

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



June - July 2003
ABC/NE Date Data

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Project Camp | June 1-6 |
| ABW Ministries Conf. | June 6-8 |
| Senior High Camp | June 8-14 |
| Junior I Camp | June 15-21 |
| Mid High I | June 22-28 |
| Biennial Meeting—Richmond VA | June 27-30 |
| Primary Camp | July 4-6 |
| Junior MAD | July 6-12 |
| Junior II | July 13-19 |
| Mid High II | July 20-26 |
| Sr. MAD | July 27-Aug 2 |
| AB Men's Conference | August 15-16, 2003 |
| Family Reunion | Sept. 26-28, 2003 |

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One Great Hour of Sharing Funds Support Iraq Relief Efforts

The American Baptist Churches USA World Relief Office has released \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing emergency funds to Church World Service in support of that organization's wide-ranging work in relief and redevelopment in Iraq.

Since December 2002 CWS has provided more than \$300,000 in school supplies, 4,500 blankets and food and medicine to help meet the needs of Iraqi civilians. Its "All Our Children" campaign has provided wheelchairs, blankets, bedding kits and critically needed hygiene supplies for pediatric and maternity hospitals in Baghdad. During Iraq's recovery and rehabilitation period CWS has pledged to continue to provide supplies, medicine and medical equipment to support child health, as well as educational supplies for schools.

Church World Service is a long-time ecumenical relief and development partner of American Baptist Churches USA. Since 1991 CWS has provided more than \$3.8 million in humanitarian assistance for Iraq.

American Baptists wishing to support post-war relief work in Iraq should do so through the usual channels--One Great Hour of Sharing (line 7 of the Monthly Report of Mission Support), designating contributions "OGHS--Post-War Iraq Relief." Those wishing to contribute online can do so by accessing the "American Baptist Missions" or "Give Now" pages of the ABCUSA Web site--www.abc-usa.org.



Welcome to ABC/NE Newcomers!

Welcome to two pastors and a Camp Moses Merrill staff person. Pastor Tim Semotan began at First Baptist Church of Hastings on May 1st. Tim grew up in the church and is delighted to be returning as pastor. The congregation is impressed with his energy and commitment.

First Baptist of Chadron also has called a new pastor. Rev. Rick Wheatley will begin on July 1. Rick is currently pastor of First Baptist of Glenwood, IA. Rick is known to ABC/NE pastors because of his active participation in the Tri-Region Pastors Continuing Education Event held in alternate years.

Camp Merrill has announced the appointment of Scott Johnson as Guest Services Manager. Scott will be in charge of food service and housekeeping and also assist with marketing Camp Merrill facilities and programs to new groups. Scott is a member of Benson Baptist Omaha and has also been a member of Arthur Baptist Church. He and his family will be moving to camp in early June.

From the Executive Minister..... Susan Gillies
For All the Saints

We sing an old hymn, "For all the saints, who from their labors rest . . . Oh, Jesus be forever blessed. Alleluia." All of us can name persons who, while they are now gone from us, continue to impact and bless our lives. You will receive this *Messenger* shortly after Memorial Day and Baptist Heritage Sunday. These two special days have put me in a reflective mood. I give thanks for those who have gone before, in military service, in ministry and mission, and in simply ways of living faith.

Rev. John Whittington

Most of you never met him, but I wish you had. The Rev. John Whittington was the pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Omaha. He was a unique and gifted leader. A strong advocate for Christian Education, he was known as "Mr. Sunday School." Fellow pastors called him "Father John." An effective community leader, he made a difference in Omaha. After serving the church for 46 years, at 80 years of age, his earthly life ended April 24, 2003 and he entered into life everlasting.

