

the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



May 2004

ABC/NE Date Data

Memorial Day Picnic & Festivities
May 31, Camp Moses Merrill

ABWomen & ABGirls Retreat
June 4-6, Camp Moses Merrill

ABMen's Conference
Aug. 13-14, Camp Moses Merrill

FAMILY REUNION
Sept 17-19, 2004, Kearney

Adult Ministries Conference
Oct. 4-7, Camp Moses Merrill

E-Mail Addresses:

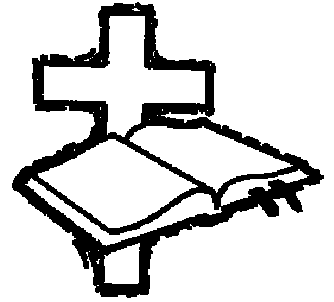
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Make plans now to attend . . .

2004 ABC/NE Family Reunion Emphasizes "Cross-Training"



The 2004 ABC/NE Family Reunion (and annual convention) will be held in Kearney Sept 17-19. The planning committee has selected the theme of "Cross-Training."

Dr. Bob Roberts will be the keynote speaker. Noted for his Biblical knowledge and passion for life in Christ, Dr. Roberts has served in many capacities in ABC life including Interim General Secretary.

Leading Bible study will be Dr. Bernadette Glover-Williams. Currently associate pastor at Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ, Dr. Glover-Williams is in high demand across the country for her insightful presentations.

"These two speakers will energize and bless our convention as we cross-train for all the ways God calls us to service," said ABC/NE Executive Minister Susan Gillies. "Bob and Bernadette are two of my favorite Bible 'illuminators.' They give you plenty of meat to chew on and on and do it in a very entertaining way. This is a convention not to miss!" do it in a very delightful way. This is a convention not to miss!"



Building Bridges "Memorial Day Challenge" Nearing Half-Way Point

As reported in the last issue of *The Messenger*, Nebraska Baptists have been challenged to raise \$100,000 by Memorial Day for the Camp Moses Merrill Building Bridges Campaign. That amount will be matched by an anonymous donor.

Early response to the challenge has been encouraging. One donor wrote: "I've seen all the promotion for Building Bridges and I believe in the ministry at Camp Merrill but it was the challenge grant that got through to me. I'll try to send more in May."

Director of Camping Clarence Reiss is ready for the opportunities ahead, "We hope and pray that we will be able to build the facilities we need to continue to expand year-round ministry at this beautiful camp. God is at work here and we are grateful."

The amount required to add the conference room and restroom section of the conference center to the already existing Friendship Chapel is estimated to be \$350,000. If that sum is reached, construction could begin in late summer.

From the Executive Minister..... Susan Gillies

Ready for Adventure?

How do you see your life? As time to fill until heaven? As a journey? As a party to enjoy? As a series of tests to endure? As a collection of duties to perform?

Some live their lives with an attitude of: "you're born, you exist, you die." Others live their lives with an attitude of: "you're born, you work as hard as you possibly can acquiring money, power and position, then you die."

I think of life as an adventure. One definition of adventure is -- a wild and exciting undertaking. There is risk in an adventure. Most definitions label it a bold undertaking.

While we don't have a choice about coming into the world, once we become old enough to understand, we have a choice in **how** we live this life.

Life is filled with amazing opportunities. We have been given an invitation to try to be like Jesus – and we've been given a lifetime to work on it. What a challenge! Being a disciple means more than SURVIOR, more than climbing Mt. Everest, more than swimming the English channel, more than winning a gold medal, more than amassing a fortune, more than having more collectibles than anyone else. This is a challenge with eternal consequences.

Our adventure calls us to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. It calls us to reflect God's love . . . everyday. It calls us to see Jesus in the least of those around us. It calls us to be people of love and compassion and incredible joy.

Anyone undertaking an adventure is wise to prepare for it. Our "conditioning" and "training" are spiritual development, Bible study, and being fully involved as part of a church fellowship. Our region convention in September will focus on the "cross-training" we need for this wondrous adventure.

From the Minister of Mission Support..... Steve Bils

ABC Nebraska Explores Partnership With IM for Rural Development

The American Baptist Churches in Nebraska are excited to begin exploring the possibility of partnering with International Ministries' new rural development initiative being spearheaded by Mike Mann. Mike is IM's Global Service Missionary for Rural Development.

