

the **ESSENGER**

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



MARCH 2003
ABC/NE Date Data

Jr. High Xtreme Retreat
March 14-16, 2003
Sr. High Retreat
April 4-6, 2003
Western 5th & 6th Grade Event
April 12, 2003
ABC/NE Dept & Exec Comm.
May 17, 2003
ABW Ministries Conference
June 6-8, 2003
AB Men's Conference
August 15-16, 2003
Family Reunion
Sept. 26-28, 2003

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ABC General Secretary Will Speak at Family Reunion



ABC-USA General Secretary A. Roy Medley will be the speaker for the 2003 ABC/NE Family Reunion in North Platte September 26-28. The annual convention theme will be "Connecting ..."

"This is a great opportunity for Baptists in Nebraska to get acquainted with our new General Secretary," according to ABC/NE President Bob Phares. "During the first year in the position, Rev. Medley has brought a wonderful pastor's heart to the ABC. We look forward to welcoming him to Nebraska."

Rev. Medley began as General Secretary in January of 2002. He served in the past as a pastor, area minister, National Director of the Neighborhood Action Program, and as Executive Minister of the ABC of New Jersey.

The Family Reunion is the annual convention of American Baptists in Nebraska. This year's event will be held at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte. First Baptist Church of North Platte is the host church.

60th Anniversary of Moses Merrill Camping In Nebraska

This year Nebraska Baptists will celebrate 60 years of Moses Merrill camping in the state. Nebraska Baptists have recognized the value of camps and conferences from the earliest days. Some events were held in the early years on college campuses and at rented camp facilities.



In 1943, Nebraska Baptists purchased a camping facility near Fullerton, Nebraska. This camp was Moses Merrill Baptist Camp, named after the first missionary to serve in the Nebraska Territory. Recognizing the commitment of the churches of the state to mission, many of the cabins at Fullerton were named after missionaries.

In the early 1970s, land near Linwood was acquired and dedicated. Over several years facilities were developed and camping was shifted from Fullerton to Linwood.

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary, the ABC/NE Camps & Conferences Department will host a festive event on Memorial Day. If you know of persons who now live out of state, but attended either camp, please send their names to the Region Office and they will be invited to the Anniversary celebration.

Western Nebraska ABMen Gather In Arnold



American Baptist Men are gathering in Arnold for the ABMen's Far West Conference March 7-8. The theme of the event is "Mentoring." Men from all ABC/NE churches are invited. There will be a separate conference track for junior and senior high young men.

Rev. Dave Heintzleman, North Platte, and Rev. Irv Jennings, Arnold, are providing leadership.

The conference will be held at First Baptist Church of Arnold. Registration begins at noon on the 7th with fun activities for those who arrive early. The conference schedule begins with the evening meal.

From the Executive Minister..... Susan Gillies

MISSION -- From Sea To Shining Sea

Does your church participate in the *America for Christ* Offering? March is the time that most churches focus attention on mission in America and receive this important offering. (If your church doesn't take the offering, encourage it to do so.) The theme of the offering this year is "We See You!" In ABC mission activities across America, we can see Jesus transforming lives. During the 13 years that I served with the home mission societies of ABC, I was blessed by having the opportunity to see mission "up close and personal."

I have seen Jesus at work through our missionaries on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona, in the delta of Mississippi and in Christian Centers across the country. I visited ships in port to off-load cooking oil and cement and Toyotas. Our work through the Seamen's Church Institute provides pastors to visit the sailors who often can't leave the ship for a year at a time. I have met in storefront churches with new church planters and prayed for the work they were beginning – made possible by *America For Christ*.

As I drove home from Broken Bow the other day, I heard a story on the radio about Hamtramck, Michigan. The radio news

story told about a specific effort begun in 1968 to improve life for some of the folks in that small urban community completely surrounded by Detroit. This was LONG before I worked at Valley Forge but my attention was

caught immediately . . . I was a volunteer in 1968 at Friendship House, our ABC Christian Center in Hamtramck. I was there as that project was born. The radio story went on to say that this effort, begun so many years ago, was finally coming to be. Wow! Sometimes prayers take a long time. There is wonderful ministry happening at Friendship House today made possible by *America For Christ*.

