

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



November 2008

ABC/NE Date Data

Finance Dept., Mission Dept.
Meetings 10:00am
ABC/NE Executive Committee
1:15pm
Grand Island
Nov 8

Vital Church Leaders Conference
Moses Merrill
Nov 10-12

Thanksgiving Dinner at
Moses Merrill
Saturday, Nov 29
Reservation deadline Nov 21

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Incorporated as
The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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Thanks be to God

With Grateful Hearts We Sing

For ministry and mission at home and abroad . . .

Thanks be to God

For church families that nurture and encourage us . . .

Thanks be to God

For church leaders who guide and inspire us . . .

Thanks be to God

For love, faith, hope & generosity . . .

Thanks be to God

White Cross Convoy . . . Ready to Roll

The ABC/NE White Cross Convoy to Muskogee, Oklahoma, will travel November 21-24. We will "hand deliver" this year's quota to the Murrow Indian Children's Home, a trip that will allow us to see first hand how the White Cross offering helps them in their ministry. We are looking forward to making connections with Joan Brown. If you can arrange to make the trip contact the region office by Nov 18.

Since Muskogee is directly south of Omaha, we will not be making pickups across the region as we did when we were traveling westward to Montana. FBC Grand Island [(308) 382-6129], FBC Lincoln [(402) 477-4198 or (402) 540-1634], and the Region Office, Omaha [(402) 556-4730], have agreed to serve as drop-off sites for quotas. We are encouraging ABW Ministries groups to find creative ways (such as church members traveling to Grand Island, Lincoln, or Omaha between now and November 21) to get their White Cross gifts to one of these three pickup sites. Call ahead to be sure someone will be there when you arrive . . . The ABCNE Executive Committee and several departments have their quarterly meetings in Grand Island on November 8 and there may be members from your association participating. Your pastor may be coming to Camp Merrill for the Vital Church Leaders Conference Nov 10-12 and we can receive your quota there.



We have asked that each box be accompanied by a contribution to the convoy expenses of at least \$20. If you are sending WalMart gift cards you can mail them to the Region Office along with your contribution to the convoy expenses. Be sure to include a list of the quota items that should be purchased with your gift card.

The route and approximate times of pickup (for passengers and boxes) on Friday, Nov 21, are as follows: Omaha Region Office 8:00 a.m., Lincoln FBC 9:00 a.m., Grand Island FBC 10:30 a.m., arrive in Muskogee at hotel 9:00 p.m. If you would like to travel with us on this convoy you will be responsible for your lodging and meal expenses. We will spend Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings in hotels. We will secure the best rates and we will try to accommodate any special requests you may have concerning your roommates. We will be back in Omaha by Monday afternoon.

If you have a minivan or an SUV that you would be willing to make available for this trip, please contact me immediately. We may also need a full-sized pickup truck with a suitable hitch to pull a trailer. If you have one we can use, please call the region office.

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

Making A Difference

I heard our ABC-USA General Secretary Roy Medley speak at the Orientation to ABC Life Conference at Green Lake in October. As he spoke, he mentioned names very familiar to American Baptists . . . Adoniram and Ann Judson, John Mason Peck, Joanna P. Moore, William Simmons, Lulu Fleming*. But as he continued, I felt myself choke up because he started to mention people I knew and loved. He spoke of the heritage we've been given by people like Matthew Guiffrida and Carrie Bell Brown. These were two people who were still active home missionaries when I was commissioned as a home missionary.

Matthew Guiffrida worked for decades helping refugees find safe havens. He worked quietly, never seeking the spotlight. Yet, he led ABC into being the leader in refugee resettlement among American denominations working through Church World Service.

Carrie Bell Brown brought tremendous giftedness as a manager, a visionary, and a pastor in developing Christian Center ministry and bringing it into modern life in urban America. For years, she directed the Dayton Christian Center in Ohio.

Then I realized Roy Medley was telling these stories so eloquently because he knew that there were people in the room who would take their place in the list of pastors and missionaries who have helped lead and define our American Baptist family . . . people God is using to change lives and transform communities.

Each of us is called to make a difference for Christ in our own arenas of life. Sometimes a small, simple act will influence and change someone's life. What can you do today?

