

# the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



August 2002  
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## NEW E-Mail Addresses:

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## A Heart for Ministry in The Heartland

### American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

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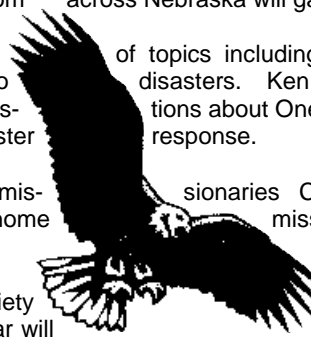
## Great Workshops / Great Speakers / Great Music ABC/NE Family Reunion - Kearney - Sept 20-22

The ABC/NE Family Reunion (annual convention) will be filled with great workshops, speakers and music as Baptists from across Nebraska will gather at Kearney, Sept 20-22.

Workshops will cover a range of topics including renewal, revitalizing relationships, and ABC response to disasters. Ken George of National Ministries will be available to answer questions about One Great Hour of Sharing Grants, immigration issues, and disaster response.

Speakers include international missionaries Chuck and Ramona Shawver who serve in Mexico and home missionary Harry Riggs, Director of Renewal Ministries for ABC.

Music will reflect the wide variety of music enjoyed by Baptists in Nebraska. Featured this year will be "For The Master", a men's quartet from First Baptist in Wayne. The group has recently introduced their first CD. There will be praise music with leadership from Holdrege. There will be an old-fashioned hymn sing, as well.



Look for other information about the Family Reunion in this issue of *The Messenger*.

## Late Summer Exploring . . . ABC/NE Style!

The summer is not yet gone. There is still time to do some ABC/NE exploring. Take a day or a weekend or longer to get away.

The Moses & Eliza Merrill cabin site is a dramatic testimony to the dedication of Nebraska's first missionaries. The cabin site is located in Sarpy County, south of Bellevue. Although the cabin is gone, the fireplace and chimney remain. Visit both the cabin site and the historic displays at the Sarpy County Historical Museum. For directions, call the ABC/NE office 402-556-4730.

It has been reported that American Baptist missionary Ola Hanson is buried in Oakland, NE. The region office would love to hear from someone who has located the gravesite and taken pictures of it.

The welcome mat is out at Camp Moses Merrill for RVs and tent campers. Camp Merrill is a great place to relax . . . or to engage in volunteer service. Labor Day weekend will be an especially good time to enjoy camp this year. Have you been to camp lately?

Volunteers are still welcome to help at the Bike Rally in South Dakota. ABC/NE and ABC of the Dakotas are once again hosting a crisis center in Deadwood.

A national conference for American Baptists is being held in Colorado Springs, Aug 11-14. It's not too late to take the opportunity to hear great speakers and attend helpful workshops. Register on-line at [www.can-u-see-it.org](http://www.can-u-see-it.org) or by calling 1-800-ABC-3USA ext. 2420.

It is also a great experience to visit the American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, WI. The national conference center is great for family weekends and vacations, individual retreats, as well as conferences.

*From the Executive Minister..... Susan Gillies*

# Do You Know A Good Thing When You See It?

I'd like to think I know a good thing when I see it but sometimes I miss great opportunities for joy and learning because I'm too busy trying to fix things or critique them. Sometimes I'm simply "too busy," and I miss a special gift God has prepared for me.

The Family Reunion in Kearney in September is a good thing.

In the last issue of *The Messenger* we were reminded that coming together as people of faith began in ancient Jewish practice. People traveled to Jerusalem three times each year. Mary and Joseph followed the Jewish law and brought Jesus to Jerusalem when he

was 12 for the Passover celebration. Throughout Judeo-Christian history, the people of God have found deep value in a wider gathering than their own regular worship group. It is this same reason that draws Nebraska Baptists together once a year for a time of worship and learning and sharing.

Each year in the evaluation forms, there are testimonies to the enriching fellowship and the value of the teaching and preaching. There are stories of re-commitments made. We enjoy sharing the joy of welcoming new pastors to the state. We enjoy seeing the youth jubilantly proclaiming their faith at the end of Sunday morning worship. We treasure seeing old friends

and making new ones.

The Family Reunion is a good thing . . . a good thing for ABC/NE, a good thing for your congregation, a good thing for your pastor, a good thing for you!

