

# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



April 2003  
ABC/NE Date Data

Sr. High Retreat  
April 4-6, 2003  
Western 5th & 6th Grade Event  
April 12, 2003  
ABC/NE Dept & Exec Comm.  
May 17, 2003  
60th Anniversary of Moses Merrill  
Camping in Nebraska  
May 26  
ABW Ministries Conference  
June 6-8, 2003  
AB Men's Conference  
August 15-16, 2003  
Family Reunion  
Sept. 26-28, 2003

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## A Heart for Ministry in The Heartland

#### American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

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*"Why are you seeking him who lives, among the dead? He is not here; he is risen."*

## Easter Blessings!

### Nebraska Churches Build for Ministry

Several American Baptist churches in Nebraska are engaged in construction projects to expand their ministry. These include churches in Tekamah, Broken Bow, Arnold and King Solomon in Omaha. Handicapped accessibility is a priority in all the projects.

**First Baptist of Tekamah** recently completed a two phase project. In phase one, the church constructed wide steps and a tiered landing along with a five passenger elevator. This was made possible by a bequest from a person who had concerns about handicapped access to the church building. In phase two, they remodeled the kitchen, doubling its size and rebuilt the back entry providing an emergency exit.

Pastor Steve Eggum reports that the level of energy in the congregation went up, giving improved, and five new families are attending. He said that the congregation has tried to be good stewards with the money they received and the Lord has blessed them. The whole project has provided valuable learning according to Eggum, "In construction, invariably you run into problems and discrepancies. The Master can work to correct mistakes and set things straight. It's the same with our lives. There are times when problems and disappointments occur, but the Master Builder, God's Son, is there to set things right and make us a new creation."

**First Baptist of Broken Bow** is engaged in a major project to enhance the ministry potential of their building. By adding to the side of their building (on top of a flat-roofed basement), the church will have a new ground-level entry, nursery, pastor's study, handicapped accessible bathrooms and a meeting room with kitchenette. Building chairman Glen Buchta says that the addition will make the building more welcoming. "Interest in the project has grown as the building has gone up. Most of the construction is done. We'll be doing the painting ourselves and finishing ceilings, rest room fixtures, etc., as we can afford them." In addition to this project, the church building and parsonage each have a new roof, following hail damage last summer.

**King Solomon Missionary Baptist** in Omaha is constructing a new



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

## Go And Tell

The weeks leading toward Easter are very important to me. Whether observed as "Lent" or a "40 Day Spiritual Adventure" or by any other name, this time of personal and congregational reflection has, over the years, been very powerful. I hope you use this time, as well.

When I was in graduate school I studied and wrote about the way the church, toward the end of the Middle Ages, incorporated dramatic elements into worship to hold the interest of the congregation. Most of the people in that day could not read. The priests discovered that if they dramatized parts of the Mass, the people got the message more clearly. Worship became more vivid. The first of these dramatizations were called tropes – usually consisting of a few lines of dialogue. It doesn't seem like much to us, but, at that time, it was something special.

It is generally thought that the church brought about the demise of theatrical spectacle at the end of the Roman Empire because of excesses. (Like actu-

ally killing someone to make a murder scene in a play more authentic.) But many years later, the church brought drama back because it was an effective way to help the people understand and remember.

This example survives from the ninth century. It is called the Quem Queritis [Whom Seek Ye?] Trope

[ Angels ] : " Whom do ye seek in the tomb, O Worshippers of Christ ?

[ Worshippers ] : " Jesus the Nazarene, the Crucified, O Heavenly Beings.

[ Angels ] : " He is not here; He has risen, just as He predicted. Go and announce that He has risen from the tomb. "

Over the centuries, this is the powerful, jolting, astonishing news of the triumph of life over death, good over evil, God's intervention in history.

As we prepare for Easter, perhaps we should ask ourselves whom we seek on Easter Sunday? And then we should do what we **always** do when we find out something powerful, jolting, astonishing, that is really good news . . . go and tell.

