Nola Oberhelman
Church Life Consultant.....	A. J. Wagstaff
Pastor to Pastors (W)	Paul Kondy
Pastor to Pastors (E)	Dick Peterson
Emergency Services Consultant.....	Jason Workman

Consider the lilies of the field
Matthew 6:28



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