

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



October 2002
Inside this issue:

From the Executive Minister	2
United Mission	2
For your information	3
Pastor Appreciation	4
Notes From Camp	5
Area Minister - compensation	6
Home Town News	6-8

NEW E-Mail Addresses:

RegionOffice@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com
sgillies@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com
shuskey@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com
Messenger@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com

A Heart for Ministry in The Heartland

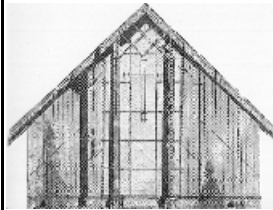
**American Baptist Churches
of Nebraska**

6404 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104-4079

Phone 402-556-4730
Fax 402-556-1910



A Chapel Will Be Built at Camp Moses Merrill



Major financial gifts are making it possible to build a chapel at Camp Moses Merrill. Work is beginning now to clear the land. Actual construction will begin in the spring.

Mrs. Floretta Ward, a member of Sunset Hills in Omaha, has made a commitment to give an initial gift of \$200,000 for the chapel. Mrs. Ward is a strong advocate for programs and facilities that encourage the spiritual development of young people.

Her gift was followed by a commitment of \$100,000 from Rev. Palmer Swenson, also of Sunset Hills. Rev. Swenson is a retired pastor who has long been an encourager and supporter of Camp Merrill. These two gifts will provide the necessary funds to build and furnish the chapel.

Omaha architect Larry McChesney is designing the chapel. (He is connected to Nebraska Baptists through his sister Sandy Denton, at First Baptist, Lincoln.) The design of the chapel will allow for flexible seating. The center of worship can be in the front of the chapel at the base of a floor to ceiling window, or it can be in the center of the room. There will be built-in audio and video capabilities. One of the special features of the chapel will be a large cross carved from Camp Merrill cedar.

The Chapel is part of a wider vision to expand the ministry of the camp. This vision is called "Building Bridges." Construction of an outdoor amphitheatre will be completed this fall. Plans are being made for an adult conference facility with a meeting room and 12-15 motel-type rooms. Plans are also being designed for an activity building.

Great Opportunity for Men from ABC/NE

A special event is happening November 2 in Kansas City. It is a unique "MegaRally" for men from American Baptist churches and their friends. According to planners, the rally will be Saturday-intensive, with "five star" preaching, music and workshops. Additional worship programming will be offered on the preceding Friday night and the following Sunday morning, in cooperation with First Baptist Church of Kansas City, KS and Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Further pre- and post-rally programming will include leisure and work-related activities such as golf tournaments, rope courses, work on a Disaster Relief trailer or Habitat for Humanity project.



The MegaRally will feature keynote speaker Dr. Harry Riggs, Director of Church Transformation, ABC/USA and concert musician Rev. John Polite, popular recording artist "JP" and Pastor of Panorama Baptist Church, North Hollywood, CA. See www.ThisIsJP.com

Registration fees are \$25 per person, \$20 per person for two or more people, and free for pastors who bring four or more paying registered men from their church. Registration and more information is available at www.abmen.org, in the newsletter [ABMen In Action], and toll-free at 1.800.ABC.3USA, extension 2286.

From the Executive Minister..... Susan Gillies

God's Great Surprises

For many devout and dedicated Christians, prayer is an integral part of daily life. Why is it then, that we can be stunned when God grants a prayer request or surprises us with something for which we couldn't have thought to ask?

My grandmother said we get what we look for. If you expect someone to say something stupid, you are absolutely sure to notice it when it happens. If you look for bad news you will find it. If you look for what's wrong with your pastor or your church you'll find something wrong. It is also true, according to my grandmother, that if you look for something good to happen, it will. If you expect a blessing, you'll find it.