## Friendship Chapel



Nearly 100 people gathered to break ground for the new chapel at Camp Moses Merrill on March 1. The name "Friendship Chapel" was announced by donors Mrs. James Ward and Rev. Palmer Swenson.

Pictures from the ground-breaking can be viewed by going to the website, [www.abcnebraska.com](http://www.abcnebraska.com) and clicking on the picture.

## MISSION INFORMATION ONLINE

by Don Gaines

Many persons in my generation who have a strong interest in missions are failing to take advantage of the abundant resources that are available to us on the Internet. We appreciated the familiar newsletters we once received, but they are no longer coming to us. What we need to recognize is that more current information is available to us now than ever before.

For example, let's say you want a brief story for a mission moment in worship, information about a particular missionary and their work for a circle meeting, or to know about a particular need as a focus for your prayer for missions around the world. You can go to [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org), click on International Ministries (or go directly to [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)), click on missionaries, and then scroll down through the list of all of our international missionaries. Click on a persons name and you will get a profile of that person. Under his/her picture is a list of two or three of their journals. Click on one that looks interesting and you get that journal. You can print either the profile or the journal.

Or, if you are interested in missions in the United States, go to the ABC website and click on National Ministries (or go directly to [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org)) and click on missionaries, Home Mission News, or any number of other choices. National Ministries doesn't have journals, but they do have missionary profiles with a description of their ministry. Educational Ministries also has their website.

Don't have a computer or not connected to the Internet? There are some people in your church that do who would be glad to get the information for you if you would only ask.

You may be surprised at the amount of information at your fingertips about every area of the ministries to which God has called American Baptists. Do I still prefer the information printed on paper? Yes! However, I recognize that the world continues to change and that this is the most cost effective way to receive the mission information that is so important to me. My grandchildren have already changed the ways they get information, and I'm working at it!

## Pastors' Day at Central Seminary

David J. Schlafer will be the speaker for the 2003 Clayborn Landers Preaching Lectures and Pastors' Day at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City Friday, April 25. The theme for this year's lectures is *Playing with Fire: Preaching Work as Kindling Art*.

Dr. Schlafer serves as a faculty member at the Association of Chicago Theological Schools. The primary focus of his vocational energy is continuing education courses in preaching, which he conducts with clergy, lay preachers, sermon listeners, and teachers of preaching throughout the United States, in Canada, and in England.

Dr. Schlafer has written *Surviving the Sermon: A Guide to Preaching for Those Who Have to Listen*; *Your Way with God's Word: Discovering Your Distinctive Preaching Voice*; and *Sermons that Work*.

For more information, contact Central Seminary 913-371-5313 ext. 111.

## Woods Named Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries

The Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio since 1996, has been named associate general secretary for Regional Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA.

In announcing the appointment of Woods, American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley said, "His love for American Baptist Churches USA is not uncritical and he constantly pushes us to think outside the box. He has a vibrant spiritual life. He is appreciative of and gifted in working with our diversity.... This is a wonderful opportunity for the ministries of ABCUSA. I look forward to the energy, ability and spiritual presence Jeff will bring to this position."

Medley said that in his new role Woods "will link us to a wide range of resources for building the capacity of our regions for ministry with a sensitivity to the realities within which we work."

Many Nebraska pastors became acquainted with Woods who spoke at the 2002 Tri-Region Pastors' Continuing Education Event in Vermillion, SD.

## All Pastors Invited To 2003 Clergy Ethics Conference

The ABC of Nebraska, Mid-America and the Dakotas are inviting all pastors to participate in the 2003 Clergy Ethics Conference. The conference will be held at Camp Moses Merrill May 12-14.

The conference will address issues of integrity in ministerial relationships, boundaries, preventing unethical or abusive conduct, clergy self-care, and placement. It is important for all clergy to periodically attend ethics training.

The event will be led by the Executive Ministers of the host regions along with Dave Lundholm, ABC/NE Area Minister and Tom Thompson, pastor of Calvary, Omaha.

In addition to the very serious content of the conference, there will be time for fellowship and recreation with other heartland pastors.