I attended Mt. Nebo on my first Sunday as Executive Minister over two

years ago to show my respect to Rev. Whittington as the oldest, active-duty American Baptist pastor in Nebraska. On that day and each time I visited with him, he was gracious and carefully spoken, but each time he taught me something. I remember one day when Dick Peterson and I had lunch with him at a popular North Omaha restaurant. Nearly every person who came into the restaurant came over to greet him. It was impressive! But the real blessing of that day came in the willingness of Rev. Whittington to advise and share ideas with us. I am grateful I had the opportunity to meet and learn from Pastor Whittington. We all extend our condolences to the family and the congregation.

Anabel Moseley

Another saint who went home to Jesus in the last month was Anabel Moseley, a quiet, humble farmer's wife from New York State. I served with Anabel on the national board of American Baptist Women's Ministries. I mention Anabel because I never met anyone who got as much joy from serving others as she did. Her quiet discipleship spoke louder than many speeches. Countless women across America understand God's love more deeply because of her ministry.

Matthew Giuffrida

Matthew Giuffrida served you as a missionary for 38 years. He retired in 1993 and passed away in April. His life was dedicated to ministry with refugees. Under his guidance the ABC's refugee program over the years led all Protestant denominations cooperating with Church World Service's refugee resettlement office. As of December 2002, the number of refugees resettled by American Baptists since the end of World War II was 89,223.

I served with Matthew at National Ministries. He lived his faith completely. National Ministries Executive Director Dr. Aidan F. Wright-Riggins III said, "Matthew Giuffrida served as an American Baptist home missionary with passion and compassion for those forced to flee home and homeland. The remarkable refugee resettlement ministry of our denomination can be traced directly to his tireless efforts to provide a safe haven and hope for those who had lost all hope. If anyone can be called a "Baptist Saint," it is Matthew Giuffrida. We will honor his life by continuing the legacy he has given us."

I pray that these lives will continue to model for me, and others, active, joyful discipleship. For these three saints who from their labors rest, I thank God.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Don Gaines/Steve Bills

"Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received" 1 Peter 4:10b

The statistics come to us with mind-numbing frequency, telling us the massive number of people who live in poverty and hunger, die each day from starvation, suffer terrible illnesses with no medical care available. The human needs in our world are overwhelming and we wonder how our gifts can possibly make a difference. The fact is that, when combined with the gifts of others, they can make a life-changing difference to thousands of people. This is why your gift to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering is so important.

American Baptists have a unique opportunity to proclaim our love of Jesus Christ and God's people in a remarkable network of serving.

- Our gifts serve and care for others whose lives have been upset by disasters – wars, earthquakes, famines, floods.
- Our gifts serve and support people who struggle daily for dignity and hope against the forces of hunger, poverty, drought, disease, and other injustices.
- Our gifts serve and assist uprooted and displaced persons who long to return to their homes and rebuild their lives and communities.
- And because our gifts join with those of thousands of American Baptists from congregations across the United States and with millions of other Christians in our One Great Hour of Sharing communions, we serve far more people than we could have ever imagined possible.

Your church has received a packet of OGHS materials, which includes many stories of the people this offering serves. Please listen to the stories as they are told, or ask your pastor for them so you can read them if they are not. Pray for the people being served, and give generously when the opportunity is presented in your church. Most of our churches receive this offering in June.

Ministers Conference Scheduled for Jan. 26-29, 2004

A national conference for American Baptist ministers, **"Strong in the Lord,"** is scheduled for Jan. 26-29, 2004, in Orlando, Fla. The conference will seek to meet several goals, including shaping and strengthening pastoral ministry, connecting colleagues from various ministry specialties and geographical settings, and encouraging participation in collegial covenant groups.

The conference, which will focus on the life of the minister, will feature worship, Bible study, plenary presentations and peer group gatherings. Foundational Scripture passages include Ephesians 3:16-21 and Ephesians 6:10. The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, executive minister of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, is leading a planning team in coordinating the event.