In another place in this issue of *The Messenger*, you will read about George Langhorne. I sat on the search committee that brought George to Valley Forge. Now he is making a tremendous difference for our military chaplains. The ABC network that endorses and encourages military and hospital chaplains is made possible by *America For Christ*.

The exciting renewal program, **Tomorrow's Harvest**, is making a difference for churches in Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. It is made possible by *America For Christ*.

My part in all of this is insignificant, but I share it because I am compelled to bear witness to what I see Jesus doing in America today. Please respond to this opportunity to support mission in America, from sea to shining sea!



**to support missions
in this country**

OPTIMISTIC SENIORS

Don Gaines

One of the few television programs I have watched recently was Larry King interviewing Paul Harvey. Impressive statistics were quoted supporting the assertion that Paul Harvey has the largest audience of any radio personality. I was surprised to hear that he writes all of his broadcast scripts and his commercials. However, I was more impressed with his enthusiasm and his optimism. He spoke of getting up at 1:30 a.m. every morning and hardly being able to wait to get to the station and find out what is happening in the world. Then came the statement that he is 84 years old and recently signed a new ten-year contract to continue the broadcasts. That is optimism!

This got me to thinking about what is happening with the attitudes of some of the folks in many of our churches where the members are showing serious signs of aging. Remembering the "glory days" of the past, they lament the decline in attendance and the absence of young families in the church. They feel deep sadness as they see the day coming when the faithful will be gone and the church will have to close. It is true that the church environment has changed dramatically, and it may be that the life cycle of the church will soon be completed. However, is there not still reason for joy and celebration as we worship the God of all creation? Is there not still reason for thanksgiving as the wonders of nature unfold around us and the love of family engulfs us? Is there not still a need for Christians to gather to pray for each other and our world, to share each other's joys and disappointment, to learn and grow in the faith as we study the Scriptures? Is there no longer anybody who is lonely that needs a telephone call, who is ill that needs a note of encouragement, who is sad that needs a smile?

We may not have the good health, the resources, and the opportunities that Paul Harvey has. We do have a God who loves us and a Lord who died that we might experience forgiveness of sin and abundance of life in Him. Therein is our reason for enthusiasm and hope, regardless of our age. Therein is our reason for continuing to be obedient and faithful in serving Him through all of the changing experiences of our lives.

ON THE FRONT LINES OF FAITH

As the world worries about war ... who would guess the military makes room--in the midst of armed conflict--for God and faith? As UN weapons inspectors comb the catacombs of Iraq, the eyes of the world focus on America's armed forces. In these days of uncertainty, news reports tell the stories of soldiers and sailors, privates and generals, preparing for war.

There's another story, just as important, that goes untold. That's the story of military chaplains. These specially trained pastors tend to the hearts, minds, and souls of the soldiers and sailors--and generals as well--who fight on the front lines.

More than 250 American Baptist chaplains serve in the Army, Air Force, and Navy. National Ministries' director for Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services, the Rev. Dr. George Langhorne, who recruits these chaplains, provides them with annual training and an ongoing connection to the denomination.

That means Langhorne assures that those American Baptist clergy who feel called to minister in the military continue to be "committed first to their faith." As he puts it, "Chaplains need to be about caring for God's people in uniform."

Chaplaincy is a "rich ministry," Langhorne says, and he should know--he served as a U.S. Navy chaplain for 25 years.

Military pastors provide prayers, religious instruction, worship opportunities, communion, and a lot of counseling to those fighting a war. Even though chaplains stay back from the front lines for the most part, Langhorne says: "You live with your congregation; where they go, you go; what they eat, you eat."

Chaplains minister to the families of soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors as well and provide counsel to commanding officers. It's a big job: One chaplain can be assigned to as many as 1,000 soldiers or sailors. And not all of those will be American Baptists, of course, so chaplains need to know about the practices and beliefs of other faiths.



When American Baptist Churches endorses pastors for chaplaincy, Langhorne makes sure those candidates are "morally, ethically, spiritually, and theologically" qualified to serve as clergy in the armed forces. The military assures its soldiers are prepared for battle, but Langhorne takes great care to assure American Baptist military chaplains are prepared to do battle for God.