Following almost fourteen years of ministry in Thailand, Mike is now available to any of our international partners who are interested in developing water and/or agricultural projects.



Mike and Becky live with their family in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he continues to advise the Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP), through which he ministers among the hill tribes of northern Thailand. He is currently working on his doctorate in rural and community development at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom.

Mike is currently in Nebraska speaking to three association meetings (Northwestern on April 24 and Capitol on April 25) and meeting with lay and pastoral leaders throughout the state. He will wrap up his visit with us at the Custer Association meeting on Sunday, May 2.

Many who attended the Adult Ministries Conference last year will remember Mike's passionate and compelling arguments for becoming involved in water and agricultural projects in areas where the water supply was unsafe and unreliable and where unfairly low prices for agricultural products were the norm. Mike even had hillside dwelling tribal groups raising fish for food!

Where other regions have sought to form partnerships or sister church relationships with geographical mission fields, Nebraska is excited about a global partnership with International Ministries focused on the specific challenges identified in the Rural Development initiative coordinated by Mike Mann.

For additional information about IM's new Rural Development Initiative visit their website at www.internationalministries.org.

Short-term Mission Opportunity

August 7-14 are the dates for this year's Sturgis Rally joint mission project of the ABC of Nebraska and the ABC of the Dakotas. Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways. Whether you can come for a day or two, or for the whole week, your help is valued and your participation is encouraged. More details will be published in the months to come.

For more information now, see www.SturgisAid.com/volunteer.

Ministry for the whole family

Opportunities Abound for Baptist Youth in Nebraska!

Major Youth Events Ahead:

Estes Park, Colorado, is the site for **ENCOUNTER**, a national gathering of American Baptist Youth, July 10-16. The theme is based on John 4:1-42. Youth will be invited to Encounter God, Go Deeper, and Change Your World. The event features small group Bible study, morning worship, evening worship, concerts and recreation. Find out more at www.abc-usa.org.

Mid-High Camp is June 20-26 for those entering grades 7-9. This camp provides an opportunity for young people to have a great experience with each other and with God. Rev. Robin Stoops, pastor at Fairbury is the coordinator. The theme at camp this summer is "Under God's Roof."

Senior High Camp is July 25-31 for those entering grades 10-12. A special feature this year is the leadership of Dr. Jeff Johnson, National Director of Evangelism for ABC-USA. Jason Workman, Associate Pastor at Benson and ABC/NE Youth Adjunct is assisting Dr. Johnson in coordinating the camp.

Junior & Senior M.A.D. Camps – Senior MAD Camp is June 6-12 for those entering grades 8-12 and Junior MAD Camp is July

27-July 3 for those entering grades 4-7. Both camps spend the week learning a music and drama production which is performed on Saturday morning. Rev. Paul Marine, Pastor at Benson, is camp coordinator for both camps.

Youth Convention is Sept 17-19 at Camp Comeca in Cozad. The featured speaker will be author and former University of Nebraska football player Aaron Davis.

American Baptist Women's Ministries Gathers at Camp June 4-6

The Annual Conference for American Baptist Women's Ministries will be held at Camp Moses Merrill June 4-6, 2004. The red carpet is out for women who have never attended before, those who have attended only once or twice, and for those who come every year.

The weekend conference is designed to be a time for personal and spiritual refreshment and renewal. It features stimulating speakers, varied activities and learning experiences, good food (with no dishes to do!), and the opportunity to fellowship with great women of all ages from across the state.

NATIONAL SINGLES FELLOWSHIP TO MEET: The National Singles Fellowship in ABC-USA invites all single adults to attend the annual National Singles Conference to be held Labor Day weekend, September 3-6, 2004. The conference will be held at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Conference and Retreat Center near Marshall, IN. Single adults of all ages, walks of life, and denominations attend. Those who have never married, are widowed or divorced all share and learn together. People come for relaxation, develop friendships and gain a fresh perspective of life in Christ. Our theme this year is "Celebrate - Fiesta de Uno" and our conference speaker is Rev. Diana Holland of Harlan, IA. Craig Johnson of Oswego, NY, is the music director. There will be workshops based on stress management, missions, massage, bible study and diets. A major goal of the National Singles Fellowship is to help renew the spirit of service for single adults in the church and thus strengthen the ministry of the local congregation. Our conference gives an opportunity to be refreshed, renewed and excited about the amazing God we serve. For more information and/or to receive a brochure of the conference, call Duane Melloncamp, conference coordinator, at 812-523-8374.