I have been overwhelmed by God's surprises recently. Since I arrived here two years ago, I have been

praying that the ministry at Camp Merrill would be what God wanted it to be. But, who would have thought we would now be thinking of building new facilities at Camp Moses Merrill. No one went out looking for Floretta Ward or Rev. Palmer Swenson to see if they wanted to build a chapel. They simply came and said it was what they wanted to do. And right in the middle of those amazing conversations about a chapel, an anonymous donor slipped in and funded an outdoor amphitheatre. God used these gifts to stimulate a complete reassessment of buildings at Camp. We realized we have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to be more effective stewards of this ministry.

Another of God's surprises came this summer. I had been praying for someone to catch the vision for a new church in northwest Omaha. I had also been praying for ABC/NE to begin a Hispanic church. But I had no way of antici-

pating what God was about to do. Pastor Tom Thompson, Calvary, Omaha, came to my office with Pastor Gam Lahpai. The outgrowth of that meeting was the establishment of First Kachin Baptist Church of America. This church of tribal people from Myanmar (Burma) is going to have a profound affect on us all. God is showing us in dramatic fashion the results of our deep commitment to mission and also gifting us with a wonderful new church.

I'm looking for and praying for renewal in our churches, I'm looking for and praying for good Christian folks to rise above the conflicts that can eat away at the soul of a congregation, I'm looking for and praying for pastors to feel rejuvenated by the support and encouragement of their congregations. I can't wait to see what surprises lie ahead!

MINISTRY AND BUDGETS

Don Gaines

It always helps to interpret what someone writes if we know their biases. Therefore, let me state clearly as I begin this article that I believe in budgeting. At the beginning of every calendar year I sit down and write out a budget for my expected income and expenditures in the coming year. The expenditures are broken down into monthly amounts for giving, savings, groceries, medical, auto, etc. Then throughout the year I keep detailed records of what I spend and compare it periodically with the spending plan. This is a discipline which helps me be a better steward of God's resources, and which will help families avoid much of the conflict that often relates to the use of money.

Soon your church will be preparing a budget for next year. This budget will help you plan how you will fund the ministries in your church and beyond to which God has called you. For many finance committees, this process will begin with a discussion of the economy, and unless things have changed between now and then, that discussion could very well control the process and determine the outcome. *But it doesn't have to be!*

I like the suggestion of Ed Guerard (WMS, ABC of MA) that the budget talks begin with the Scripture, prayer and celebration rather than stock market reports and budget spreadsheets. What if each person on the board or committee would choose a text that gives insight into the budget process and share why they chose it. The group could then pray for guidance in understanding and applying those insights to the task of budget building. And then you could take time to list and celebrate the ministry and mission outreach of your church. Now it would be time to talk about the budget.

Budgets are important, but only as they assist your church in managing God's resources and carrying out the mission to which God is calling you. Therefore, the primary focus needs to be on ministry and mission, not money.

— // —

VOLUNTEER IN MISSION

NORMA COLE, First Baptist Church, Norfolk, will begin her sixth one-year appointment on September 2, 2002 at Cordova Community Christian Center, Cordova, Alaska. Her volunteer assignment will continue to include work with Home Port, Kids of the Kingdom program, and general assistance with the ministry of the Center.

Are you interested in a Volunteer in Mission assignment? There opportunities in the United States and overseas which can be short-term or long-term. Contact Carole Dieciedue, Director, Volunteers In Mission, 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2449.



RENEWAL

Making a Commitment to Renewal

This year's ABC of NE Family Reunion explored the theme "Discover Renewal." The theme stimulated a great deal of discussion about the on-going need for renewal for individual Christians and for churches. Some of the discussions included the following:

Renewal is not a one-time experience. Since one definition of renewal is that it is "the process of making new, fresh, or strong again" we need to seek renewal continually in our walk of faith.

Renewal begins with focused prayer. Perhaps the most important element in the renewal of First Baptist, Bridgeport, is that it began with spiritual discernment. The congregation started with personal spiritual renewal. They went through a prayerful process to select a theme scripture for the church. Putting personal and then corporate prayer and Bible study first, gives the whole renewal emphasis a solid foundation. It is hard to be effective in reaching new believers if the congregation is spiritually "sleeping."