Ministry to the Armed Forces

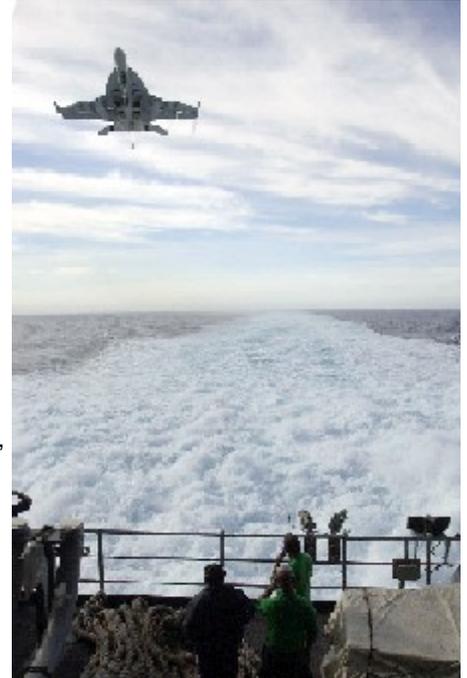
The Rev. Dr. George Langhorne, American Baptist National Ministries' director of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services,

was installed as president-elect of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) in December.

Susan Gillies, ABC/NE Executive Minister, offered appreciation, "We congratulate Dr. Langhorne on his election, but even more, we offer our prayers as he serves in this important role. These are critical days for our military chaplains and we support their ministry."

A non-governmental ecumenical organization, NCMAF is made up of representatives from more than 250 religious denominations and faith groups who coordinate recruitment and endorsement of their bodies' military chaplains. These representatives serve as the point of contact between military clergy and their endorsing denomination or faith group and provide oversight and support of military chaplains' work.

After serving 25 years as a Navy chaplain Langhorne joined National Ministries in 1999 as director of Missionary and Staff Services and was named director of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services in 2000. He was commissioned as an American Baptist home missionary in June 2000.



Resource on MidLife Available

Midlife isn't what it used to be according to author Richard P. Olson. Midlife has always been a time of reflection and self-examination as persons begin to come to grips with their own mortality. But according to Olson, midlife is also changing.

Olson and Virginia Fortner have created resources that enable people in the middle third of their lives to stop, reflect, and deal well with the challenges they are facing. The book *Midlife Journeys: A Traveler's Guide* and a Leader's Manual offer flexible session plans and group process resources for Sunday School classes or small groups.

Olson, currently Visiting Professor of Pastoral Care at Central Baptist Seminary, was a pastor for nearly forty years. Fortner is an educator and a leader at Prairie Baptist Church in Kansas.

For more information on these resources, contact R.P. Olson, 9112 Slater, Overland Park, KS 66212 rpolson@planetkc.com

Music & Drama Camps Expand Youth Opportunities

By Terry Anderson
Sunset Hills, Omaha

If singing is a common thread for those who attend church camps, Nebraska's American Baptist Music and Drama Camp [MAD Camp] takes that a step further -- make that a few dance steps further.

For one week each of the last five summers, the youth have sung and danced through long rehearsals, culminating in a closing program that clearly tugs at the hearts of the performers as well as those of the parents, siblings and others in the audience.

"The themes are great, and they always have to do with what's happening in our lives today," said Jackie Musick of First Baptist in Omaha. "I think of MAD camp as a place to escape, to be with my friends and be with God."

Rev. Paul Marine, senior pastor at Benson Baptist in Omaha, has directed each of the Nebraska camps, although Jim Musick of First Baptist led similar weekend camps in prior years.

Marine said he brought the weeklong concept with him when he arrived at Benson from California seven years

ago. "My kids grew up at MAD camp," he said. "Brian was 5 or 6 years old. When we came here, one of the things I wanted to do was continue the MAD camp tradition. Now, my wife says we can't quit until our youngest is through high school."

Brian now plays in the MAD camp live band, so he has seen the camps grow from fewer than 25 kids the first year to nearly 50 last summer. That growth has had its complications, including fitting all the campers on one stage for the final performance, most frequently at Sunset Hills in Omaha.

That problem may be alleviated this year with the first **Junior Music and Drama Camp**. It is scheduled for July 6-12 and will be directed by Marine. The week-ending performance will be in the new amphitheater at Camp Moses Merrill.