There are hundreds of reasons for being a card-carrying member of the American Baptist Men of Nebraska, but for only \$10 you can be a part of seminary scholarships given each year, the Disaster Relief Trailer and other programs of the state men.

Membership Information Form (Calendar Year 2004)

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email _____ Church _____ Pastor _____

\$10.00 Dues for the 2004 year. I am also enclosing:

_____ for the Disaster Relief Trailer Fund; and

_____ for the Seminary Scholarship Fund; and

_____ for the Booster Club Fund. Make checks payable to American Baptist Men of Nebraska

Return with the form to Glen Dappen, 1510 Buckingham Road, Lincoln, NE 68506. (402) 488-6902.

ABC-USA Reports Fastest Growth Among Protestant Bodies

American Baptist Churches USA recently has witnessed the fastest growth of any Protestant denomination, according to a report in the 2004 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

With a membership of 1,484,291 as of the end of 2002 (the latest year for which figures for all denominations were available), ABC-USA reported a growth rate of about 3 percent. The increase over 2001 totals (1,442,824) was the second in a row showing significant growth.

The Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches has for more than 70 years provided an annual report of church membership figures. Those statistics identified 161 million adherents in 215 denominations. In this year's report American Baptist Churches USA moved up from the twentieth to the nineteenth largest church body.

"The fact that we have seen growth over the past few years is tremendously encouraging, and speaks specifically to the vitality of our NEW LIFE 2010 emphasis on new believers and new churches," said the **Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley**, general secretary of ABC-USA. "While numbers themselves can never tell the whole story, we have reason to assume they indicate the American Baptist call to Christ-centered renewal has touched and motivated many people."

In 1999 denomination began a 12-year emphasis of planting 1,010 new churches, reaching 1,000,010 new believers, vitalizing a multitude of caring ministries, and so transforming American Baptist congregations by the year 2010. The vision grew out of a grass-roots challenge to be faithful to God's leading as the denomination moved into a new millennium.

"The energy generated by NEW LIFE 2010 has been felt in American Baptist churches across the United States and Puerto Rico," said the **Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III**, executive director of ABC's National Ministries. "NEW LIFE 2010 demands that we pray without ceasing for God's guidance and the energy of the Spirit. We are envisioning nothing less than a denomination renewed and empowered."



Taking A Fresh Look At Children's Ministry

Most people make life long faith decisions prior to age 14. Historically, more members have come into ABC churches through Sunday School than through any other means. Children's ministry is a critical part of outreach as well as of discipleship education.

Spring is a great time to talk about children's ministry. Gather a group of men and women in your church who have an interest and start brainstorming using the following suggestions:

- How do you understand the words "spirituality" and "discipleship"?
- What people and experiences nurtured your childhood spirituality? Who and what were stumbling blocks to your spiritual development?
- What do you - and your congregation do - to help children grow spiritually?
- Consider the desirability for cooperation between home and church. How might your congregation give more support to families who wish to nurture the spirituality of their children? How would you envision a "home-centered, church-supported congregation"?
- Children may be deeply spiritual, but lack a cognitive understanding of the Christian faith. How can a congregation recognize and respect younger children's desire for affiliation and a sense of belonging during the years prior to their baptism?
- What have you learned about faith from children?
- How have relationships with children enhanced your life and faith?

You don't have to arrive at consensus on every question during a brainstorming session. But the discussion may prompt a few

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AWARD

At the 2004 Family Reunion in Kearney, the ABC/NE will recognize exceptional achievement in children's ministry by small, medium and large churches. Watch for more details in the June MESSENGER. Is it time for your church to refresh and renew its ministry with children?