I am grateful at this Thanksgiving time for the American Baptist family. I am grateful for the wonderful "saints" who have gone before us. I am grateful for those who today are making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ.

**If you don't recognize these names, I encourage you to read Down By the Riverside and other resources available from www.judsonpress.com These peoples' lives are wonderfully inspiring.*



From the Associate Executive Minister Steve Bills

The History of White Cross

We will be delivering the White Cross gifts to our designated mission again this fall. In each of the last two years we went to Lodge Grass, Montana and this year we go to Muskogee, Oklahoma (see story on p.1). For those whose knowledge of the history is incomplete (me included) I did a bit of research . . .

The official White Cross story begins in 1919 following World War I. Although that is the official year White Cross as we know it today began, White Cross efforts were in place long before.

It is reported that back in 1827, Mrs. Jonathan Wade, a missionary in Burma, wrote, "if the ladies and little misses in America should follow the example of the good and benevolent ladies of England, in sending out boxes of small articles for the schools, they would be very acceptable and save considerable expenses." The ladies and little misses did follow the example of the women of England, for further correspondence tells of supplies which reached her and were put to use. With these efforts, one could say that this may have been the beginning of a service by American Baptist women to undergird the work of their missionaries.

History also reports that in 1849 American Baptist women organized a system to fill the needs of home missions and "Missionary Boxes" were sent to missionaries in the United States.

It is also recorded that between 1916 and 1918 – American Baptist women worked tirelessly to provide surgical dressings, bandages and other hospital supplies for the Red Cross during World War I. So as you can see White Cross has been around for a long time.

But it is in April 1919 that two women in Cleveland, Ohio, conceived the idea of channeling the interest, skill and knowledge gained through their Red Cross work into meeting the needs of mission hospitals and schools. They organized a mission society called the White Cross Service League, which was launched at the Annual Meeting of the East Central District in Columbus, Ohio. And in May of that year, the Woman's American Baptist

Foreign Mission Society better known as International Ministries adopted the White Cross Service program. In September of the same year The Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, now known as National Ministries, adopted and recommended that White Cross be a union effort with two divisions, "overland" and "overseas."

At the April 1919 meeting, the League listed its purpose as follows: The object of the League is to serve the Mission front as peculiarly and effectively as the Red Cross served the Battlefield; to bring cheer and comfort to missionaries, to serve humanity by relieving suffering and want and to aid all evangelical and educational agencies of the Denomination in order that Christ on Calvary may be held up before the world, an aim most significant in view of Christ's words in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

To this end the women of the churches will knit, sew, gather clothing and buy all kinds of supplies for City Mission Centers, Community Houses, Day Nurseries, Hospitals, Orphanages, Schools and Mission Stations in general.

Today, White Cross is touching the lives of thousands. Reaching out across the country and around the world...

Through International Ministries, Overseas White Cross supports the work of our missionaries and our mission partners in 19 countries around the world as they serve in programs of education, evangelism, community service, and medical care.

Through National Ministries, Overland White Cross provides important aid to 56 authorized mission sites. These sites include children's homes and Christian Center work in Alaska; ministries with Native Americans in Arizona, Nevada, Montana, and Oklahoma; Neighborhood Action Christian Centers in urban areas across the country; Race Track ministries; New Church Plants; Asian and Hispanic ministries with community outreach programs; and churches in Puerto Rico.



Vital Church Leaders Conference at Moses Merrill, Nov. 10-12

The Vital Church Leaders Conference will once again be held at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center. The event will be Nov. 10-12 and there is still room for participants.

The conference is designed for anyone who would like to be a vital church leader. Both lay and clergy participants are welcome. The event planners hope that participants will benefit from the combined experience and wisdom of leaders and other participants.

Sponsors are the ABC Regions of the Dakotas, Nebraska, Central and Mid-American.

Registration, housing and meals will cost each participant \$130. ABC/NE Pastors can receive Carpenter Fund grants to cover this cost.



*Spiritual Practices for
21st Century Congregations*

LEADERS:

Rev. Judy Allbee, Executive Minister of ABC of Connecticut, will lead the main sessions of the conference. With experience as a local church pastor, resource minister, and Executive Minister, Judy has devoted her ministry to assisting churches and pastors in discerning and acting on what God is calling to be and do in their local settings and beyond.