Program participants will include: the Rev. Dr. Gordon MacDonald, speaker, former pastor and author of more than a dozen books including *Ordering Your Private World*, *Renewing Your Spiritual Passion*, and *Rebuilding Your Broken World*; the Rev. Wilma Johnson, pastor of the New Prospect Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich.; the Rev. David Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gardiner, Me., and coordinator of the Transition into Ministry Program, a grant program funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.; the Rev. Oscar Garcia-Johnson, regional

minister for Hispanic congregational ministry, new church planting and leadership development, American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles; the Rev. Margaret Marcuson, consultant with clergy and other leaders who want to be healthier and more effective, and former pastor of the First Baptist Church, Gardner, Mass., for 13 years; and the Rev. Dr. Kirk Byron-Jones, Kelsey-Owens Professor of Black Ministries and assistant professor of Social Ethics, Andover Newton Theological School, and author of *Rest in the Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers* and *Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down*.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton World Resort, 10100 International Dr., Orlando, a 28-acre site that is within walking distance of Sea World and offers complimentary shuttle service to the Disney theme parks. Registration details will be available soon through Web sites of the American Baptist Churches USA (www.abc-usa.org) and the Ministers Council (www.ministerscouncil.com). Further materials also will be provided at the American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Meeting in Richmond in June.

Continuing education units (2.2) will be awarded. Pastors should contact Lynne Eckman at 1-800-ABC-3USA/x2067 to apply for a continuing education renewal grant.

ABW Ministries Grant Award to Fund Leader Training Resources

American Baptist News Service (Valley Forge, Pa.)--A \$5,000 grant from the North American Baptist Women's Union will fund the second phase of leader training resources developed by American Baptist Women's Ministries "to empower women to be confident and competent leaders."

ABW Ministries is producing two phases of Real Women, Real Leaders: Dynamic Leadership for Women's Ministries, a comprehensive curricula. The first phase, available for purchase in mid-June, is designed for laywomen who currently are leading women's ministries in their churches, associations or regions. The resource includes a leader's curricula of nine sessions, participants' handbook, an accompanying video of short motivational training segments by dynamic leaders, and a CD Rom. The resource can be used in a series of training sessions, at board meetings or in a weekend retreat setting.

The second phase of Real Women, Real Leaders, toward which the grant will be applied, will be developed during 2004 to reach women who are not necessarily involved in women's ministries. ABW Ministries Executive Director Virginia Holmstrom said, "It is important for each woman to recognize and claim the spiritual gifts that God has given her. Real Women, Real Leaders will help women identify and develop their gifts as confident and competent leaders for God's glory in the church, community and world. I am extremely pleased that the North American Baptist Women's Union is partnering with us to provide funding to develop the project's second phase."

Holmstrom received the announcement of the grant award from Ruth Probasco, chair of the Mission Project Committee of the North American Baptist Women's Union. The grant, one of four awarded during 2003, is generated from the 2003 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer offering proceeds. The annual Baptist Women's Day of Prayer is observed on the first Monday of November.



Notes from Health Ministries Network

Lela Claussen, RN, MSN, Kearney, represents ABC/NE on the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska health ministries network. In a recent report, Lela wrote:

"Many health problems can be prevented, reduced, and in some instances reversed with two simple, but not easy, life style changes – nutrition and physical exercise. Those health problems include the three leading causes of death in the USA: heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

It is also true that Jesus Christ said "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt.4:4)

Friends, we are more than bodies. We are MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT. Our spirit has needs that can only be met by studying the word of God, regular communion with God (prayer) and assembling ourselves together in worship, as the body of Christ. I encourage you to be attentive to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" and trust God to add "all these things".

Let us nourish and exercise our bodies, thereby being good stewards of those precious gifts from God. Let us also nourish and exercise our minds & spirits in a variety of ways. That's a WHOLE package for Whole Christian Growth!"

ABC/NE Youth Active & Involved

FAMILY REUNION

The youth of the ABC of Nebraska will have a new experience at this year's Family Reunion (Annual Convention) Sept 26-28. Instead of staying at the convention hotel, the youth will spend most of the time at Camp Maranatha that ABC/NE has rented for the event outside of North Platte. The facility features dorm living, a climbing wall and other recreational features. The youth will join the adults on Saturday morning to hear ABC-USA General Secretary, Roy Medley. They will join the adults again on Sunday morning for worship.