Camp Moses Merrill News

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Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

PROJECT CAMP - MAY 31 TO JUNE 4

"It is good and pleasant when God's people live together in peace!" These words from Psalm 133 portray some of the sense of family that can be developed while we work together as Christians to improve Camp Merrill. Project Camp is a time of growth for individuals, for the group, and for the improvement of Camp Moses Merrill through fellowship, worship, Bible Study and working together for a common goal.

WHO CAN COME? Willing workers ages 16 to 96 are invited. Whatever skills you have will be matched with appropriate tasks. If you are 16-18 years old, please arrange to have an adult mentor come with you.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

1. Put the finishing touches on the amphitheater, such as setting benches, dirt work, putting down wood chips and making a handicapped walk.
2. Sew new curtains for cabins
3. Wash windows and /or buildings
4. Sweep sidewalks, spread wood chips on paths
5. Paint play ground equipment and wood around base
6. Paint storm shelter doors at Weichelman and Guest House windows
7. Strip and wax Weaver dining hall
8. Build shelves
9. Repair RV bathhouse walls and deck
10. Other duties that may present themselves

These are but a few of the jobs that would be nice to get done before camping season.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING? The most important items to bring are **YOURSELF**, work clothes, and your handtools. The Camp will provide the equipment and supplies needed for most jobs. If you want to make curtains, you will need to bring a sewing machine, material and thread. Perhaps an ABW Ministries group or a Sunday School Class would like to donate the fabric.

DATES: MAY 31 - JUNE 4. Monday - Arrive, get settled in, and orientation. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's schedule - Bible Study, work, fellowship and worship. Friday will be wrap-up, clean-up and pack-up with Women's Conference starting that afternoon. Head for home after lunch. Come for all 5 days if you can, but we will gladly accept your help for even 1 or 2 days.

IS THERE A FEE? NO! A suggested donation of \$15.00 per person, per day would help defray the food cost. Pat Moore is coordinating Project Camp. We thank him for giving his time and talents. Please contact Pat at wpatmoore@hotmail.com or First Baptist Church, Chapman (308-986-2237) if you have any questions.

2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 29-31	Family Camp I
May 31-June 4	Project Camp
June 4-6	AB Women & AB Girls
June 6-12	Sr. MAD Camp
June 13-19	Junior I Camp
June 20-26	Mid Hi I Camp
June 27-July 3	Jr. MAD Camp
July 9-11	Primary I Camp
July 11-17	Junior II Camp
July 18-24	Mid Hi II Camp
July 25-31	Senior Hi Camp
Aug 6-8	Primary II Camp
Aug 13-14	AB Men's Conf.
Sept 3-6	Family Camp II
Sept 17-18	Family Reunion
Oct 1-3	AB Women's Retreat
Oct 4-7	Adult Ministries Conf.

COMING SOON! - FAMILY CAMP MAY 28-31

Bring an RV or tent and pack up the kids and you're ready to go! These fun-filled weekends start on Friday evening and wrap up Monday after lunch. The following prices are for the full weekend per family and includes swimming for everyone.

Tenting \$55.00

RV \$65.00

Plan for a wonderful outdoor experience for the whole family, including games, campfire and worship. Call the Omaha Office to make reservations.

From the Area Minister..... Dave Lundholm

The Prayer Chain Revisited

Most churches, or woman's group have a telephone notification list to get information and prayer requests to people quickly. Historically each person has been given a list of people to call to get the word out.

Well there have been some technological changes that might make this process easier. Our North Platte church recently purchased a system that automatically calls a list of people and plays a pre-recorded message. It can allow a message to go to any pre-defined group. A message can be sent to youth sponsors or the youth group or the prayer chain etc. The system keeps track of how the call was received: did and answering machine pick up, was the call delivered, was there no answer.

A simple e-mail system can also work to get information to groups or the prayer chain. (This only works if people on the group check their e-mail.) Use your e-mail software to set up a mail group, and add all the prayer chain e-mail addresses to the group. Then when there is a need for prayer, just send an e-mail to the group. (If you want to make sure people are notified ask for receipt conformation)

Voice messages could also be sent via this method. Record the message as a wave file using windows sound recorder (click Start – Programs – Accessories – Entertainment then you should see the shortcut to the recorder). Then just attach the voice file to the e-mail.