Renewal involves an awakening. When our faith is re-awakened and refreshed, it becomes evident in our worship, our evangelism and our service. It calls us to a re-commitment to a living, joyous faith . . . living out our faith in our daily lives. It means seeking to do the right thing in our business decisions, seeking to do the right thing in our community, seeking to do the right thing in our homes . . . and churches.

Renewal helps put things in perspective. As renewed Christians, we are able to clearly focus on priorities we and our churches have established through prayer and Bible study. By asking, "What is God asking of us today?" we are able to put our energy into sharing the love of Christ, building healthy relationships, extending caring ministry to a hurting world.

TOMORROW'S HARVEST

Tomorrow's Harvest is the name of a new mission partnership of ABC of the Dakotas, ABC of Iowa and Minnesota, ABC of Nebraska and National Ministries ABCUSA for the spiritual transformation of the churches of these Regions. This renewal process will involve nine churches – three from each region. Currently the Nebraska churches that have signed on to participate are First Baptist, Columbus, and Parkside, Omaha. Participating churches of Tomorrow's Harvest will gather at the First Baptist Church of Storm Lake, Iowa, for a time of celebration and commissioning on Saturday, October 19.

Tomorrow's Harvest is described as, "God's call for churches to rediscover the freshness of being the people of God." The theme scripture for the process is Hosea 10:12, "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you."

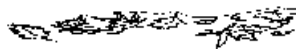
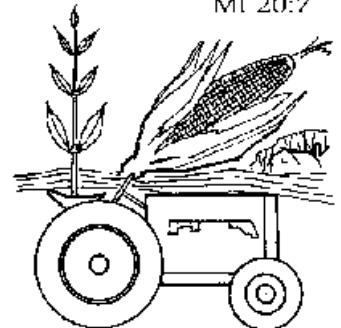
Several years ago, Dr. Richard Sutton of ABC's National Ministries, began to work with nine churches across the country in a new model of local church renewal. First Baptist Church of

Bridgeport was one of those nine. To further test the model used in the first project, Dr. Sutton is now working with the new tri-region group to see if the same approach will be helpful. The results of this new undertaking will then be reflected in materials for churches nationwide.

Nebraskans on the Tri-Region Renewal Team leading Tomorrow's Harvest are Mark Stevens, Sunset Hills; Laurie Janzen, Fremont; and staff members Dave Lundholm and Susan Gillies.

Go and join
the others in
my fields.

MT 20:7



A TIME TO HONOR PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES



**God strengthen
you in every
good work
2 Thessalonians 2:17**

Every day American Baptist endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors serve in hospitals, prisons, long-term

care facilities and the workplace, coaxing hurting spirits from shadows into sunlight.

During Pastoral Care Week, October 20-26, churches across the country will celebrate the ministries of these home missionaries. In our American Baptist churches, October 20 has been designated Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Sunday--a time to honor pastoral care ministries that seek to move our world toward wholeness.

"If we are to experience true wholeness, we must grow spiritually, as well as physically and mentally," says Dr. George A. Langhorne, National Ministries' director of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Services. "Pastoral caregivers celebrate this potential in all of us and help individuals and communities nurture such healing and growth."

That's why the theme for this year's observance of Pastoral Care Week is "Valuing a Growing Spirit." Your church can lift up the value of pastoral care ministries by:

- Inviting a local chaplain or pastoral counselor to participate in your worship on October 20 (call the ABC/NE office for a list of names in your area).

Praying for the more than 600 American Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors who bring hope to our hurting world.