See you there?



## THE POWER OF MONEY

by Don Gaines

*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.*  
(2 Corinthians 9:11)



The very nature of God is generosity. He is the one who creates, redeems, and continues with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. Then why is it that Christians, who profess to share God's values, find it so difficult to be generous with their money? A part of the answer may be found in what Mark Vincent\* calls the "God-like power of money". He describes this God-like power as follows:

1. Your money outlives you. At your death the things you have purchased and the money you have saved are passed on to someone else.
2. Money adds to your circle of influence.
3. Money has a mysterious quality. It produces in us a strong desire to get it, spend it, or hoard it.
4. Money exists in a realm where we are tempted to worship it. Its importance can easily be magnified.
5. Money mimics everything God promises, such as security and happiness.

6. You are able to wield the power of money. You can buy things and go places that give you pleasure.
7. Everything can be modified by money.
8. Money can make you think that you are God.

As we observe our society and examine our own attitudes toward money we know that Vincent is correct. We also know that this is in conflict with our belief in the sovereignty of God. The challenge is for us to modify our attitudes and practices so that we might share God's values of generosity.

\* Mark Vincent, an ordained minister with the Mennonite Church USA, led a consultation in June at Green Lake for Executive Ministers and Ministers of Mission Support.

  
**NEBRASKA MISSION**  
**TOUR TO THAILAND**  
**FEBRUARY 5 -22, 2003**  
 This is a very special opportunity for Nebraska Baptists! The goal of this life-changing tour is to visit our missionaries in the River Kwai region, Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mail. Call or e-mail Roberta Williston for more information. **402/391-8939**  
[robertanorman@cox.net](mailto:robertanorman@cox.net)  


### ABMen's Conference is a Special Event



This year's American Baptist Men's Conference at Camp Moses Merrill is a special event. Instead of one speaker this year, three ABC/NE pastors will provide leadership. Pastor Irv Jennings of Arnold, Pastor Robin Stoops of Fairbury, and Pastor Gary Winget of Holdrege are working energetically as a team to make this conference special.

The conference will be August 9 and 10, starting at 7:00 pm Friday. The Banquet is at 6:00 pm on Saturday.

ABBoys & Young Men will be meeting at the same time as the men and joining with them for meals. President, Glen Slider, and his board are pleased with the signs of new life for ABMen of Nebraska.

## Worshipful Work



An increasing number of groups in the ABC/USA are beginning to transform the way they conduct business through an approach called, Worshipful Work. The ABC General Board, the General Executive Council and National Ministries staff have all received introductory training.

Worshipful Work grew out of the learnings and experiences of the Set Apart Lay Leader Project, a four-year ecumenical effort aimed at the development and revitalization of church boards/councils via the integration of spirituality and administration. The Project, enabled by a Lilly Endowment grant, involved lay and clergy participants from 20 churches across a broad ecumenical and cultural spectrum. It constructed a nationwide network of stakeholders through the process of inquiry and research. It drew upon the wisdom of an advisory panel and has equipped a number of trainers. The Alban publication, *Transforming Church Boards Into Communities of Spiritual Leaders*, by Dr. Charles M. Olsen, is based on the learnings of this project.

The results of the study suggest that worship can be the catalyst for spiritual insight in deliberative meetings, the board/council table can be the focus for both individual and corporate spiritual formation, the experience of serving on a board can be life-giving and faith-deepening rather than depleting, spirituality and administration can be integrated in governance and the congregation can be renewed starting with the board/council.

## "Travel Weary" Caravan



The "From These Roots" Caravan continues to travel the state visiting churches. The ABC/NE staff members report great experiences although some weariness was reported on a 107 degree day in July. Caravan members were greeted with pot luck lunches and dinners, tours of church buildings, tables covered with scrapbooks, photo albums and church history books.

Baptist churches in Nebraska started in schools, a stockade, sod houses, a sod building, railroad chapel cars, churches of other denominations and in homes. Pictures of the caravan will be on display at the Family Reunion in Kearney, Sept. 20-22. There will also be a report on what has been learned by the members of the caravan.

The Caravan is making seven trips between spring and fall to visit each congregation and hear the story of the founding of the church. Usual caravan members are Executive Minister Susan Gillies, Area Minister David Lundholm, Minister of Mission Support Don Gaines and Director of Camping Clarence Reiss. Because of the demands at Camp Merrill, Clarence was unable to travel with the group in July.