Charles "Bucky" Sydnor, ABC Missionary to Nepal, will bring the message at each of the conference worship experiences. He serves, committed to holistic mission, in one of the world's poorest countries.

Robin & Regan Stoops, father-son pastors will lead worship.

2009 Officers of ABC of Nebraska

President — Ted Hartung, Lincoln Second
Vice-President — Onnie Drain, Omaha Parkside
Secretary — Roberta Williston, LaVista, Judson
Treasurer— LaVonna Cline, Lincoln, First
Past-President—Darren Stroh, Bridgeport

Other Members of the Board:

Kathryn Benson, Palestine
Janis Berry, Omaha, Miracle Hills
Linda Black, Holdrege
Art Chapin, Prairie Union
Ernie Denniston, Omaha, Benson
Karen Denton, Beatrice
Woody Falkena, North Platte
Treva Gangwish, Gibbon
Jim Green, Scottsbluff
Irv Jennings, Arnold
Gam Lahpai, Omaha, First Kachin
Sue Pudwill, Lincoln, Second
Joe Roten, Alliance
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Ken Sciford, Omaha, First
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Kevin Walden, Omaha, Miracle Hills
Kathi Witherspoon, Norfolk

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Karen Denton, Beatrice
Paul Marine, Omaha, Benson
Carl Ratcliff, Valley
Cora Redwine, Lincoln, Belmont
Jeff Schwarz, Beatrice
Robin Stoops, Norfolk
Brian Thompson, Arthur
Floretta Ward, Sunset Hills

Church Vitality Dept:

Trudi Bils, Omaha Underground
Dick Gee, Grand Island
Kristen Kesterson, Bridgeport
Shelley Knott, Arthur
Charlene Morris-Quarells, King Solomon
Glenn Williamson, Columbus

Please notify the region office if there are any mistakes or misspellings in this list.

Four Nebraskans Selected For Orientation to ABC Life

Four ABC/NE folks were selected to attend this year's Orientation to ABC Life Conference at Green Lake. The event, held Oct. 16-19, was attended by Trudy Bils, leader of Omaha Underground Church; Onnie Drain, pastor of Parkside Baptist Church; Greg Mamula, Assoc. pastor of FBC, North Platte; and Dylon Young, Assoc. pastor of Strangers Rest Baptist Church in Bellevue.

Names were solicited from the region over a year ago. The conference is designed for seminary students and pastors new to the ABC.

ABC/NE Executive Minister Susan Gillies was one of five regional executive ministers who participated in leadership along with leaders from International Ministries, National Ministries, Office of the General Secretary, the Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board, and other ABC organizations.

Finance & Investment Dept:

John Dennert, Fremont
Bob Fairchild, Lincoln, First
Vivienne Friday, Bellevue, New Life
Stan Jensen, York
Greg Mamula, North Platte
Richard Peterson, Omaha, Benson

Professional Ministry Dept:

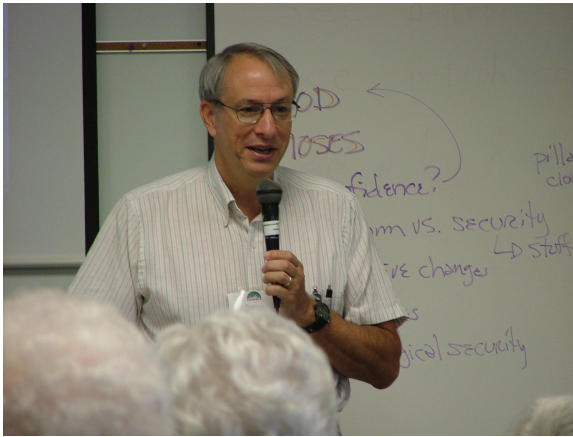
Winnie Dowding, Lincoln, First
Lee Foreman, Fremont
Michael Friday, Bellevue, New Life
Joanne Kondy, North Platte
Stan Murdoch, Kearney
Tom Wiles, North Platte

Mission Dept:

Kathy Brown, Omaha, Sunset Hills
Sandy Goodwater, Ansley
Mark Jackson, Tekamah
Johnny Nelson, Holdrege
Margene Phares, North Platte
Marilyn Waldron, Lincoln, Second



Director of Camping Clarence Reiss leads volunteers on fall work projects at Moses Merrill. Individuals and groups have completed wi-fi access at Ward Conference Center; and are working on remodeling of Park Grove Lodge, fallen tree clean-up, roofing projects, painting, winterizing tasks. THANKS TO ALL!