TRIVIA

1. How many miles did the "From These Roots" ABC/NE Staff Caravan travel?
 - a. 1,798 miles
 - b. 3,742 miles
 - c. 5,482 miles
 - d. 6,275 miles
2. Individual ABC/NE churches started in which of the following:
 - a. a room over a saloon
 - b. a stockade
 - c. a lumberyard
 - d. all of the above
3. Which of the following founded the most ABC/NE churches?
 - a. American Baptist Home missionaries [sent by what is now National Ministries]
 - b. Chapel Cars [railroad cars outfitted for worship services]
 - c. Colporteurs [persons from the ABC Publication Society who distributed church resources]
 - d. The ABC/NE Office in Omaha.
4. Which of the following weird things was fairly common in early Nebraska churches?
 - a. men's quilting groups
 - b. two sermons per worship service
 - c. putting in a basement after the building was complete.
 - d. building the steeple before the main building.
5. Which ABC/NE church is the oldest?
 - a. New Life, Bellevue
 - b. First Baptist, Omaha
 - c. First Baptist, Blair
 - d. First Baptist, Tekamah

Pastor Appreciation

Some churches celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month in October and some in November. Whichever month you choose, it is important to recognize the contributions of your pastor. This year the Ministerial Leadership Commission of ABC-USA is encouraging churches to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month. The Commission is engaged in a clergy health initiative as reported in June in Christian Century magazine:

"In response to reports of clergy burnout, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. has decided to make wellness a priority issue for its ministerial leadership over the next five years.

'We concluded that often ministerial leaders do not seek their own wellness because the community expects them to do many other things,' said Ivan E. George, executive director of the Ministerial Leadership Commission of the American Baptist Churches.

George said the new emphasis will give clergy 'a sense of permission' to take care of themselves in addition to planning budgets, marrying couples and tending to the sick. In 2000, American Baptist clergy totaled more than 8,900 men and women.

The commission has created a definition of 'clergy health' that includes balanced nutrition, emotional well-being, periods of spiritual reflection and a sense of fulfillment with one's job. George said the church community should be involved in maintaining a minister's health by providing opportunities for retreats and resources for sabbaticals.

'What we are saying is that we need to change our cultural values so that his or her wellness is as important as his or her achievement,' George said in an interview. The new approach was approved at a recent commission meeting following a yearlong study that showed ministers were experiencing burnout and other problems. -RNS"



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

These are just a few quotes from campers this summer.

“God connected with me and led me back...”

“I’ve learned a lot and feel that my relationship with Christ has grown and will continue to grow.”

“I will be able to use these lessons in my everyday life!”

“I always grow when I come to camp.”

Campers (and staff too) have definitely been challenged this summer to DISCOVER! This summer’s camps have been filled with fun, challenge and spiritual growth. The following was reported from the 450 campers we saw this summer:

- 27 first-time decisions for Christ
- 70 recommitments to Christ
- 24 prayers of assurance
- 9 commitments to be involved in the Ministry
- 30 other decisions such as:
 - o Embrace God’s love more
 - o Have a closer walk with God
 - o Be more active in church
 - o Be more committed to prayer
 - o Be more merciful to others
 - o To accept responsibility
 - o To be a stronger witness
 - o Change personal habits
- And many more

It truly has been amazing to see how BIG God works in the lives of these campers and of the staff as well.

-Dave Janzen

Discover Endless Possibilities...

...at the **College age/young adult retreat** this October 11th-13th. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer will be taking a look at “Spirituality in the twenty-first century.”

For more information contact First Baptist Church, Lincoln at (402) 477-4198, fbclincoln@alltel.net OR Greg Sizer at (402) 486-1702, gpsizer@juno.com

Needed: The camp is in need of another computer. If you can contribute towards a new computer or have a newer computer you would be willing to donate please call the camp office. (402) 666-5639

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ON PASTORAL COMPENSATION

By David Lundholm

[Area Minister Dave Lundholm has been addressing issues of clergy compensation in the last several issues of *The Messenger*. He has conducted surveys of Nebraska pastors, done research on comparable regions and reviewed national data.]

Cash Salary and Housing:

Consider giving the following cost of living adjustment for your pastor in 2003.

If average attendance is over 150 and...

Pastors Salary and Housing is less than 16% of total budget then consider giving the M&M recommended cost of living adjustment +1%.

Pastors Salary and Housing is greater than 16% of total budget then consider giving the M&M recommended cost of living adjustment.

If average attendance is between 100 and 149 and...

Pastors Salary and Housing is less than 33% of total budget then consider giving the M&M recommended cost of living adjustment +1%.