I hope these ideas spark your imagination as you think about new ways to do the prayer chain.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

May Deadlines

May 5, 2004 - Print Copy
May 9, 2004 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor

Darlene RIMPLEY
Rt. 1 Box 74 A

E-Editor

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Subject: Messenger

ALLIANCE FBC: Susan Gillies, David Lundholm, and Pastor and Joyce Rowe enjoyed lunch together. The annual teachers and CE workers appreciation dinner was held March 28 at the Bistro on the Butte. Kevin and Cynthia Horn presented an evening of music and challenge.

ARNOLD FBC: Easter events: Community Sunrise Service at Devil's Den: breakfast served by the Plains Praise Committee at FBC; A community "Resurrection Celebration" held at Rockwell farm April 10, with an Easter egg hunt, games, supper, entertainment, and prayer at the cross. The 8th grade and senior graduates were honored on April 25.

BEATRICE FBC: Easter events: Maundy Thursday communion service; the Easter musical, *Who Do You Say I Am?*, during worship. FBC has formed a Billy Graham Crusade Leadership Team to inform and encourage people about the June 17-20 Crusade in Kansas City.

BRIDGEPORT FBC: Held Lenten Services every Wednesday. Adult Sunday school class began study of the 40 Days of Purpose. A Tuesday night Bible Study spun off of the class for those that couldn't attend on Sunday mornings. The Building Feasibility Committee held a potluck on March 21 to outline the possible plans for

better and bigger facilities. We sent three men to the Western Nebraska Men's Retreat at McCook. We exceeded our America For Christ goal, Praise the Lord!

BROKEN BOW FBC: Easter events: Lenten sermon series with the area churches. FBC hosted the event on March 31, and the women of the church served lunch.

CHADRON FBC: Easter events: Maundy Thursday communion service; and the Community Sunrise Service and worship service. The "Bringing Up Boys" video series is being shown on Tuesday nights. The MRS Circle is collecting items to send to soldiers in Iraq that are not receiving CARE packages.

COLUMBUS FBC: Easter events: Community Lenten service on April 7 with lunch immediately following; Passover Seder Messianic Dinner on April 8; Good Friday service; and Easter breakfast. A gift of \$500 was given to retiling the church kitchen. Pastor Adams attended the Tri-Regional Conference in Sioux Falls.

FAIRBURY FBC: Easter events: FBC hosted the Kiwanis Lenten Breakfast on April 8; Maundy Thursday service, community Good Friday service at the Methodist Church; **Sonrise** Service, Easter

breakfast, and Easter egg hunt. The ladies of the church enjoyed their annual Table Treasures Evening on Apr. 26. The Family Adventure Nights concluded on April 7. The ABW Ministries is studying the future of their work and the role in the church. A breakfast was held for the Promgoers on April 18.

FREMONT FBC: Easter events: The cantata, *Alleluia*, was presented on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday worship; Sunrise Service followed by breakfast. Dorothy Peterson recently celebrated her 80th birthday; Gertrude Carlberg celebrated her 90th birthday, and Bud and Lillian Frye their 50th wedding anniversary. The Kids Klub and Sunday school classes presented a musical, *Down By the Creek Bank*, on April 25. The University of Sioux Falls 60 voice choir presented a program on April 25, with an all-church Sloppy Joe supper preceding the concert. Ladies Day Out included a trip to Clarkson to visit the Blue Bird Nursery. Youth Pastor Eric Purcell, his wife Lisa, Adam Robley, Bryant Frazee, and Michael Harris are making plans for a three-week mission trip to Thailand this summer.

GIBBON FBC: Easter events: Community Lenten services, April 3 gathering at FBC; A procession of palms on Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday communion ser-

vice; Palm Sunday Community Service with a combined choir; Sunrise Service with breakfast following. The ABW Ministries Association Meeting was held at FBC on April 5.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: Easter events: A cantata, *At the Name of Jesus*, was presented by the Interfaith Community Choir on April 4 and 11th; The FBC Choir presented the cantata; *The Upper Room*, on April 4; Maundy Thursday service; Sunrise Service, and a breakfast following. The ABW Circles recently made five layettes, nine health kits, two school kits, and provided cash for two layettes and two health kits.