REPRESENTATIVE AT BIENNIAL

Adam Slecta, Sunset Hills – Omaha, has been chosen to be the youth representative from Nebraska to the ABC-USA Biennial Convention in Richmond, VA, June 27-30. Adam will meet with youth from across the country in special sessions. The young people will also actively participate in the business of the convention. On Saturday evening, all the youth representatives will be presented to the convention by their executive ministers.

CAMP MOSES MERRILL

A full line-up of camps is scheduled for the summer. Parents and youth are encouraged to check the camp page of *THE MESSENGER* to see the various opportunities.

SKI TRIP

Plans are being made for a winter ski trip for ABC/NE youth. The trip is tentatively set for January 17-19, 2004, in Keystone, Colorado.

EXTREME RETREATS

Both Junior High and Senior High Extreme Retreats were successful. Held in March and April, the events drew nearly 60 for the Junior High and nearly 70 for the Senior High. ABC/NE Youth Ministry Adjunct Jason Workman reported that people were excited to have the Junior High event back again. He said plans are already underway for next year. Workman said the Senior High retreat was also effective, "This retreat was relevant to their walk with God. It was a great weekend."



ABC/NE Trivia

- Of 59 ABC churches in Nebraska, how many have shown an increase in their United Mission giving in 2003?
 - 10
 - 25
 - 40
 - 55
- Which ABC/NE pastor once served a church located across the street from a church his brother served as pastor?
 - Dick Peterson
 - John Dennert
 - Norm Williston
 - Harland Minscer
- How many meals are served each year at Camp Moses Merrill? (based on the actual 2002 number)
 - 3469
 - 8422
 - 10,378
 - 13,215
- Which ABC/NE staff persons are members of the Teamsters Union?
 - Clarence Reiss and Steve Bills
 - Clarence Reiss and Dave Lundholm
 - Dave Lundholm and Paul Kondy
 - Paul Kondy and Dick Peterson
- As of May 15, how many ABC/NE pastoral positions were open?
 - 25
 - 6
 - 10
 - 13

NEW LIFE 2010 How Is It Going?

NEW LIFE 2010 is a vision for American Baptists to reach 1,000,010 new disciples, plant 1,010 new churches, vitalize a multitude of caring ministries, and so transform our congregations by the year 2010.

Whenever I'm asked about progress toward the goals of NEW LIFE 2010, I'm tempted to say something like, "Well, tell me. How is it going?"

NEW LIFE 2010 is not a national program. I know this is a departure from the ways we have related to each other, the denomination, and our churches for many years. But, like the rest of society, the church—including ABC—is struggling to find new ways of sharing the good news. We live in a time that calls for creative, insightful, and *local* ways of approaching our world.

Bill Carlsen, executive minister of ABC of New York State, said it well: "I want to know about the Portuguese churches being planted in Massachusetts. I know we can learn from their experience. But I don't think that we can necessarily do that in New York. We have a different population that needs to be reached and the means must be different."

That's true in your region, too. So, NEW LIFE 2010 will do only as well as you do in finding those creative means of ministry for your place.

The Rev. Carol Franklin Sutton
NEW LIFE 2010 National Movement Director



Camp Moses Merrill News

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NEW FACES AT CMM

Hi, My name is Dolores Prather and my husband's name is Richard Prather. When you come to Camp Moses Merrill this summer you will probably see us around. I am the short gray-haired grandma and Richard is the taller gray-haired grandfather-ex farmer, turned real estate broker-excited to get back to working in the great out doors. Richard has farmed at some degree all of his life and anxious to get back outside. For some time Richard and I have felt led to do volunteer work after retirement. Small mission work trips have confirmed the idea and it seemed like the Lord was saying, "This is where I want you now."