Adult Ministries Conference

Missionary Duane Binkley (left) and Digging Deeper Leader Winnie Dowding (right) led well received sessions at this year's Adult Ministries Conference at Moses Merrill. Each year, seniors gather in early Oct. for learning, fellowship and fun.



Tidbits You Might Miss . . .

Nebraska Baptists are generally good citizens and won't miss Nov. 4 Election Day. We will also honor Veteran's Day on Nov. 11. Even though it is not often part of our tradition, some Nebraska Baptists will honor All Saints Day on Nov. 1 and think of some of their special "saints" who have gone before.

But there are other dates in November you might miss, if it weren't for *The Messenger!*

The internet tells us that Nov. 14 is "Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day." We wonder if that's the only day of the year for this activity. If so, it becomes very important.

Nov. 16 is "Mother-In-Law" Day. Hmm. *The Messenger* strongly recommends honoring mothers-in-law on Mothers' Day in May. Separating them out doesn't seem like a good idea.

There are several food related days which should appeal to Nebraska Baptists . . .

—Nov. 3 is "National Sandwich Day."

—Nov. 17 is "Homemade Bread Day." (Shouldn't that be much more often?)

—Nov. 23 is "National Cashew Day"

—Nov. 26 is "National Cake Day."

The Messenger thinks you can come up with appropriate ways to celebrate these!

Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelmen
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Ideas for churches who want to support their Sunday School teachers:

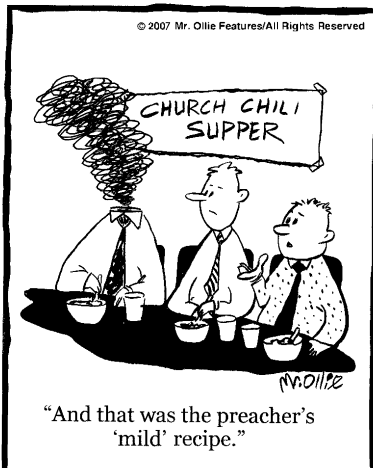
1. Greet teachers with coffee and a smile when they arrive.
2. Volunteer to prepare and supervise a learning activity in a session.
3. Volunteer to take a entire session!
4. Give them gift cards for the local book or arts/crafts store.
5. Give the Sunday School a shower of supplies, books, and Bibles.

IDEA: Get two or three churches (or an association) together and invite Nola to do a workshop on new life for your Sunday School! —*The Messenger*

ABC/NE Trivia (Answers on Page 8)

1. Before it was called, American Baptist Churches, USA, the denomination had what name?
 - a. Northern Baptist Convention, b. Association of Baptists, c. American Baptist Convention
 - d. North American Baptists, e. Both a & c.
2. The two major program boards (missionary societies) of the denomination are referred to by which initials?
 - a. IM & NM, b. EM & NM, c. MMBB, d. OGS & IM
3. Which of the following designations indicate the ABC's retirement board?
 - a. EM, b. ABCRB, c. ABCRET, d. MMBB
4. How many ABC churches are there?
 - a. 1000, b. 3000, c. 5000, d. 7000
5. Which of the following was not an early Baptist leader?
 - a. Adoniram Judson, b. Luther Rice, c. John Mason Peck, d. Roy Medley

Book of Timothy



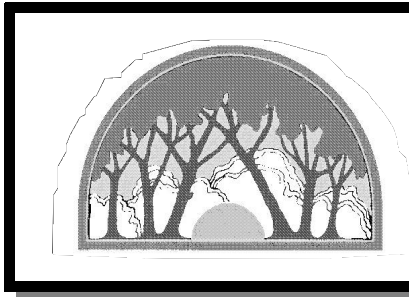
New Life Center Featured on PBS Television Program

Nationally acclaimed PBS television program, *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly*, recently featured the ministry of the New Life Center Foundation in Northern Thailand. This is not the first time the media has highlighted the more than 20 years of work by New Life, which works to rescue women and girls from the bondage of forced labor, slavery and prostitution.