HOLBROOK FBC: The Southern Union Association Meeting was held at FBC on April 18. Brian Young presented the program on creation.

HOLDREGE FBC: Easter events: "Celebration Sunday" on April 4; Maundy Thursday candlelight communion service; Community Good Friday service at Bethel Lutheran Church; Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast served by the youth. A fund to replace the carpet in the church has begun.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: Easter events: A "Living Lord's Supper" was presented by 13 men on Maundy Thursday; Community Sunrise Service at the Methodist Church, Community Night, with a salad supper, was held April 4. "Hats Off to You, Ladies" was the theme of the Ladies' Birthday Party on April 7.

LINCOLN FBC: Easter events: The Adult and Children's Choirs presented the cantata, *Jesus, Son of God*, at the Palm Sunday service; Maundy Thursday communion service; Sunrise Service led by the youth; Easter egg hunt and breakfast. The Middle School and high School Youth groups held overnights on April 24. The K-5 held a mini lock-in on April 17. A "Camp Scholarship Spaghetti Night" was held on April 21 to raise money for campers. A Woman's Brunch April 17, with Karren Boehr, a writer and humorist presenting the program.

LINCOLN, SECOND BAPTIST: "The Media Center has received a large screen TV as a donation from Laura Cummings and Family in memory of Martin Gosses, Laura's father. Harlan and Glenys Tabor donated a cabinet for the TV, built by Harlan. A Bake Auction Fundraiser for the youth was held Sunday, March 14. Norvel Jacobs, was the Auctioneer. The Senior

High Youth raised \$378.25 for their trip to Colorado this summer. Faith Weavers children received their award keys and presented special music during the worship service on March 21. Nine youth and a sponsor attended the Jr. Hi Extreme Retreat at Camp Moses Merrill, March 26-28. Senior Adult Ministries had a luncheon on April 9. The program was a film on the Life of Christ. Easter Events: A dramatic processional and Communion service on Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday Musical Cantata, "Jesus, Son of God," and communion; cantata was also presented on April 25: Saturday, April 10 an Easter Egg Hunt which, included games, crafts and an Easter Video; On Easter Sunday a Sunrise Service at Belmont Baptist Church, a youth sponsored Breakfast from 8:45 - 9:15 followed by Sunday School at 9:30 then a "Resurrection Celebration" Worship Service at 10:45.

MCCOOK FBC: Easter events: Community Lenten services with Pastor Stan leading the devotions and the FBC women serving lunch on April 2; Sunrise Service and breakfast.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: Easter events: Maundy Thursday candlelight services; Community Good Friday services at the Episcopal Church; Sunrise Service followed by a breakfast. Pastor Dwight Neuenschwander went on a Mission trip-March 18-28 in Mexico. Susan Gillies and David Lundholm spoke during his absence. Mattie Rumery celebrated her 98th birthday on March 2. Senior Sunday was on April 18, with many of the "seniors" participating in the service.

OMAHA BENSON: Easter events: Palm Sunday the chancel choir presented the Easter musical, *How Great Thou Art*; Maundy Thursday service and communion; Good Friday service; a BBC Easter egg hunt for children through 12 years of age was held Apr. 10; Sunrise Service; the youth served Easter breakfast with proceeds going to summer youth mission trip. The Easter offering went to Together, Inc. an outreach follow-up ministry, a Worship Service Greeters Ministry, and a Good Neighbor Ministry is being started in the church. Twelve teachers attended the Faithkids training session on Apr. 17, with the funds coming from Training Missions. A "movie night" for the Sunday school teachers was held on Apr. 30.

OMAHA FBC: Easter events: Maundy Thursday communion service; Easter breakfast. The Rainbow Ranch Sunday School class provided entertainment for

the residents of Lindenwood Nursing Home on March 17. Lay Appreciation Sunday was held April 25.

OMAHA JUDSON: The March Fellowship Dinner had an Irish theme serving corned beef and cabbage, and a few hot dogs for those who chose not to be Irish. The Annual Business Meeting was held on March 14th. In mid-March, Judson was honored to have Rev. Carol Sutton, preach for us. Rev. Sutton is the National Coordinator of New Life 2010. In April an Easter Egg Hunt has held for all the children and held its traditional Easter Garden on Sunday morning. This tradition PARKSIDE: is over 75 years old. We spruced up the sanctuary with a new coat of paint, new carpeting and new ceiling light fixtures. One of the adult Sunday School classes went to see "The Passion." They then discussed the movie. The the annual "Spring Fling" was on April 25. The theme this year was "The Jewelry, Women of the Bible Might Have Worn. And the icing on the cake is one more baptism.