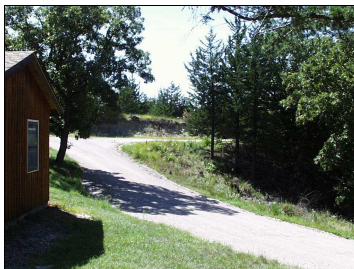
I, Dolores, am here as a Volunteer in Mission (VIM). VIM is a program through National Ministries, ABC/USA, that connects people who desire to give of their time and efforts to help any one of the worthy ministries of ABC/USA. One of my jobs is to write this page, so you will be hearing more from me. Richard is here to help oversee the construction of the new Chapel being built at CMM, and also he will be doing many other jobs; such as building fence, helping with the horses, welding, fixing things, etc.

This adventure is a dream come true for both of us and we can see how the Lord set the timetable. Just a while before I reached the age of retirement (Richard was already there) we met Clarence and Trudy and became aware of CMM and it's needs. In a short time we were able to sell our businesses and make arrangements to leave our home for six months. For us volunteering is giving back a little bit of what we have been given. We hope our being here will ease the work load a little.

Maybe the idea of volunteering has crossed your mind and you have thought, "yeah, that's something I would like to do sometime". Well, now is the time to check it out. Contact Volunteers in Mission, ABC/USA, Valley Forge, PA, phone 610/768-2449, for more information.

See you around camp.

CHAPEL UPDATE



View from cabin 9



Trees being removed

Waiting for the earth movers to arrive.



AMPHITHEATRE UPDATE

A work group came in the weekend of April 25 and 26, they started getting things ready to install the seats. Another group will be working the weekend of May 9 & 10, hopefully the seating will be completed. Worshipping in the midst of God's fantastic creation will be wonderful.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JUNE AND JULY

- May 30-June 1. AB Girls Retreat
- June 1 - 6. Project Camp
- June 6 - 8. AB Women's Conference
- June 8 - 14 Senior High Camp
- June 8 - 14 CANCELED! Tent Camp
- June 15 - 21. Junior I
- June 22 - 28. Mid High I
- July 4 - 6 Primary Camp
- July 6 -12 NEW! Junior Music And Drama
- July 13 - 19 Junior II
- July 20 - 26 Mid High II
- July 27 - Aug 2 Senior Music and Drama

**DON'T MISS OUT
MAKE RESERVATIONS SOON**

The Role of the Pastor

Dave Lundholm

At our most recent meeting, the Department of Professional Ministry began a discussion of the role/job description of the pastor. The discussion was motivated by the realization that there are a number of conflicting models of what it is to be a pastor. Is the pastor chaplain to the congregation? Is she CEO of the corporation? Is he co-minister with the congregation. In the different models, different people are in charge, different actions expected of both the pastor and the congregation, and different ways are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the clergy person.

We identified the following characteristics of the role or job description of the pastor.

- The pastor must have a strong sense of God's general call to the ministry and to the specific place of service.
- Most important of all tasks is the ministry of the Word and of Prayer.
- The tasks undertaken by the pastor should primarily be in areas where God has gifted the pastor.

- Tasks should be consistent with:
 - o The Great Commission – go and make disciples
 - o The Great Commandment – love God and neighbor
 - o The Great Criterion – when you do unto the least you do to me.
- The pastor is called to work alongside of other leaders in the church. A leader among leaders. Or minister among ministers.

The consensus was that no matter the model, a pastor with these characteristics would have a significant positive effect in the ministry.

We are interested in what you think. If you have some ideas about the role / job description of the pastor call or e-mail the Region Office or the Department of Professional Ministry.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

March Deadlines

July 3, 2003 - Print Copy

July 8, 2003 - E-Mail

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Subject: Messenger

SUPERIOR, FBC: Member Robert E. Noren, 72-year received the honorary title of Deacon Emeritus in a special recognition ceremony. Deacon Leonard Worm gave the tribute and presented the engraved plaque to Bob in the presence of the congregation. AB Men's Fellowship treated their spouses and guests to breakfast at a local restaurant May 3. A spring luncheon was held by the ABW May 7, with their sister societies of Guide Rock and Hastings as guests.