## ADULT MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

"Bearing Fruit" is the theme of this year's ABC/NE Annual Adult Ministries Conference. The event will take place Sept 30-Oct 3 at Camp Moses Merrill. Rev. John Dennert will lead the Bible study and Rev. Paul Kondy will lead the "Digging Deeper" discussion group. Rev. Palmer Swenson and Bob Lage will lead the vesper services. Clarence & Trudy Reiss will share stories from their Alaska Mission Trip and Nina Jean Meth will tell about her experiences in Thailand. For registration information, call the ABC/NE office 402-556-4730.

## Guatemalan Artisan Crafts at Family Reunion

Guatemalan artisan weavings and jewelry will be available at the ABC/NE Family Reunion in Kearney. This showing of traditional arts and crafts will enable Nebraska Baptists to directly support the creative work of the artists. Contributions for these products provide Guatemalan women with fair wages, scholarships, training programs and business loans which in turn contribute to the economic stability of their families.

Sponsored by the Nebraska American Baptist Women's Ministries, this project links Baptist women in Nebraska with Guatemalan women who have created the products.

### ABC/NE Trivia

1. What ABC/NE church has a dog in the sanctuary every Sunday?
  - a. Parkside,
  - b. Belmont,
  - c. Alliance,
  - d. Broken Bow
2. When was the first annual meeting of the Nebraska Baptist State Convention (ABC/NE)? [Double bonus points if you can name the town in which the meeting was held.]
  - a. 1850
  - b. 1868
  - c. 1880
  - d. 1901
3. What is the theme scripture for the "From These Roots" Caravan?
  - a. Romans 15:5-6,
  - b. Psalm 25:9-10,
  - c. Mark 4:30-32
  - d. Jeremiah 17:7-8
4. What is "Can You See It?"
  - a. new book title,
  - b. song,
  - c. conference
  - d. ad for an eye doctor
5. Where do Nebraska Baptists operate a crisis center?
  - a. Deadwood, SD during the Bike Rally
  - b. Nebraska Penitentiary
  - c. Topeka, KS during the Civil War reenactment
  - d. Valentine, NE on the "rails to trails."



## Camp Moses Merrill News

2849 Co. Rd. 31 Box 170A Linwood, NE 68036;

Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

Fax: (402) 666-5644

### AB Men and Boys Retreat

August 9 & 10, 2002

This fun filled weekend is designed for men of ALL ages. Some activities have been planned for the men and boys to be together and also some age appropriate worship, meetings and fun. The weekend will help build relationships of all types; with other men/boys, with God and with His creation. The men will also do some visioning and have some "Power" sessions. The retreat will end Saturday evening with a banquet.

### Labor Day Family Weekend

August 30—Sept. 2

Bring the family out to a wonderful time of fun and relaxation. Enjoy the outdoors with your family this Labor Day weekend. Friday evening begins at 5 pm as campers get set up. Saturday there will be many options and activities such as swimming, crafts, hayrack ride and games/ activities. The weekend will also have times of worship out in the natural setting of Camp Moses Merrill.

Rates (based on three nights, with restroom and showers):

RV Camper (water, electric and sewer): \$50 for the weekend

Tents: \$40 for the weekend

Cabins: \$120 for the weekend (limited availability)

Meals are available, call camp for pricing.

Call (402) 666-5639 to register, or (402)564-4279 for more information.



The following recipe was requested enough at Women's Conference and other events that we thought we would share it with everyone.

### Chicken Tetrazzini

2 cups sliced mushrooms  
 1/4 cup butter or margarine  
 1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
 2 cups chicken broth  
 1/4 cup light cream  
 1 Tbs chopped fresh parsley  
 1 tsp salt  
 1/8 to 1/4 tsp group nutmeg  
 1/4 tsp pepper  
 3 cups cubed cooked chicken  
 8 ounces spaghetti, cooked and drained  
 3/4 cup shredded Parmesan

In a skillet, cook mushrooms in butter until tender. Stir in flour, gradually add the chicken broth. Cook, stirring constantly, until sauce comes to a boil. Remove from heat; stir in cream, parsley, salt, nutmeg and pepper. Fold in the chicken and spaghetti. Turn into a greased 12-in x 8-in x 2-in baking dish; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake, uncovered, at 350 for 30 minutes or until heated through. Garnish with parsley. Yield: 8 servings.