Pastors Salary and Housing is greater than 33% of total budget then consider giving the M&M recommended cost of living adjustment.

If average attendance is less than 100 and...

Pastors Salary and Housing is less than 38% of total budget then consider giving the M&M recommended cost of living adjustment +1%.

Pastors Salary and Housing is greater than 38% of total budget then consider giving the M&M recommended cost of living adjustment.

Every three to five years consider giving a merit increase in addition to the normal cost of living adjustment.

If you have a full time pastor, provide M&M retirement benefits and full medical coverage for them.

In multiple staff churches consider providing M&M retirement benefits and full medical coverage for each full time staff position.

Provide reimbursement for all professional expenses: books, convention expense, continuing education expense, hospitality, ministers' council dues and mileage.

Provide a reasonable amount of time for continuing education (usually about 10 days per year.) Provide for a study sabbatical leave after each seven years of service to your church.

Provide at least four weeks vacation per year.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

November Deadlines

October 4, 2002 - Print Copy

Home Town Editor

Darlene RIMPLEY

Rt. 1 Box 74 A

Arnold, NE 69120

October 11, 2002 - E-Mail

E-Editor

area.minister.ne@charter.net

Subject: Messenger

ALBION, FBC: We celebrated a wonderful baptismal service Sunday evening, August 25th. There were 11 baptized by Pastor Tim Stahl and 16 joined the church.

ARNOLD, FBC: Pastor Irv and family spent three weeks in Scotland on a vacation/ministry trip. FBC joined with area churches for a 9-11 service of prayer and devotions, followed by a candlelight walk around the town. Bernice Halstead was honored on her 90th birthday at an open house on September 21.

NORFOLK, FBC: AWANA began its new year with a carnival. Norman Rix celebrated his 80th birthday on September 14. "Kite Day" was held at the September 8 Sunday School session.

BEATRICE, FBC: Sunday School Promotion was held Aug. 28, with Bibles presented to those entering 3rd grade. Refreshments and fellowship followed the promotion exercises. An all-church picnic and ballgame was enjoyed on Sept. 15. "Coalition for Life" members began a new season with a potluck on Sept. 8. Grandparents were honored during the service on September 8. A 9-11 "Remembrance" was held on Sept. 11.

GIBBON, BC: Blanche Bolin celebrated her 95th birthday on August 23. The VBS Bug Safari, which was held each Sunday morning through the summer, concluded on Sept. 8 with the children having a part in the worship service, followed by an all-church Bug Safari Picnic at noon. FBC joined with other Gibbon churches at a Hawaiian Luau, followed by a program by Gospel singer Jimmy Blackwood on September 5.

COLUMBUS, FBC: The ABW held a salad supper on Sept. 3, at which time secret sisters were revealed. Several people were recognized for perfect attendance at Promotion exercises, including Bill Evans III for 22 years, Bill Evans, Jr. for 20 years, and Randy Effa and Dien Effa for 10 years.

OMAHA, BENSON BAPTIST: Pastor Paul Marine is on a six-week study leave. K.I.D.S. had a carnival kick-off on September 4. The Monday night Bible study group continues to collect pop cans and plastic soda bottles to raise money for blankets for the persecuted church of Sudan. Their goal is to send no fewer than 10 blankets per month. Pat Larsen celebrated her 90th birthday and Florence Capps her 100th birthday recently.

ALLIANCE, FBC: The Church celebrated its Annual Anniversary Picnic on July 21 with a Church dinner and program. A very successful Vacation Bible School was held August 5-7 with a good increase over last year. The theme was THE MIRACLES OF JESUS. Each day, the children and teachers acted out five different miracles in full Biblical dress. On August 18, the Baptist Church of Berea, Nebraska joined with our congregation for a special missionary event. Two missionaries reported on their work in Mexico. The program was preceded by a Mexican dinner served by a family from the Berea Church. On August 25, the Church celebrated a special rally and kick-off for the New Year. All classes met together for refreshments, singing, youth choir, presentation of promotion certificates, and Bible study. Presentation of fourth grade Bibles and dedication of teacher and leaders was part of the morning worship service.