The Senior MAD camp will be July 27 through August 2, with the show tentatively scheduled to be at Sunset Hills again.

Marine said some who have been impressed by the camp and its final program have suggested taking the show

on a cross-state tour.

"They say we put in all that effort and then perform just once," he said. "It would be nice to perform for those who don't know the Lord and it would help recruit more kids to the camp."

Regardless of how many performances are held, or where they are at, Jackie Musick said MAD camp continues to make lasting memories. "At a lot of camps, all you do is one thing. But at MAD camp, you learn about God, you sing, you dance and have fun doing it. And the songs stay with me. I try to bring my friends and family because it is such a great experience."



The Junior Music and Drama Camp isn't the only new event this year at Camp Moses Merrill.

A Junior High XTreme Retreat is planned March 14-16 and Tent Camp, for youth entering grades 5-7, is scheduled for June 8-14.

American Baptists Respond to Tornado Devastation in Democratic Republic of the Congo

A health team supported in part by ABC's International Ministries responded within hours to a tornado that ripped through the Bandundu Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, killing 17, injuring thousands, and leaving a trail of devastation. **ABC missionary Bill Clemmer** reports that the SANRU health project dispatched a plane with medicine, relief supplies and a disaster response team to the town of Yumbi when they received an urgent plea for help from the district medical doctor there.

The tornado, which occurred on Sunday, Feb. 2, lasted 15 minutes. Its damage, Clemmer notes, may take decades to repair. Over 2500 houses were destroyed, 10 schools were torn apart, two health centers destroyed and a church reduced to rubble. The death toll of 17 (previously reported as 164 in major news accounts) included two women who were in labor. In Yumbi, over 1500 persons were treated for injuries incurred mainly by falling walls or flying debris. The local Red Cross team reported over 17,000 people left homeless during a season of frequent rains, tormenting mosquitoes, and hot tropical sun.

Clemmer and other response team members later toured the town of 40,000 and saw the destruction themselves. "It is sobering that a people who have suffered so much continue to undergo trials," Clemmer said. He also observed "the Congolese are a resilient people, and continually look toward the future with hope. What I saw, behind the destruction, were thousands of people, homeless in the light of a tornado, but forging ahead with the little they have, with hope and faith, not in man or in nature, but in the promises of God."

Camp Moses Merrill Trivia

- Prior to Camp Merrill, ABC/NE camps & conferences were held in several places, including one of the following:
 - Maranatha Camp
 - Hastings College
 - University of Omaha
 - Camp Judson
- The roads at Camp Merrill – Linwood are named after . . . ?
 - Overseas missionaries

- Home missionaries
- ABC-USA General Secretaries
- Builders of Camp Merrill

- Cabins at Camp Merrill are named after . . . ?
 - Churches that pay for their maintenance
 - Churches that have closed
 - Towns where missionaries were born.
 - Churches
- Cabins at Fullerton were named after missionaries. Which of the following was not a cabin at Fullerton?
 - John Mason Peck
 - Catherine Mabie
 - Oliver Hasselblad
 - Carrie Bell Brown

- Which of the following is NOT a proposed facility for Camp Merrill?
 - An indoor spa and fitness facility
 - Adult lodging
 - A recreation building
 - A chapel



Camp Moses Merrill News

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Summer Ministry Opportunities

Friday May 23 thru Friday August 8, 2003

Qualifications -- Camp Moses Merrill is looking for Christian individuals with a desire to serve the Lord in the Camping Ministry. We need a self-starter that can be organized and relate to one's peer group as well as be of good character, a person of integrity and adaptability.

Lifeguard

Wrangler

Dining Room Host/Hostess

Kitchen Aid

Office Assistant

Building and Grounds Assistant

All positions include salary plus room and board for the time of employment. Contact the camp or visit the website for an application or more information.

Jr High Xtreme Retreat



March 14- 16

Grades 6- 8, Cost \$65

This weekend will equip Jr. High students to grab what they need to be a better friend by knowing, praying for, encouraging and serving others in their youth group. Students will also learn what they need to help their friends begin a relationship with God. As students learn to share the gospel with their friends, they will be able to worship, pray, and share together to create friendships that will last forever.