**Planning for Summer 2003:** Contact the camp for your meeting (small and large) and retreat needs. Also, if you are interested in being a coordinator for one of the summer camps contact the camp for an application or more information.

# The Most Significant Ministry Investment: Pastoral Ministry

by Dave Lundholm

From time to time I've had upset people call me that say something like this. "My pastor makes over \$60,000. I think that is outrageous." Every time I've had that conversation I discover that what I'm dealing with is not an instance of pastoral greed, but an instance of congregational misunderstanding.

Lets take an imaginary church in central Nebraska and break down the numbers.

First Baptist Church of Thisplace, NE is a congregation with an average attendance of sixty. A seminary graduate with over ten years of pastoral experience pastors it. The total church budget is \$145,000. In that budget the items that relate in some way to pastoral ministry total to a little over \$60,000.

Some of this figure includes administrative costs (Convention \$500, Social Security Offset \$3,000, Mileage \$2,500) and ministry costs (Hospitality \$250)

that are just part of the church providing a minister. We have about \$54,000 left to account for.

The pastor is also a professional and there are expenses that are necessary to maintain her competence and standing. (Continuing Education \$350, Books \$350, Professional Dues \$50). About \$53,000 left.

The FBC of Thisplace, NE has rightly chosen to provide retirement benefits to their pastor and medical coverage for her and her family. (Retirement \$6,200, Medical Plan \$9000). Now there's \$38,000 to account for.

This final piece of compensation is the pastor's salary. This is what the pastor "makes" (Cash Salary \$28,000, Parsonage rental value \$5,000, Utilities \$5000). The pastor can buy groceries, clothing etc. with the cash salary. The pastor doesn't have to pay for rent or utilities because of the parsonage and utilities.

Although the cost to the church for choosing to have a resident fulltime pastor is \$60,000 the pastor's salary is \$38,000.

A good rule of thumb for pastoral compensation is that a pastor should make as much as a teacher with the equivalent education and experience. The average Nebraska teacher makes a little over \$34,000. However two thirds of the teachers going into this average pastor so the \$38,000 salary is just about right on.

There is no doubt that having a seminary trained full time resident pastor is expensive (In this case about 41% of the budget). But it is equally true that the ministry of FBC Thisplace would be greatly reduced without one.

**Next Month** ..... learn the results of the Nebraska Clergy Compensation survey

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

### March Deadlines

**August 1, 2002 - Print Copy**  
Home Town Editor  
Darlene RIMPLEY  
Rt. 1 Box 74 A  
Arnold, NE 69120

**August 8, 2002 - E-Mail**  
E-Editor  
area.minister.ne@charter.net  
Subject: Messenger

**TO GIVE AWAY:** The Gibbon FBC has 160 "Hymns for the Family of God" hymnals by Paragon Publishers to give away. They have a light brown cover and are in good shape. They may be had by paying for the shipping costs, or picking them up at the church. Contact the church office, 308-468-5323.

**CHADRON, FBC:** Summer Sunday school changes include the adults in three four-week "Apply It to Life" studies, and the K-5th graders are going through the Kids' Travel Guide to the Ten Commandments. VBS was held June 10-14, joining with the Berean Church, and the Bible Baptist, with "Do What's Right" as the theme. The youth group spent the weekend of July 19 at Merritt Reservoir for water fun and worship with other church youth groups from all over the state.

**ARNOLD, FBC:** The church has voted to erect a new church building. Possible sites are being studied, as well as other factors. The ladies held a sewing bee to sew clothes for a missionary family on the Ivory Coast, whose parents are members of FBC. During one afternoon four pairs of boys' shorts, four boys' t-shirts, and two women's dresses were made. VBS was held June 3-7, with the theme "Faith Mountain." A tubing trip down the Niobrara was enjoyed by some of the more adventurous church family on July 11. A picnic and "Family Reunion" was held on July 21 at the State Park. Mae Jennings is on a six-week mission trip to South Africa with Teen Missions.

**BEATRICE, FBC:** The summer Sunday School program will include a "Victory Class" and a meeting for all who are not in the former class.