For more information about the conference, contact ABC/NE, 1-877-244-7339.

## NEBRASKA CHURCH PROVES EVERYONE WINS IN THE CIRCLE OF GIVING Like the circle of life, what goes 'round comes 'round in the circle of giving

It's an age-old story--born again in the 21st century by Calvary Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb.--that by giving, we receive. Calvary sponsors the First Kachin Baptist Church of America, also in Omaha. This new church was planted in June 2002 by members of the Kachin tribe of Burma, who came to the United States in search of asylum after being forcibly removed from their country because of their ethnicity and Christian faith.

The Rev. Tom Thompson, Calvary's pastor, describes his church's primary role as that of "advocacy." Members help the Kachin people find housing, jobs, and healthcare. Calvary also provides English-language classes and help for students developing conversational skills. The First Kachin Baptist congregation worships in Calvary's chapel as well. Calvary's involvement in the Kachin church plant, Rev. Thompson says, "has been a blessing in so many ways. They have brought us a sense of vitality we thought we had lost."

The young Kachin Nebraskan congregation traces its heritage to an American Baptist missionary. Many years ago, missionary Ola Hansen put the Kachin language into an alphabet and translated the Bible.

Many of the Kachin people who relocated to the United States find their spiritual roots grounded in this late selfless missionary, now buried in Oakland, Neb. In fact, the asylum-seekers hold him in such high regard that they plan to raise funds for a significant marker on his grave. The fruits of missionary Hansen's gifts to the Burmese tribe were realized in the establishment of First Kachin Baptist Church. Now this church gives the gift of vitality and renewal to Calvary Baptist Church. The circle of giving and sharing God's gifts richly perpetuates itself.

*This story was made available on the internet for all ABC regions to use in their publications. The Messenger thought Nebraskans would like to see it, too.*





## ABW Ministries Annual Women's Conference!

Plans are underway for a great Women's Conference at Camp Moses Merrill, June 6-8. According to the Conference Committee, "Women's Conference is an opportunity to introduce members of your family and friends to a weekend filled with intergenerational activities and hear a creative, energetic speaker."

Older women are being encouraged to invite and bring a younger friend or family member.

Younger women are encouraged to attend and bring a friend or family member. The goal of the conference is to introduce women of all ages to Jesus Christ and the benefits a conference weekend bring to them. There will be opportunities to refresh and restore physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, and to gain a new perspective on the work being done by American Baptist Women throughout the state, nation and internationally.

According to the committee, the weekend will include:

- An excellent speaker – Ruth Spencer
- Great music led by Joy Molcyk and Marcia Shipley
- Devotions by Kathy Terrell and Shirley Johns
- Workshops
- Free time/ Recreation: hiking, hayrack tour of the grounds, swimming, tennis, resting, relaxing
- Horseback riding for an additional \$15 is also available
- An evening with folks from the Kachin church
- Plus much more . . .

Women who wish to play board games, etc., on Friday and Saturday evenings should bring games with them. Other things needed, include: bedding for a single bed, pillow, towel/ washcloth, soap, flashlight, Bible, casual clothes and comfortable shoes. Offerings will be received for Love Gift, Camp Offering and Nebraska Mission Project.

### American Baptist Women's Ministries of Nebraska Annual Conference Registration June 6 – June 8, 2003

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of conferences attended \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check made payable to ABW Ministries:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Deposit \_\_\_\_\_ \$70.00 Full time: Includes 2 nights & 5 meals

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Friday only: Includes 0 nights and 1 meal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 Friday night and Saturday: Includes 1 night and 4 meals

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Saturday only: Includes 0 nights and 3 meals

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 Saturday and Sunday: Includes 1 night and 4 meals

Registration Deadline is May 24.

A late fee of \$5.00 is added after this date.