Sr High Retreat



April 4- 6

Grades 9- 12, Cost \$65

This weekend will grab the students' attention. The Sr. Highers will be encouraged, challenged and stretched in building relationships with God and others. Students will also experience Camp Merrill's newest game: "GAGA!" Come with an open heart and mind and be ready to have fun.



Memorial Day Picnic/60th Anniversary Reunion

May 26, 2003

Come join us for a fun-filled day of festivities. The FREE annual Memorial Day picnic will include hamburgers and hotdogs and other culinary delights for lunch (donations will happily be accepted). There will be a Memorial Service along with musical talent from our Nebraska churches. Many activities will be available for all ages: including swimming, trail rides (by donation), and hayrack rides. Come back to reminisce about memories of camping at Moses Merrill, whether it was at Linwood or Fullerton. We want to rejoice in the lives that have been changed through camp programming at both locations in the past sixty years. Come see faces from the past and present. Visit with friends and family from this special part of the lives of the American Baptists of Nebraska. Feel free to bring along photo albums to share in the remembrance of your experiences at camp. Contact your camp friends and tell them "See You at Camp Merrill" on Memorial Weekend.



Celebrate Women in Ministry

by David Lundholm

Sunday March 16th is the *American Baptist Women in Ministry Celebration Sunday*. You should already have received a Resource Booklet to help if you choose to join the celebration.

I thought I would celebrate myself by telling the story of an amazing woman of faith. I am referring to the Rev. Sherman. Jeannie came to the wild land of the "strip" between Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Indian reservations in the mid 1940s. She came as a colporteur missionary, selling books, Bibles and Sunday School materials and was asked to serve two small

American Baptist churches in Trail City and Timber Lake, South Dakota.

When she arrived at Timber Lake she discovered that Hazel the widow of the former pastor was still living in the parsonage. Jeannie invited her to stay on along with Jeannie and her sidekick, June. Together the three women reared a multitude of adopted children while providing for the ministry (Jeannie), religious education (June) and music ministry (Hazel) of the two congregations. Many parishioners lived miles from the churches. The combined parish of Trail City and Timber Lake comprised more

square miles than the state of Rhode Island.

Jeannie pastored there until the mid 1970s. When I arrived in 1980 to serve the Timber Lake congregation (4th after Jeannie) the congregation still looked back at her ministry as the high time of the congregation. When asked, she helped me personally with mentoring on many congregational issues. She preached my ordination sermon.

Jeannie is gone now but I celebrate her life given in the service of her Lord.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

April Deadlines

February 3, 2003 - Print Copy

February 8, 2003 - E-Mail

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ALLIANCE, FBC: The ABY hosted the annual church birthday party on Jan. 19. Everyone sat at the table of their birthday month. Twelve cakes were baked by the young people and following a talent show; cake, ice cream and drink were served. Twenty traveled to Bridgeport on Jan. 25 to join with members from Scottsbluff and Bridgeport for a late afternoon carry-in dinner followed by a concert with "For The Master" men's quartet from Wayne, Nebraska. A fellowship time followed. Pastor Rowe and Joyce conducted the afternoon vespers service at the Highland Park Care Center during January.

ARNOLD, FBC: The church ladies packed and delivered 55 Valentine bags for the senior citizens and shut-ins on Feb. 6. Sewing Bee was held on Feb. 20, with sewing being done for families who are in Virgil and Jeri Holt's mission field in Mexico. Mae Jennings showed slides of her trip to South Africa and Ethiopia with *Teen Missions* last summer.

TEKAMAH, FBC: A Valentine Dinner was held at the "French Cafe" on Feb. 14, with the fellowship Committee as hosts. "Busy Bags" have been filled with paper, crayons, and small toys, and are waiting for the parents of small children to use during the service the keep the children "busy"; and then to be returned to be used again.

COLUMBUS FBC: Pastor Larry Adams left on Feb. 24 to teach at a seminary in Mexicali, Mexico, affiliated with ABC/USA Board of International Ministries. Pastor Larry will return March 7. David Wells, a renowned flugelhornist, presented a program at FBC on Feb. 2.