BROKEN BOW, FBC: Rally Day and Invite a Friend Day was held Sept. 8, with the children singing some of their Bible School songs. The church building received the bad end of a hailstorm in early September, with water covering the basement. The church is in the process as some building renovations/additions of the oldest church building in Broken Bow.

CHADRON, FBC: Rally Day was held on September 8, the day began with brunch and a social time. FBC joined with area churches for a 9-11 service.

WILSONVILLE, FBC: The Southern Union Association Meeting was held at FBC on Sept. 29.

FREMONT, FBC: Pastor Leland Foreman has been called from his role as Associate Pastor to the Senior Pastorate of FBC. Eleven FBC leaders attended a three day Leaders Summit Conference in Omaha in August. The Kids Klub presented a special musical, "United We Stand" on September 11, followed by a candlelight vigil. Sunday School Promotion was held August 25, along with "Invite a Friend" Sunday.



Local Church News

GRAND ISLAND, FBC: The ABW were guests of the Chapman ABW for an evening of fellowship, food, and fun on Sept. 4. "Dinner 8" is a new program for couples to join in at least once a month for food and fellowship.

HASTINGS, FBC: The First Baptist Church of Hastings has formed a search committee to find a Pastor. In their second meeting, Rev. David Lundholm, Area Minister, led a training session for the committee members. Rev. Harland Minscer has been called to be the Interim Minister.

HOLDREGE, FBC: Sunday School Promotion was held Sept. 8. The youth will be holding a silent auction during the month of October to raise funds for their activities. FBC joined with the Phelps County Ministerial Assoc. for 9-11 services. Jean Clayton, who is the chaplain at Holdrege Homes was relicensed for ministry by FBC.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: An all-church banquet was held on Sept. 8 with the theme of farming. Everyone was encouraged to come in "farming clothes". After the dinner at the Holiday Inn a program was held. A cow-milking contest was included on the agenda.

OMAHA, JUDSON BAPTIST: Pastor Kevin and his wife, Melody, have returned from his sabbatical. Registration for the 2002-2003 AWANA Program was held the first of September. Judson will have classes for K through sixth grade for boys and girls. Several families from Judson attend the Family Camp Labor Day weekend at Camp Moses Merrill and came away refreshed and blessed. Now several are looking forward to the Adult Ministries 21st Annual Conference at the end of this month. On Saturday, October 12 Judson will have an all-church hayride and wiener roast at the home of one of the members. Good fun, and good fellowship's expected.

OMAHA, PARKSIDE BAPTIST: The Board of Christian Education held a party for all neighborhood children on Sept. 7 to help acquaint families with the Parkside ministry. A bid has been accepted on the construction of a parking lot.

TEKEMAH, FBC: The FBC "Grilling Extravaganza" was held on Sept. 14 with diners voting for the best barbeque dish that was prepared. FBC joined with other area churches at a Community Memorial Service on September 11.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS BC: "Press Toward the Mark: Training Your Heart In Godliness" is the theme for the new Bible study and fellowship that began on September 11. The 12-week study meets Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. ... Forgiven, Sunset Hills' men's quintet will sing Monday, Oct. 7, at Maple Crest Condominiums in Omaha. A church Labor Day Breakfast was held at the House of Pancakes. The church held a picnic and praise on Sept. 8. Included in the evening's fun were games, face painting, crafts, and special music. The State ABW president, Dora Redwine, gave the presentation, "Silver Boxes" at the quarterly ABW Ministries Meeting on Sept. 7.

FAIRBURY, FBC: The AB Girls are gathering items for the "Operation Christmas Child" mission program. An after-school program for K-6th graders has begun at FBC. The annual chicken dinner was held on Sept. 29. The annual Men and Boys' Retreat was held at Camp Jefferson on Sept. 22. The ABW held a special dinner on Sept. 16, at which Sylvanna Airan from Pakistan, who grew up as a Christian in a Muslim country, spoke.