**BLAIR, FBC:** The ABW Omahaland Association Meeting was held at FBC, with a "Phone a Missionary" being the emphasis of the evening meeting. The phone call allowed them to visit with Judy DeRolf, who serves in Japan with her husband, Charles.

**BRIDGEPORT, FBC:** The church celebrated their 100th Anniversary on July 20-21 with a banquet, breakfast, and lunch, and worship services. A memory album and the church's first cookbook were also made available.

**NORFOLK, FBC:** Jamie Wilson won the Kiwanis Student of the Month Award due to her involvement at FBC in youth group, AWANA, VBS, serving at the Norfolk Mission, and in state youth activities, as well as being a good witness and sharing her faith.

**BROKEN BOW, FBC:** A study, "We Are Baptists - Baptist Distinctives" will be presented during the Sunday School hour this summer for the entire church.

**COLUMBUS, FBC:** VBS was held June 3-7 with the theme, "Bug Safari." A church picnic was held on June 30. A meal for the whole family was served preceding the VBS class time. New church directories are being distributed. Pastor Adams is teaching a children's course on what it means to become a church member. The ABW Association held a carry-in dinner at Pawnee Park to provide a time of fellowship and becoming acquainted, and the children could play on the equipment.

**FAIRBURY, FBC:** Homecoming Sunday was held on June 2, and included the renewing of old friendships, gospel music, fried chicken, and fun! The church members "adopted a camper", for whom they would pray and write to during the campers week at camp. VBS was held July 22-26, with the theme, "GODZWERKUS", a circus school theme. A tent was set up on the church grounds to help get the people in the mood. The ABW are being encouraged to "Adopt-A-Young-Adult", which will involve praying for, sending greetings, and being a part of their lives. The youth spent July 29-31 in Kansas City, where they helped at Bethel Neighborhood Center and visited Worlds of Fun.

**FREMONT, FBC:** Interim Pastor Walter Hickman and his wife, Mildred, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 25. Elaine White celebrated her 85th birthday on June 30. The "Simple Grace Family singers" presented a concert on July 7. Sunday School Attendance Recognition was held on July 21, as well as those who knew their books of the Bible and who brought at least three friends to Sunday School during April-June. Amanda Hornberger was elected to the National Leaders Team for AB Girls, and along with three other girls was in Green Lake the latter part of July.

**NORTH PLATTE, FBC:** A team of high schoolers was part of the "Platte River Rat Race", which was a fundraiser for The Lincoln Connection, the homeless shelter in North Platte. A men's team and a co-ed team has been organized for softball

**GIBBON, BC:** Sunday School Promotion was held on June 2, with Bibles presented to those entering high school and the 2nd grade. Pastor Bob and Grace Flynn have moved to Scottsburg, IN, where they will be pastoring the First Baptist Church. A potluck dinner was held on June 9 to honor them and their daughter, Christy. Rev. John Denert from Fremont will be serving as the Interim Pastor. The oldest member of FBC, Jessie Stall, passed away recently. VBS will be an all summer event, as they will hold classes during the Sunday School Hour with the theme, "Bug Safari". ABW Ministries hosted an "All-Church Sundae Sunday Party" on July 21. This event helped celebrate the church's birthday.

**GRAND ISLAND, FBC:** A "Family Fellowship and Devotion Time" was held at Eagle Scout Lake on June 5 for the entire church, and included activities such as biking, roller blading, resting, and Bible study. Several people served at the Salvation Army Soup Supper in June. Bob and Kay Chipps recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. A Hymn sing, followed by ice cream was enjoyed on June 9. "The Sioux Falls Singers" presented a concert on June 10. VBS was held June 10-14 at the Evangelical Free Church. On June 19 a Family potluck supper was held. The "Celebrant Singers" will be at FBC Aug. 2. ABW and ABGirls are enjoying "Scrap booking".

**SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC:** The "Dancing for Jesus" class gave a performance on June 2. A church family picnic was held on June 23. The church will collect non-perishable food items for the Community Food Pantry in July.