Please check meals you will be eating:

\_\_\_ Fri. Eve. \_\_\_ Sat. AM \_\_\_ Sat. Noon \_\_\_ Sat. Eve. \_\_\_ Sun. AM

Return this form and check to:

Vera Mae Duncan 715 N. Central Avenue #1 Superior, NE 68978

building. Pastor Al Wagstaff and his congregation have dreamed of

(continued on page 4)  
(continued from page 1)

#### Nebraska Churches Build

this new facility for years. Serving the 450+ member congregation in the existing church building is challenging, even with two worship services on Sunday morning. The new facility will provide more space and will be handicapped accessible, better serving the needs of the congregation. The frame is up on the new building and construction is moving ahead, as weather permits.

**First Baptist of Arnold** has a dream for a new facility. They are in the planning stages for construction of an accessible church building. The congregation has purchased an alfalfa field of about five acres as a location. Pastor Irv Jennings said, "Our people believe that God is a god of miracles. We would welcome the prayers of other churches in the region that our vision will be continually re-kindled." The congregation may consider

### Attend An Association Meeting Near You!

Associations provide an opportunity for churches in a geographic area to come together for a special time of sharing. Each Association has a unique style but most programs include worship, study and fellowship.

Meetings planned this spring include: (If time and place are not listed, check with your church office.)

York Association meets March 30  
Custer Association meets in An-  
sley at 2:30pm on April 6  
Northwestern Association meets  
in Alliance at 9:30am on April 19.  
North Platte Association meets in  
Arthur on April 27.  
Southern Union Association meets  
April 27  
Capital Association meets April 27

Omahaland churches will be gathering this summer for a special music event. It is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at Tekamah.





## Camp Moses Merrill News

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

Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: [campmerrill@nntc.net](mailto:campmerrill@nntc.net)

Website: [www.campmerrill.com](http://www.campmerrill.com)

# WANTED:



## Cabin Leaders

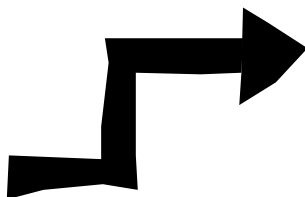
Camp Moses Merrill is in need of cabin leaders to stay in a cabin for a week with a bunch of energetic kids (they really aren't that bad). Come spend a week modeling Jesus' love to campers and helping them build a deeper relationship with Christ.

Contact the camp to get connected with a coordinator.

## Volunteers

People are needed to help get the camp ready for the summer "RUSH." There are several projects to be completed such as: installing the benches for the new amphitheatre, power washing & sealing siding, tree/trail trimming & clearing, painting and cleaning windows.

Come by yourself or come with a group of bandits (we actually prefer friends). Come for a few hours, a day, a week, a month or more. Let us know when you are available and what you have for skills or what you are interested in doing.



### Upcoming Events

**Senior High Retreat**

April 4-6

**Family Camp**

May 23-26

**Memorial Day Picnic & 60th Anniversary Celebration**

May 26

**AB Girls Retreat**

May 30-June 1

*Come Join Us!*



**Reminder:** It is time to get your registration mailed in for summer camp.

## Interim Ministry: Setting the stage for new growth. By Dave Lundholm

The time between pastors is seen by most churches as a scary time when the work of the church is put on hold and the church 'marks time' waiting for a new professional leader.

But the interim is not a dead time. Many important things have to happen in the life of the congregation. Things that are an essential foundation for the pastoral ministry that is to come.

The interim is a time when the loss of the former pastor is appropriately grieved. Losing a pastor is much more like experiencing a divorce than it is having an employee quit. The church has to deal with the pain of having a

respected leader leave (or the pain of having to suggest that it was "time for a change.")

Another vital task in the interim is congregational self-reflection. The congregation must deal with the questions of: "What are we like?"; "Where have we been?"; and "Where is God leading us in the future?"

Good interim pastors know that they are not charged with starting new things but giving time and attention to the people and relationships of the congregation. Working to heal relationships that may have been strained in the time leading up to the pastoral change.

The interim is not a dead time but it is a scary time. Routine is broken. Things are different around church. This uncertainty also has a positive effect in congregational life. Scared people are more likely to seek God's will, comfort and guidance. So the interim is a time when a congregation can more deeply connect with God, and with the reason they exist.