LINCOLN, FBC: A September 11 memorial service was held at FBC. The church family places 2,800 small American flags on FBC's front lawn to honor those who lost their lives on that day. A dinner was held, followed by a short service, with a candlelight vigil on the front lawn. The flags remained up until the following Sunday. The Chinese Fellowship group held a series of Evangelical meetings August 16-18, with 17 short-term missionaries from San Jose present. Pastor Lee has been invited to prepare the Bible studies for a Physician's Group which meet twice monthly for breakfast and Bible study.

TECUMSEH FBC: A ten-year anniversary event was held on September 1 to celebrate the ten years that Pastor Hugh and Beth Giesbrecht have been at FBC. The church will be assembling disaster kits. The youth group went to Minnesota on a short mission trip in August, and nine Jr. Highers went to Worlds of Fun on August 15.

NEW MEMBERS:

OMAHA, BENSON BAPTIST: Janeen Jensen, Kimberly Golden, Amanda Smith

FAIRBURY FBC: John and Betty Reyes

HASTINGS FBC: Barbara Gage
ALBION, FBC: Brian Choat, Dean Choat, Jennifer Choat, Sally Choat, Matthew Justus, Jr., Nathan Olson, Christian Pfeifer, Elisabeth Pfeifer, Jolene Pfeifer, Johnathan Pfeifer, Jeff Sherwood, Victoria Sherwood, Anthony Zahnow, Becky Zahnow, Melinda Zahnow, Tiffany Zahnow

MAN OF THE YEAR

Charles R. Campbell, long time civic leader of Fairbury and active member of the First Baptist Church of Fairbury, was chosen "Layman of the Year - 2002" during the American Baptist Men of Nebraska Annual Baptist Men's Conference held at Camp Moses Merrill, Linwood, NE on August 9-10, 2002. Charles has been active at local and regional levels of ABMen's work. He is an ardent supporter of American Baptist Men of Nebraska programs and Promise Keepers of America. Through his home church he has organized the Multi-Screening Unit of Fairbury, American Baptist Men Deacons and Devotional Breakfast, and the Baptist Ministerial Group, while striving to encourage men to become more active in those groups and church activities.

Pastor of the Year

At the American Baptist Men's Lunch at the Family Reunion in Kearney, Rev. Richard Peterson was named ABMen's Pastor of the Year. Following 14 years as a local church pastor in Iowa, Dick became Administrator for Maplecrest in Omaha, a post he held for over 20 years. He served as Interim Executive Minister of ABC-NE in 2000. Currently Dick is filling a special pastoral role as a Pastor to Pastors for ABC-NE. He maintains contact with pastors in the eastern part of Nebraska, attends pastors meetings and is available to respond to the special needs of pastors and their families.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. c. The Caravan made seven trips totaling 5,482 miles.
2. d. ABC/NE churches started in many different settings.
3. a. At one time --- American Baptist home missionaries were at work in Nebraska.
4. c. A number of churches added the basement several years after the church building was constructed.
5. d. First Baptist, Tekamah, is the oldest continuously operating American Baptist church in Nebraska.

ABC of Nebraska staff

Executive MinisterSusan Gillies
 Area MinisterDave Lundholm
 Minister of Mission SupportDon Gaines
 Director of Camps & Conferences.....
 Clarence Reiss
 Asst. Camp DirectorDave Janzen
 Camp Staff: Trudy Reiss & Traci Specht
 Office Manager & Asst Treasurer.....
 Sylvia Huskey
 Office Staff: Peggy Cannon & Sue Gammel
 Church Life Consultant.....A. J. Wagstaff
 Pastor to Pastors (W)Paul Kondy
 Pastor to Pastors (E)Dick Peterson
 Youth Ministry AdjunctJason Workman



Place Label Here

Return Service Requested

6404 Maple Street
 Omaha NE 68104 -4079
 Phone: 402 556 -4730
 Fax: 402 556 1910

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEBRASKA
 NE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

NONPROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 OMAHA, NE
 PERMIT NO 712