**LINCOLN, SECOND:** Potluck picnics are being held again this summer on Wednesday nights at Bethany Park. The Sr. High Youth Group had a yard sale to raise money for a mission trip. The AB Women enjoyed a fellowship coffee time on June 26 at the church. A group from SBC is helping feed 150-200 people on the third Friday of each month at Matt Talbot Kitchen. The Senior Adult ministries held a luncheon meeting on July 12; a speaker from the Victim-Witness Program of the Lincoln Police Department presented the program. Plans are being finalized for a weekend VBS on Aug. 2-4. Two members passed away recently: George Gade on June 11, and Ethel Pearson on July 8.

**OMAHA, JUDSON BC:** Two people were baptized in a neighboring church while the Judson baptistry is under construction. Pastor Glenn led a mission trip to New York. A task force was formed to plan for future expansion projects at Judson. Members from Judson participated in the LaVista Days parade. The Awana program held an awards ceremony. Plans are under way to add a storage shed to the property. Pastor Kevin and Melody will be leaving for a six-week sabbatical at Fuller Seminary. Vacation Bible School was held with a "Bug Safari" theme. Judson has recently added five new members: Two by transfer and three by baptism.

**TEKAMAH, FBC:** VBS was held with the theme "Bug Safari", with over 80 children attending. Revival meetings will be held August 18-21 with Rev. Rob Schmutz of Wyandotte, KS as the speaker. Andy Peterson is on a six-month teaching English/missionary trip to Taiwan with Grace University. He left Memorial Day and will return in November.

**HOLDREGE, FBC:** Family Night was held on June 2. The "Commitments" from Sioux Falls University presented a service at FBC on June 13. The group included Mary Fritson, a member of FBC. The youth were in charge of games and worship service, as well as a "Silly Supper". A "See You Later" party was held for a family moving from the area. The youth will be using the multi-purpose room to reach unchurched youth in the area, by inviting them in for fellowship. To do this they are raising funds to purchase such items as a foosball table, etc. Bradley B. Wiese was installed as Youth Pastor at FBC on June 23. An overnight VBS Camp will be held at Camp Joy, August 5-6. The ABWM hosted the Juniata ABWM on July 11. The Family Night theme was "Island Paradise". Following games and supper, the youth and sponsors gave a report on their mission trip to Haiti.

**JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** The "March For Jesus" was held on June 9, at which time a walk of two and one-half miles around the community was made to witness for Jesus Christ. A community film festival was held on June 9 at the JCC. An "Ice Cream Social" was held on July 14, with a raffle of a full size "Patriotic Quilt". Bids are being sought on the building of a fellowship hall onto the church building. Vacation Bible School began July 29, and will conclude Aug. 3.

**LINCOLN, FBC:** The Mission Board held an "Outreach Picnic" on June 1 for church family and friends. A Music Camp was held June 3-6. The 2nd grade through high school participants learned the musical, "A Tale of Three Trees", which they performed during the worship service on June 9. A VBS Arts Week was held June 17-21. A potluck dinner was held on June 30 to show Chris Weeks and his family their love and appreciation for his ministry with the youth while at FBC. Twelve members of the Praise and Celebration Ringers and God Squad attended a Hand Bell Conference in Collinsville, IL. The Chinese Ministry at FBC has grown from five people to 65 (Praise God!). A Summer Reading Program is being held for children and youth. Some FBC men participated in the Capitol Association Baptist Golf Tournament, with proceeds going to the ABM/NE's scholarship fund.

**MCCOOK, FBC:** The ABW held a picnic on June 4. VBS was held June 24-28, with the theme, "Jesus to the Rescue". A co-ed softball team has begun playing in the league. The youth held their annual headstone cleaning day at three cemeteries to earn camping funds. The church ladies held an ice cream social at Hillcrest Nursing Home on July 11. The youth group hosted the Benson Baptist Youth for a barbeque, games, and a sleepover on July 8. FBC had a food booth at the Red Willow County Fair July 18-22. Church family attended the "Water Park" at Camp Maranatha July 28.

**OMAHA, PARKSIDE BC:** A soup lunch was served following worship service with a free will offering received for the OGHs Offering. A "Bounty Table" has been in operation since mid-June, with all extra plants and produce available for a donation with proceeds going to OGHs. 1008 Campbell Soup labels were mailed to Murrow Children's Home for the purchase of a van. Church members went to Miller Park Presbyterian Church for a "Neighbor's Nite Out" on June 4. The Parkside adults enjoyed a Putt Putt tourney on June 19, followed by ice cream sundaes. An all-church picnic was held on July 14 at Cunningham Lake. Susie Brann celebrated her 99th birthday at an open house. Pastor Joan attended a 40th anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps in Washington D.C.