American Baptist International Ministries missionaries Karen Smith and Kit Ripley work for the New Life Center Foundation. They both expressed hope that the television coverage in August would continue to raise awareness about the critical work New Life does among tribal girls and women in Thailand.

"My faith calls me, motivates me, and inspires me to work to create social and economic justice for all people," said Karen, who serves as program director at New Life. She has worked with the ministry since 1999. "The work of [New Life] is just a part of that call, that response to God's love. The story is a tribute to the incredible things that God is doing, and has done, over the past 20 years at the New Life Center."

View the program at the following link: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1151/feature.html>



Moses Merrill News

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

Dear Friends,

What a great fall we are having at Moses Merrill. If you haven't been out to visit, there's still time. I'm sure you know that squirrels are crazy anyway, but this time of year they are a sight! They can't possibly remember all the places they bury nuts. I don't chase squirrels. I had an unfortunate incident with a humorless squirrel when I was 2 yrs. old and, since then, I leave them alone.

We had a good pastors' seminar in October. The pastors work really hard when they're here but they find time for some hiking, too. I heard it was Pastor Appreciation Month so I purred when they came near me. They seemed to like it.

Now my main task is to cheer up MaryBeth, Clarence & Trudy. Sometimes they are sad when there are not as many kids around.

Have a good Thanksgiving!

—Camp Cat

Building Bridges Campaign Confronted by Challenges Keeps Moving On . . .

Folks who contributed to the **Match-the-Match** during the summer are receiving letters from ABC/NE explaining that our major donor has had to step back from the full amount of his pledge. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as the campaign continues.

It is very impressive that Nebraska Baptists have raised over \$500,000 toward the Multi-Ministry Building. (Before the donor withdrawal, the total was about \$263,000 higher.)

A second challenge is the escalating cost estimates on the waste water management project. Camp & region staff will be working with engineers and the state to see if there is some way to bring projected costs down.

Executive Minister, Susan Gillies, said: "Our earnest prayer is that people will continue to support the vision. Contributions, even without matching gifts, are vitally important. Completing the Building Bridges Campaign will be a blessing not only to all of us but also to future generations of Nebraska Baptists."

Moses Merrill Is a Busy Place All Year Round

Programming at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center has become year-round. By providing adult discipleship opportunities, family reunions, church retreats and other activities, the facility is more economically stable than when it was focused on summer children's camps alone. According to Camp Manager MaryBeth Robertson, "Programming for children and youth is still a top priority but we are only able to afford to continue to do that ministry because of the income generated by expanded year-round programming. It's a win-win . . . for children and adults."



November special events include the Vital Church Leaders Conference (see p. 3); and a very special **Thanksgiving Dinner, Saturday, Nov. 29** (1:00 pm, reservation required, \$10 donation suggested)

Christmas services at Friendship Chapel will be at 4pm each Sunday 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21 and a special Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm on 12/24.

Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center relies on regular contributions from people who believe in the ministry and want to be a part of it.



From the Associate Executive Minister Dave Lundholm

Living in the Midst of Fear

For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

All you have to do is listen to the news to know that the people around us are afraid. They are afraid about the environment. They are afraid about the economy. They are afraid for their jobs. They are afraid about their retirement. There is fear even among the people of faith.

I think that fear is so intense right now because people sense that their god is dying. Many have put their trust in the dollar, or in the economy, or in their own self sufficiency only to discover that these gods have failed them. They have discovered that "...man-made gods are no gods at all." (Acts 19:26) And so they are in panic.

As people of faith, as we contemplate our level of fear we have to confess that our fear comes because we too have put our trust in other gods, (dollars, investments, personal resources) instead of in the one true God. For this we must repent and move on.

God placed his people in the world for such a time as this. As

the people of God we have a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline not a spirit of fear. God promises that he will take care of us...

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:31-34)

... so let's claim the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead. Let's claim the love of God that sent his own Son to pay the penalty for our sins. Let's exercise the self discipline that will enable us to wisely manage all of our resources for the good, not of ourselves but of the Kingdom of God.