CHADRON, FBC: A Youth Valentine Banquet was held on Feb. 8 for 3rd-8th graders, with a prize given to the most unique "Valentine apron" won by one of the youth. The adult Valentine banquet was held on Feb. 15 at Country Kitchen.

FAIRBURY FBC: A "Valentine Evening Out" was held on Feb. 15. The area *Youth NET* is sponsoring a monthly event to bring area youth groups together, with the first one held at FBC. A ministry of taking meals to the families with newborns has begun at FBC.

FREMONT, FBC: The 50 Day adventure, "Daring to Dream" has begun. The AB Girls held an "overnighter" in the church parlor on Feb. 28. "Women of Purpose", a group of women from 18-25 has organized with the purpose of offering support, friendship, and fellowship to those who wish to belong with no dues, no definite meetings, and no rules except to come in accord. David Wells presented a flugelhorn concert at FBC on Feb. 2.

GUIDE ROCK, FBC: The Southern Union Association Men and Boys annual Groundhog Supper was held at FBC on Feb. 5. The FBC Men held a breakfast on Jan. 18.

GIBBON, FBC: Kelli Wellensiek spoke on Jan. 26 about her mission trip to the Kodiak Mission in Alaska. A short memorial service was held during the last business meeting for the members, families, and friends who had passed away in 2002. Valentine boxes were packed on Feb. 9 for college students and service people. Their families gave a clavino in memory of E.J. Graves and Jessie Stall.

GRAND ISLAND, FBC: The four Circles made cookies for the Blood Mobile in February. Baby layettes, health kits, and school kits are being made for the "White Cross Gifts from the Heart" projects. Leonard and Phyllis Dibbern celebrated their 55th anniversary recently.

BEATRICE, FBC: A Family Valentine Banquet was held on Feb. 16. The FBC women served in the hospital gift shop on Feb. 6.

SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC: A "Christian Education Appreciation Dinner" was held on Feb. 23, with a special program for the teachers/educators who bring the Word to the people. It also was a post-Valentine celebration. The last Sunday of each month is movie time for the kids' Sunday School hour, along with popcorn and drinks.

HOLDREGE, FBC: The FBY spent Jan. 16-19 skiing in Colorado. FBY youth attended the DARE2SHARE in Lincoln on Feb 21-22. The Ground Zero Youth group hosted a concert on Feb. 1 with five local and area Christian bands performing. A group of ladies enjoyed a day out at Camp Joy on Feb. 8, The FBY hosted a Valentine banquet on Feb. 9. The Pal Program (adults mentor children) is taking enrollments.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: "Daring to Dream Again" is the study adventure JCC is focusing on through the pre-Easter season The Youth presented the morning worship service on Feb. 16. The BYF held a semi-formal banquet on Feb. 19 as a Valentine meal for their church, along with a program. The proceeds help towards the youth group activities.

LINCOLN, FBC: Pastor Lee Spitzer and Lois have resigned from the ministry at FBC after nine years of serving God there. A "Roasting Pastor Lee" dinner party was held on Feb. 19, and a potluck dinner on Feb. 23 to honor the Spitzers, with their last service being Feb. 28. A church Valentine's Dinner Party was held on Feb. 12, with entertainment by the Lincoln East Swing Choir, and a dramatic reading of the Song of Songs by the FBC Players. The youth choir is working on a mini-musical to be presented at the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. The Adult Choir sang for the Jail Ministry's Fund Raiser on Feb. 7.

NORFOLK, FBC: The Jr. High youth recently went ice-skating at Mahoney State Park, and on Feb. 2 the Senior High youth did the same, but the latter also got in some tubing and tobogganing. AWANA Bible Quiz was held at FBC on Feb. 8. Don Wamsley and Robb Thomas left on Feb. 5 - 15 with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers group for a mission trip to Jamaica, where they helped with the construction of a church building. Heart Sisters revealed last year's prayer partner, and drew for this year's at their February meeting. FBC will be helping with the Community Food Pantry through the month of March.



Local Church News

OMAHA, PARKSIDE BC: George Henriksen, a former pastor at Parkside, passed away on Dec. 8 at his home in Ankeny, IA. Bernice Points observed her 90th birthday on Feb. 2 at a reception at the church. Directories of the Christian businesses in the Omaha-Council Bluffs area are available at Parkside. All ladies who had a February birthday enjoyed lunch together on Feb. 15. Parkside people were invited to Temple Israel on Feb. 23 to learn about Jewish holidays, rituals, customs, and traditions at a Friendship Tea.