**OMAHA, BENSON BC:** All Sunday School teachers and their families were honored at a luncheon on June 23, which was sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry. A talent show and ice cream social was held on June 30, sponsored by the Music Ministry. A men's softball team is in league playing. Paul and Irene Martin celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. Ada and Don Mahart celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 26. John and Muriel Tideswell celebrated 70 years of marriage on June 21 with a card shower. Florence Capps celebrated her 100th birthday on July 16. Four youth and a leader attended the Billy Graham Training Center for training in evangelism in July. A Sunday School class and a fellowship time has begun for the College and Career Young Adults. A food pantry opened at Benson Baptist on July 27 to serve the Benson area.

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS BC:** An Independence Day Breakfast was held. About 30 children attended Vacation Bible school June 23-28. "Son Canyon River Adventure" was the theme. A church outing was enjoyed when the church attended a baseball game at Rosenblatt Stadium on July 19 and watched the fireworks following. The men's quartet, "Forgiven", performed the national anthem. Individuals are signing up to sponsor a weeks' lawn care. Vacation Bible School was held June 23-28. The mission project benefited the Open Door Mission in Omaha. John Croghan has been hired to direct the worship team. He had been director of music and contemporary services at First Christian Church in Kearney.

**TECUMSEH, FBC:** Six Awana students, who finished their books during the year, and a sponsor went to Omaha to the Zoo on May 18. White Cross work is done on the last Tuesday of each month. Sunday School Promotion and the annual church picnic was held June 2.

**OMAHA, FBC:** The gymnasium is completed and will be used for many summer youth programs. Pastor Aaron Sciford was appointed President of the Grace Alumni Association. Pastor Steve Bills, in his capacity as Chairman of the State Board of Child Evangelism of Nebraska, attended the CEF's International Conference in Morieta, NM May 1-6. Pastor Steve rode his motorcycle over 1800 miles getting to and from the conference. Ten persons volunteer every month to help at the Tip Top Thrift Shop with proceeds going to The Uta Halee Girls Village. The annual "Hymn Sing" was held on July 14.

**SUPERIOR, FBC:** Installation services were held in both the Superior and Guide Rock Churches on May 5 for Pastor Leslie O. Warner, with Rev. Dave Lundholm in charge. Members of the Shared Ministry Committee planned and participated in the worship services. A carry-in luncheon was held for both churches in the Superior church following the installation. Mothers were honored on Mother's Day with a gift of bookmarks and ballpoint pens. The ABW held their spring luncheon on May 1, with guests from Guide Rock and Hastings. Pastor Les and Lona Warner then conducted installation services for the new ABW offices.

## NEW MEMBERS:

**BEATRICE, FBC:** Linda Langdale, James & Lisa Cross

**CHADRON, FBC:** Lynn Koehnke

**FAIRBURY, FBC:** Toni Davis, Taylor Davis, Jason Cervantes, Amber Cervantes, Regan & Katie Stoops

**FREMONT, FBC:** Ed & Geneva Layne, Millie Williams, Harvey & Barb Johnson, Megan Gore, Cory Hull, Harvey & Barb Johnson, Ed and Geneva Layne, Keith & Stacy Perry, Jasmine Pettit, Linda Schutte, Millie Williams

**GIBBON, FBC:** Brandon Wallace, Elliot Gangwish, Michael Gleaves, Paige Johnson, Nadalie Jurgens

**HOLDREGE, FBC:** Tyler Freeland

**LINCOLN, FBC:** Glen & Bonnie Dappen

**LINCOLN, SECOND:** Patti Barber, Dorothy Scribner

**OMAHA, FBC:** Lindsay McCoy, Earl and Elaine Stober, Rob & Mary Stenzel

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS:** Mary Geiger, Aaron Weilage, Dorothy Wood

**TEKAMAH, FBC:** Chris & Janelle Shafer, Gail & Marilyn Twibning, Maxine Bragg

**OMAHA, JUDSON:** Patricia J. Daubman, Cheri Engle, Steve & Evelyn Fix, Millie Jones, Edward Jones, Maudene Stice



Local Church News