When we do these things, the seas around our churches will become calm while the hurricane of fear rages around us. And people will again turn to God and his people for peace in their lives.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

January Deadlines

Dec. 5, 2008 - Print Copy

Dec. 9, 2008 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor (Note New Address)

Darlene RIMPLEY

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E-Editor

area.minister.ne@charter.net

Subject: Messenger

ARNOLD FBC: Three members of the church, who serve as EMTs, Tammy Weinman, Tim Rosentrater, and Pastor Irv Jennings, were selected to go to Las Vegas to receive the award that was given to the Arnold EMT unit as the outstanding one in the United States.

BEATRICE, FBC: The church had a dedication of children on Oct. 19. Trunks & Treasures, a community outreach program, was Oct 31. Plans are underway for a church planning retreat at Moses Merrill Nov 14.

BELLEVUE, STRANGERS REST MBC: The church celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Sept 14 and held an appreciation service for Pastor T.S. Gilliam on Sept 28. Their annual "Friends and Family" Sunday On October 26 featured Merlin Klaus from Salem Baptist Church.

BRIDGEPORT FBC: October has been set aside as Missions Awareness Month. We have locally supported missionaries coming to share with us their ministries during our worship times each week, along with highlighting International Ministries. Our Kid's Club program is putting together Christmas shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Varsity Youth is collecting items for care packages for relief efforts for Ike survivors. We are also beginning the collection process for the White Cross offering. Jackie Smith has agreed to take on the role of Sunshine Coordinator, sending out birthday, anniversary and sympathy cards as well as a transcript of the sermon to all who weren't able to

make it to church on Sundays, letting them know that they were missed.

CHADRON FBC: A Men's Prayer Breakfast was begun on Oct 4 with the theme, "Building, Men of Faith; Building Men, Of Faith". Supper and Bible study for the college students is being held every Monday night. An All-Church Fall Party was held on Oct 31.

FAIRBURY FBC: Russell Miller, who had been a member of the church since 1935, passed away on Sept 3. The Youth Group held a community/area wide worship service on Oct 19. Youth from nine communities were encouraged to come.

FREMONT FBC: Over 100 Midland College football players attended FBC on a recent Sunday morning as a show of faith. Mike Mann, Missionary to Thailand, spoke at the church on Oct 26, following a carry in supper. The Kids Klub went to Camp Merrill on Sept 24. Casey Howard attended the National Leaders of AB Girls Meeting at Valley Forge. The film, "Pilgrim's Progress" was shown on Oct 5.

GIBBON BAPTIST: Parent-Child Dedication was held Sept 14. Brandon & Erika Jessop were married Sept 20. Kimberly and Austin Clevenger were married on Sept 27. Stephanie Jo & Joshua Leonard were married Oct 18th. "See You at The Pole" was Sept 24 and Gibbon Baptist youth helped the total of attenders reach 165.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: The Grand Island Association Meeting was held at FBC on Oct 27, with the Chapman ladies hosting and giving the program. A Parent-Child dedication was held for Jay and Jessica Blattner, Jase and Jarren on Sept 14.

HASTINGS FBC: The Men's Breakfast was held Oct 18. The week of Oct 19-25, church members supported "Week Without Violence" sponsored by the Hastings Police Dept.

HOLDREGE FBC: Pastor Linda Bergeon has been called as the Interim Pastor at FBC. Jaden Dean Brand was dedicated to the Lord on Sept 20. Mary Jane Circle hosted the Christian Homes birthday party on Oct 3. An alternative Halloween evening was hosted by FBC, North Park Assembly, and Bethel Lutheran Churches on Oct 31.

JUNIATA CC: A barbeque was held following the Life Chain, with proceeds going to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. The annual beef and noodle dinner was held on Oct 15, and included a quilt raffle, crafts, and baked goods sale.

KEARNEY FBC: The women of the church enjoyed the Annual Evening with the Pastor's Wives on Oct. 22. The Youth ministry of the church is working with other churches in the community to sponsor a parenting seminar Nov. 1.

LINCOLN FBC: The FBC women, and their

friends, are holding a Craft Night the second Friday of every month. There is a Chinese Worship and a Russian Worship service held at the church every Sunday, and a Japanese Bible study held on Monday nights.