OMAHA MIRACLE HILLS: The ABW Omahaland quarterly meeting was held at Miracle Hills. Pastor Joan Stewart shared a program, "The Rest of the Story," and a dessert luncheon was served.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: Easter events: Maundy Thursday worship; a Neighborhood Kids Easter party on April 10, with crafts, games, refreshments, and the Easter story being shared; Breakfast.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: Rev. Bob Molby officially became interim pastor on April 1, with a covenant service on Palm Sunday. The Christian Student Fellowship from the University of Nebraska at Kearney presented "Spring Break," an hour of praise songs and fun for middle, high school students and young adults on April 3. Nineteen Easter lilies were donated by members in honor or memory of relatives or friends. The University of Sioux Falls Concert Chorale will present the Sunday, April 25, service. A member has sponsored a baseball team for 13 and 14 year olds in the Westgate/Westside Athletic Association on behalf of the church. Forgiven will sing the national anthem at WWAA opening day ceremonies April 25. Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for the four Sundays in June, from 6 to 8 p.m.

OXFORD, FBC: The BYF and MYF enjoyed a ski trip to Silver Creek, Colorado.

(Continued on page 8)

There were 33 young people plus 11 sponsors. They enjoyed skiing during the day and devotions and communion in the evening. March 7th we hosted a birthday party, honoring Fern Huff, on her 98th birthday. Fern has been an active member of our church for more than 56 years. Alexandra Teresa Garlick, daughter of Dan and Merritt Garlick, of Kearney, was dedicated during worship service on March 28th.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: Easter events: Maundy Thursday communion service, uniting with the Bridgeport Baptist Church and former youth pastor Rev. Darren Stroh conducting the service; Sunrise Service at the Monument; breakfast at the church; Easter egg hunt and party for the children. The children were treated to a Kids Sunday breakfast on April 4 for exceeding the challenge of collecting \$50.00 for the America For Christ Offering. They collected \$125.00.

SUPERIOR FBC: The Board of Christian Education, assisted by the youth Sunday

school class, served a potato bar and dessert following the morning worship Mar. 14. The money raised will be used for camperships to Camp Moses Merrill this summer. April 6 our church hosted the community Lenten breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

TECUMSEH FBC: Easter events: Baptism on Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday service; Good Friday Day Camp of K-6; Community Good Friday service at FBC; **Sonrise** Service with potluck breakfast following. An International Potluck was held on Apr. 4, hosted by the Missions Committee. A workday was held on April 4.

TEKAMAH FBC/RIVERSIDE: Easter events: Maundy Thursday service and communion at FBC; Good Friday service and communion at Riverside; Sunrise Service on the hill overlooking Riverside with breakfast following; FBC had baptisms during worship. Eunice Bowden celebrated her 90th birthday on April 10 with an open house. The ABW held their annual breakfast on April 17.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister Susan Gillies
 Area Minister Dave Lundholm
 Minister of Mission Support..... Steve Bils
 Director of Camps
 & Conferences Clarence Reiss
 Camp Staff Trudy Reiss, the Prathers
 Office Manager Sue Gammel
 Office Assistant Pat Galloway
 Accounting Services Jerry Buss
 Volunteer Mission Secretary Judie Heller
 Church Life Consultant A. J. Wagstaff
 Pastor to Pastors (W)..... Paul Kondy
 Pastor to Pastors (E)..... Dick Peterson
 Youth Ministry Adjunct Jason Workman

NEW MEMBERS:

ALLIANCE FBC: Crystal Farr, Arielle Danker, Emily Danker

FREMONT FBC: Sabrina Depue, Hayley Frazee, Tucker Bonow, Minnie Edwards, Janine Krom, Heather Hogg

BRIDGEPORT FBC: Dave and Kim Smith, Dean and Kristi Weborg, Paul Brown, Ashley Leever