LINCOLN SECOND, BC: A lot is happening with the youth and children's programs since the new year. On Wednesday nights following the Family Supper, Grades K-5, *The Faith Weavers' Friends Club*, meet for Bible learning through games, songs, crafts, service projects, snacks and more. The Middle High Youth Group meets at the same time. Senior High Youth Group meets Sunday afternoons (7) Youth and (2) adults attended the Lock-In at the Fremont YMCA, Jan. 17 & 18. The Rev. Mark Jacobs, First Baptist Church, Lansing, Mi. son of Norvel & Jean Jacobs, was guest speaker Jan. 22 following the weekly Wednesday night supper. On Super (Souper) Bowl Sunday, the Young Family Ministries group met at Debra & Kelly Fuller's home to watch the Bowl game together while their children were being cared for by the Church Youth as a fund-raiser for their trip to *Quest* at Green Lake. The Youth are also sponsoring a Valentine's Day Message Delivery Service as a fund-raiser. ABWM members are looking forward to having Sylvana Airan as their special guest speaker, Mar. 5, at their noon Luncheon-Meeting. Sylvana grew up as a Christian in the predominately Muslim country of Pakistan. Anyone interested in hearing what it was like to live in a non-Christian land, within a Christian family, are invited to call for reservations, 464-8398 to attend.

TECUMSEH, FBC: "There's Snow Parents Like Awana Parents" was the theme for the Parents' Night supper and evening, with over 120 parents in attendance. FBC will host the Lenten Luncheon on March 13, and Pastor Hugh will give the message on March 27 at the Methodist Church. Pastor Hugh, Jim and Donna DeFreece, and Lucy and Katie Giesbrecht were in Jamaica Feb. 18-26 on a mission trip, working in the clinic, schools, and care center.

MASON CITY, FBC: A Youth Sunday School class spent a weekend in Lincoln where they worked at the Peoples' City Mission. They helped serve supper, did crafts, babysat, slept on cots from a jail, and rose at 5:30 to help prepare and serve breakfast. They also went shopping to purchase items for the mission with money that had been donated to them from home folks to use on the trip. They attended church with the mission people at Christ's Church. A children's bell choir has been started, using memorial money to purchase the bells. Caroline and Larry Folker, missionaries to Papua New Guinea, spoke about their work on Feb. 2.

MCCOOK, FBC: A Valentine Banquet was held on Feb. 15 with entertainment by "First Call" of Kearney FBC. Sue Winget of Holdrege spoke at the Feb. meeting of the ABWM.

OMAHA, FBC: Guest speakers during February included Rev. Kevin Walden on the 2nd, and Matt Manning on the 9th.

OMAHA, BENSON BC: *The Grace Ambassadors* appeared in concert on Feb. 2. "Left Behind" and "Left Behind II" were shown at movie night on Feb. 9. The Front Lines Youth held an elegant Valentine's Day dinner on Feb. 14 as a fundraiser for their summer mission trip. An offering was received on Feb. 9 to help buy blankets for the Church World Service. The Senior Caring Ministry enjoyed a Valentine party at the Family Life Center on Feb. 13. An ABBBoys Club is being organized for 7 - 13 year olds. The youth group attended the DARE2SHARE at Lincoln ON Feb. 21-22.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: The youth have begun weekly rehearsals for their coming musical, directed by John Croghan. As a fundraiser for their summer mission trip to the Hopi Indian Reservation in Arizona, the youth served a spaghetti dinner at the annual business meeting in January. A catered Valentine dinner was held on Feb. 15, with *Forgiven* presenting the entertainment, along with games and other activities. Dr. Lee Spitzer spoke, and *Forgiven* provided the music for the AB Men's National Prayer Breakfast held at SHBC. The breakfast was a fund-raiser for the youth's mission trip to the Hopi Indian Reservation. Sunset Hills' AB Women will have an Agape Feast at their quarterly meeting on March 1. Rev. Joan Stewart of Parkside will be the guest speaker. The women of Parkside are invited guests.