When a cruise is over, the cruise ship returns to port. All of the previous baggage is removed and sent on. It is refitted, resupplied, and readied. And then the new cruise begins. The interim is the time of restoration in anticipation of the new voyage God has in mind for the congregation.

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

### May Deadlines

April 3, 2003 - Print Copy

April 8, 2003 - E-Mail

### Home Town Editor

Darlene RIMPLEY

Rt. 1 Box 74 A

Arnold, NE 69120

### E-Editor

area.minister.ne@charter.net

Subject: Messenger

**ARNOLD, FBC:** Boxes for eight service personnel from the church family were packed with useful items and goodies on March 6. The March project for Ruth Circle is a "paper products shower" for the church kitchen.

**COLUMBUS, FBC:** The Trustees held a soup dinner fundraiser on March 23. "Camp Sunday" was held on March 2, with Clarence Reiss giving a presentation about Camp Merrill. The C.E. Board provided a camp lunch.

**FAIRBURY, FBC:** James "Red" Boyd, who was baptized at FBC in 1941, passed away on Feb. 1. Donations are being taken to enable FBC to hire a youth pastor for the summer months.

**BEATRICE, FBC:** Rev. Steve Ger, a representative of the Chosen People Ministry, presented "Messiah in the Passover" on March 11. A traditional Passover Seder table was set, and all the symbolism was explained. The ABW Ministries held a spring meeting, at which Sylvana Airan, who was born and raised in Pakistan and now works for UNL, spoke on "Growing Up As a Christian in a Muslim Country."

**CHADRON, FBC:** Single Impact, a Bible study for single adults is being held on Sunday nights at Ridgeview Bible Church. Amy Baer will be going with the Xtreme Team Mission to Japan this summer.

**WILSONVILLE Baptist Christian:** A potato bar, and homemade ice cream fundraiser was held on Jan. 26 for Andy Lewis, a high school senior, who will attend the International Affairs Seminar in New York City and Washington D.C. in April. Andy is one of ten Nebraska youths to be attending the seminar, which is sponsored by the United Christian Church and the Christian Church. Inside and outside "revamping" of the church is taking place. New siding, reinforcing the bell tower, closing an unused entry, and work on the classrooms is taking place. A sale of surplus church furniture will take place soon.

**FREMONT, FBC:** A Special Mission Conference was held on March 14, featuring Trevor Jones, an Alaska missionary, and a supper. The elementary camp fund-raiser dinner was held on March 16. The FBC sponsored Girl Scout Troop #53 is painting the youth center. Nine people have received their CDL, making them qualified to drive the church bus, and 19 have completed the Van Driving Class, which allows them to drive the church van.

**CHAPMAN, FBC:** Our long awaited elevator is now ready for use! We are excited because it will make it easier for some and possible for others to join us for the worship services and fellowship times. The youth had a great time at Dare 2 Share in Lincoln and came back with a report of some of their learnings and experience. Another young person, Micheal Rieken, has completed the baptism/membership class and will be baptized on March 16th. "Feast and Fudge" is the name of our fundraiser meal for the church and community on March 12th. We'll do a potato bar with a wide variety of chocolate desserts. With that in mind, the exercise class that has been meeting since the first of the year decided to continue to meet through the end of March.

**GRAND ISLAND, FBC:** The church youth helped serve at the Salvation Army on Feb. 20. The ABWM held a potato bar on March 17, with the Chapman ABW as guests. "Blanket Sunday" was held on March 9 to aid Church World Service in purchasing blankets for those around the world who need that help. Pastor Dwayne, Dana, and family hosted a Fellowship Night at the Pizza Hut on March 21, followed by fun activities. The Senior Adults went to the Hastings Museum and Planetarium on March 18.

**JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** A Fellowship Video Night was held on March 2, with the video "A Father For Charlie," being shown. JCC will present an Easter Cantata at the church, and then at Hastings First Baptist on April 20. A "Women's Birthday Party" was held with The 50s being the theme. The party included a hula-hoop contest, a bubblegum "biggest bubble" contest, and banana splits, floats, shakes and sundaes for dessert.