LINCOLN, 2BC: Ruth E. Mooney, ABC Missionary, was guest speaker on Sept 26, sharing with us about her work in Central America. Youth Group went to see "Fireproof" on Sept 28 and they also, went to Roca Berry Farm on Oct 26. On Oct 12, the Diaconate honored our long term members. Oct 30, Family Ministries held their Fall Family Festival. Get ready for Slime Time! Senior Adult Ministries went to Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha on Oct 4. They also stopped at the new Cabella's and Baker's Chocolate Factory. Nov 1, Revs. Steve Bills and Dave Lundholm held a workshop about "Dreaming About the Future" at Second Baptist.

LAVISTA, JUDSON: Judson is happy to welcome Rev. Steve Jergensen and his wife, Diane, to Judson. Rev. Jergensen will serve as Interim Pastor. The Search Committee is working hard to find a new pastor for Judson. Pastor Appreciation was celebrated all month with cards, notes, and gifts to all the pastors who are members of Judson. In lieu of our monthly Fellowship Lunch, Judson held a "Welcome to Fall - You All" cookout. The Judson family cleaned out garages and attics and brought their treasures to the church for an all-church garage sale. Several members joined together on a Saturday and painted a member's house that was damaged a few months ago in our "hurricane." Judson's book club is going strong and the use of the Judson library is up.

Judson's alternative church service/music program, The Gathering, has started up again after taking time off during the summer. Once again the ABW women and girls prepared and delivered lunch to 20 Habitat for Humanity Volunteers. John Ortberg was invited to the ABW Ministries meeting at Judson. The program was "Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them." The young people went to the Papiro Fun Plex and had a great time.

MCCOOK FBC: The ABW women have begun a mentoring program for the young mothers of the church. They began by taking the young mothers to the George Norris Home for Tea time. The church is hosting a "Feasts of God" Bible study.

NORFOLK FBC: Missionary Mike Mann (Thailand) spoke at the church on Oct 26, preceded by a pot-luck dinner. The Women's Fall Banquet was held on Oct 16. Witherspoon's Sunday School Class served at the homeless mission on Oct 23. Supper 8 began in October, where eight people (couples or singles) will take turns hosting pot-luck suppers for their group. A report on the "How Can I Help" activities shows \$14,075.67 was given through e-bay sales, "Change Brings Praise", Rebate Sunday, garage sales, and the Labor of Love Pool.

OMAHA BENSON: A "Trunk or Treat" was held in the church parking lot on Oct 31, when members passed out treats to the neighborhood children. The "Front Lines" youth group then held an overnight lock-in. KIDS Opening Night was held on Oct 1. A bingo Night and Chili Feed was held on Oct 4 at the church. The Senior Caring Ministry viewed the film, "War Comes to Nebraska", which told of what happened in Nebraska during World War II, and then enjoyed lunch. Missions gave \$1,000 to Lisa Repair, who is attending seminary.

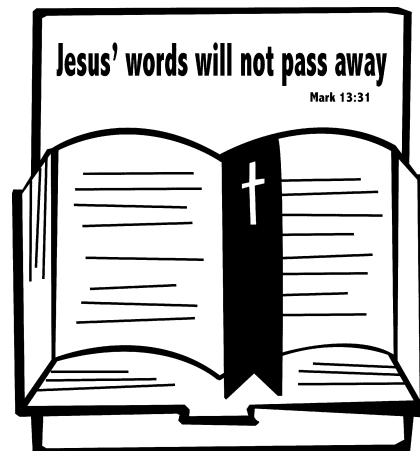
OMAHA FIRST: The church held a grand celebration of its 150th anniversary with a dinner at the DC Center in Omaha on Oct 10. The Faith Community Feeding Program has been launched. Lunch is served every Saturday with area churches helping with food and clean-up. A Happy Harvest Party was held for children at the church Oct 29. Oct 19 was Youth Sunday. A special gathering was held Oct 24 when church members were able to identify their gifts and how best they can be used.

OMAHA MIRACLE HILLS: The church organized a special 5th year celebration for Rev. Kevin and Melody Walden. The special service of recognition and appreciation was held Oct 26. John Parsons of the Omaha Street School was the speaker.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: School supplies were recently collected and given to the Foster Care Program of Omaha. The church has a bowling team that bowls on Thursday nights.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS BC: Dean and Joanne Kelley celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with an open house Sept 14. They were married Sept 17, 1948 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Omaha. Ben and Becki Pike are parents of a son, Collin James, born Sept 18

Oct 4 was Fall church cleaning day. Oct 11 was the monthly men's breakfast with special guests - the AB Men of Nebraska board of directors. Oct 11 members participated in a walk to fight diabetes. Oct 18 ABW held its annual Baked Steak Dinner.



OXFORD FBC: The past few months have been busy ones for FBC. The "Turkey Days" Ice Cream social netted \$475.02 for the Deacons Fund. FBC took part in and hosted the Community Vacation Bible School, "Take the Plunge", July 7-11. Jerry and Jo Wilson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 24, Dean and Jean Birt their 50th on June 22, and Bill and Joanne Shelton their 50th on Sept 6.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: "Son of the Harvest" Festival was held on Oct 5. The theme centered on seeds that all congregants had been given in the spring, and they were encouraged to bring a food dish made from the fruits of those seeds. The evening also included games and a concert by "The Prairie Dogs", a county-bluegrass-gospel singing group. A Penny Carnival was held on Oct 25 to benefit Operation Christmas Child. The "End Zone" youth group went to Evans Plunge in Hot Springs, SD on Oct 18 for a fun day. The Christian band, "Acacia" gave a concert for the youth, and the church, on Oct 22. A "Trunk Or Treat" was held on Oct 31, when car trunks were filled with goodies and passed out to trick or treaters in the church parking lot.

TEKAMAH FBC: Gordy Whitcomb has been called and set aside as a lay minister of the FBC. The church Fall Fun Fest was held on Oct 12 at Camp Fontenelle. The church delivered Meals On Wheels Oct 6-10.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

FREMONT FBC: Kelly Brence, Marilyn Puepke, Debra Peyton, Bryan Thompson, Mike Hodges

HOLDREGE FBC: Sean, Robbie, and Jacob Pollard, Coby and Braden Anderson

OMAHA BENSON: Diane Cheek, Ken Spencer, Shelby Brammer, Deborah Aluph, Catherine Aluph, Alyssa Gade



A SPECIAL MISSION EVENT

FEATURING DR. ROY MEDLEY
GENERAL SECRETARY, ABC-USA

HOLD THE DATES:
MARCH 27-29, 2009
NORTH PLATTE, NE



Attitude of Gratitude

Thoughts of Thanksgiving give us a good reminder that this is a great time to demonstrate an attitude of gratitude.. Consider these spiritual exercises for November:

1. Write a note expressing your appreciation to someone who has made an impact in your life (a teacher, pastor, friend, family member, neighbor).
2. At the end of each day, thank God for three specific things you experienced during that day.
3. As you leave the church building on a Sunday, don't just thank the pastor for the sermon . . . thank him/her for something specific from the sermon. (This will require listening!)

Make or buy a Thanksgiving card for someone who probably won't receive one.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

| | |
|---|--|
| Executive Minister..... | Susan Gillies |
| Associate Executive Minister..... | Dave Lundholm |
| Associate Executive Minister | Steve Bills |
| Director of Camping..... | Clarence Reiss |
| Manager, Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center | MaryBeth Robertson |
| Camp Staff..... | Joe Huss, Jerry Buss, Trudy Reiss, Barb Fisher Bob Schuelke, Denise Harris, Beverly Pacas |
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| Church Life Consultant..... | A. J. Wagstaff |
| Pastor to Pastors (W) | Paul Kondy |
| Pastor to Pastors (E) | Dick Peterson |
| Emergency Services Consultant..... | Jason Workman |

Trivia Answers (from page 4)

1. e. ABC-USA has also been known as the American Baptist Convention and the Northern Baptist Convention.
2. a. IM (International Ministries) & NM (National Ministries)
3. d. MMBB (Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board)
4. c. There are about 5000 churches in the ABC.
5. d. Roy Medley is the current General Secretary of ABC-USA.



A Great Way to Live:

*Pray in the Morning
Pray at Noonday
Pray in the Evening*



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