**LINCOLN, FBC:** The Children's Education Team are looking for a staff person to supervise the Toddler Room each Sunday, giving the children a program including Bible stories, games and songs. A women's slumber party was held on March 14. The Lancaster County Abstinence Coalition presented a series for the youth during March. The K-4th Grade Group held a "mini lick-in" on March 15. An all-church family movie night was held on March 22, featuring "What the Deaf Man Heard."

**LINCOLN, SECOND BC:**

"The annual Valentine's Day Party sponsored by the men of the church was held February 14, at the UNL Student Union. Ed and June Moss were named the 2003 "Sweetheart Couple". Five youth and one adult attended the Dare 2 Share Youth Conference at Pershing Auditorium February 21 and 22. Girl Scout Sunday was observed during the worship service on March 2. A seven-week series is being offered for adults during the Sunday school hour, March 2 April 13, on the topic of understanding Islam. A video based curriculum, "The Cross or the Crescent", is being used. Rev. Odell and Dr. Rich Terrell are leading the class. The youth hosted a potato/salad bar luncheon on March 9th after worship. This was a fundraiser to help send them to Green Lake this summer. On March 18th the Senior Adult Ministries Fellowship enjoyed a trip to the Lied Center to see "The Lennon Brothers Show." After the program they ate dinner at the Ruby Tuesday Restaurant.



Local Church News

**BROKEN BOW, FBC:** The children presented a musical on Feb. 23. The new addition is beginning to take shape.

**ALBION, FBC:** The church will be celebrating their 125th anniversary on July 12-13, with a number of activities planned.

**HOLDREGE, FBC:** In honor of Pastor Gary Winget's birthday the church family sponsored a day on KJLT, Pastor Gary and Brad Wiese attended the Promise Keepers Pastor's Convention in Phoenix.

**GIBBON, BC:** Betty Gibbons celebrated her 80th birthday on March 2. The FBC ABW hosted the World Day of Prayer services on March 7. A Jr. High Lock-In was held on March 28.

**MCCOOK, FBC:** The ABW hosted a family ministries day on March 8, followed by a program featuring Dora Redwine, State ABW President. A "Corned beef and Cabbage" youth fundraiser was held on March 16, with the proceeds going to help with camp scholarships. Clarence and Trudy Reiss spoke about Camp Merrill. Following the dinner and program an America For Christ Bowl-a-Thon was held. The youth have committed to doing "random acts of kindness" on the first Sunday of each month, which have included washing windshields at the hospital, doing yard work, and cleaning the church van.

**OMAHA, BENSON:** Mabel Neal recently celebrated her 87th birthday. The Senior Caring Ministry attended the Lennon Brothers Show on March 17.

**NORFOLK, FBC:** The youth held a "Painting, Pizza, and Planning Time" at the church on Feb 23. The ladies meet for a crafting session the first Tuesday of every month. Items have been made and sent to Norma Cole in Alaska. The church secretary was honored at a fellowship dinner on March 16.

**OMAHA, FBC:** Oren and Elizabeth Knight celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on March 26. They were honored with a card shower. The Rebecca-Ruth Circle is saving labels and box tops for the Hopi Mission School. A "Taste of Missions" was held at FBC on March 30. This included an international meal, an informative session on missions, and an auction of services by FBC family.

**OMAHA, PARKSIDE:** The ABW hosted the Maplecrest Birthday party on March 12. PBC united with other area women at the World Day of Prayer at Kountz Memorial Lutheran Church on March 7. Grace Snavelly celebrated her 90th birthday on Feb. 23, with a party at church. A bouquet of 90 roses was given Grace by the volunteer department at Methodist Hospital, where Grace still serves. A soup supper and video series, "The Jesus I Never Knew," is being held each Wednesday night.

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS:** Sunday Night Live youth are preparing for their drama/musical scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday April 27. The Outreach Board has asked members of Lighthouses of Prayer to invite guests to Sunday services during Lent and Easter and to pray for frequent visitors who haven't joined the congregation and members who haven't attended services lately. About 50 attended the Omaha AB Men's National Prayer Breakfast held in February at Sunset Hills. New babies: Rebecca Marie, daughter of Joe and Jeanne Kalina; Nicole Marie, daughter of Roy and Vicki Loeffler.

**SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC:** "Funtastic February Family Festival" was attended by 62 people who enjoyed the various classes. The "kids" met in the fellowship after worship for lunch on March 30, followed by a time of preparing homemade cookies and delivering them to shut-ins from the church family.

**SUPERIOR, FBC:** The Men's Fellowship sponsored a Valentine party at the church on Feb. 16, with the women from the church, as well as guests for Guide Rock FBC present. Door prizes were awarded, and Don Webber improvised at the piano while the rest sang love songs and praise choruses. On 3/3/03 (the number 3 signifying the Holy Trinity) the Deacons and Deaconesses hosted a soup supper for all members followed by a service of prayer for the world and our country in this time of uncertainty.

**TECUMSEH, FBC:** Child Evangelism Fellowship is seeking people to host a children's club for five days during the summer. Summer missionaries will be available to lead the clubs.

**TEKAMAH, FBC:** Betty Walker celebrated her 80th birthday recently. FBC is hosting the Community Bible Study every Wednesday night. A potluck dinner was held on March 23 to welcome the new members.

**New Members:**

**WILSONVILLE, BCC:** Donnie and Janet Trospen

**FAIRBURY, FBC:** Terry and Vicki Arnold

**LINCOLN, FBC:** Amber Fouts, Sande Stainaker, Tom Webb

**LINCOLN, SECOND BC:** Kathy Krogh and Robert S. Wissinger

**OMAHA, BENSON:** Willard Peterson

**TEKAMAH, FBC:** Dale Robbins, Ron and Janet Beedle, Meagan Anderson, Liz Marr, Brian, Lori, and Jessica Sadler, Troy and Jennifer Trask.

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS:** Nicole Paage, Nicholas Golyar

# Share The Story

Donna Pearson, Fairhaven, is always encouraging Nebraska churches to support the Murrow Indian Children's Home. It's a cause that has touched her heart and she has shared it with others. A special blessing came recently after Donna had talked with a quilting friend about Murrow. The friend is a Christian with a heart for children but not an American Baptist. She was so moved by the story she decided to give a check to Murrow for the amount she would have spent on Easter baskets for her 12 grandchildren!

Donna says support can come from unexpected places. Keep telling the story.

## Around the ABC Family:

ABC of the Pacific Southwest is celebrating an 85 percent increase in baptisms from the years 2000 to 2001--praise God!

Former ABC/NE President MaryBeth Robertson has been named Director of Student Enrollment at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. Congratulations to MaryBeth -- and to Central Seminary!

## Western Nebraska Men's and Boy's Event

The Western Nebraska Baptist Men's and Boy's Retreat was held at Arnold First Baptist on March 7-8, with 62 persons in attendance for some or all of the days. They enjoyed skeet shooting, bowling, a 6:00 am hike in 5-degree weather using flashlights, ping-pong and table games, along with their workshops on "Mentoring Boys". McCook FBC took honors for having the most attendees. State staff present included Clarence Reiss and Steve Bils.

## ABC of Nebraska staff

- Executive Minister .....Susan Gillies
- Area Minister .....Dave Lundholm
- Minister of Mission Support .....Don Gaines
- Mission Development Director.....Steve Bils
- Director of Camps & Conferences.....  
Clarence Reiss
- Asst. Camp Director .....Dave Janzen
- Camp Staff: Trudy Reiss Traci Specht &  
Joshua Freeman
- Office Manager ..... Sue Gammel
- Publication Specialist: ..... Peggy Cannon
- Accounting Services: .....Jerry Buss
- Volunteer Receptionist .....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



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