KEARNEY, FBC: We had 12 baptisms and 23 new members in April. When the war started in Iraq we had a service of Praise, Prayer and Patriotism. *HIS CALL*, our music group traveled to Clay Center, KS, McCook and Pleasanton to present a concert of Praise and inspiration. The Shepherd Ministry began in May with 45 signed on as shepherds. Their role is to call their list of homes (5-10) once a month to encourage, keep in touch and find out their needs.

SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC: The annual Church Talent Show was held on May 4. A Mother's Day Fellowship Dinner was held on May 25, hosted by the men of the church. The "kids" were treated to a full breakfast on May 4 during the Sunday School hour for surpassing their goal of \$60.00 for the *America For Christ* Offering.

LINCOLN, FBC: The annual Capitol Association Meeting was held at FBC on May 4. It was a celebration of the years Rev. Don Gaines has served at United Missions Minister of ABC/NE, and also a welcome as he begins his interim pastorate at FBC. The Capitol Assoc held a spring golf tournament on May 3. Tje Praise and Celebration Ringers and God Squad Handbell Choirs presented a spring concert on May 18, which included a mini-violin recital by Larisa Spitzer. Missionary Louise Hill, who along with her husband, Rick, serve in Latvia, was at FBC on May 16-17 to tell of their work. Toni Biskup spent 17 days on a mission trip to Haiti, where she worked with a medical missionary nurse. Many of the FBC family of all ages spent the night at Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha.

BEATRICE, FBC: Vacation Bible School was held May 27-30. FBC, Church of the Brethren, Beatrice Mennonite, and Emmanuel Lutheran combined for a VBS, with the curriculum being "God's Nomads; Stars and Promises." A pot-luck recognition dinner was held to honor the graduates and their families on May 4.

NORFOLK, FBC: Joel Wilson will be working with Campus Crusade world's headquarters in Florida this summer. Heart Sisters served the Rescue Mission on April 24, and held a salad banquet on May 8. A Mother's Day Breakfast was held on May 11, with the Deacons as hosts. FBC furnished the cookies for the Bloodmobile on Mondays in May. Their will be only one Sunday School class during the summer, with the emphasis on "Contagious Christian."

CHADRON, FBC: Chadron High School held a Baccalaureate Service on May 14 in the high school auditorium. A guest speaker and participation by graduates in music and testimonies was the program.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS BC: The youth led the worship service on Mother's Day. The graduates were honored on May 18. A 12 hour Prayer Vigil was held on May 17 to pray for the Keam's Canyon Mission Trip. A "sermon question box" is available for persons to put in question concerning the Bible, along with sermon suggestions, and these will be used in the sermons during July.

OMAHA, BENSON BAPTIST: All graduates were honored during the morning worship on May 18, with a cake reception from 9:30-10:00 am. The ABW's quarterly meeting was held on May 17, and the speaker, Barb Linder, used flowers from the Bible as her topic. A salad luncheon followed. The BBC Men's Softball League is underway. The Senior Caring Ministry had a tour of Camp Moses Merrill on May 21. The summer Sunday School program, "Wild and Wacky Summer Sundays" will begin June 1. Pre-K through 5th graders will come to a better understanding of the Scriptures through the study. K.I.D.S. concluded their year with a "kountry store" on May 14, when they used the points earned during the year. K.I.D.S. held a family picnic on May 16. Elizabeth Reynolds celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

GRAND ISLAND, FBC: National Day of Prayer was observed on May 2, with a breakfast at the Evangelical Free Church, and a noon observance at City Hall with speaker Nebraska attorney General Jon Bruning.

TECUMSEH, FBC: A (non) Talent Show was held on May 25. The *One Great Hour of Sharing* will go to Pastor Rudy Gibson build a house in Jamaica. A gift of \$1,000 will help the Gibson's build a 10X10 one-room house.

OMAHA, FBC: The National Day of Prayer was celebrated on May 1 with services at noon and 7:00 pm. To set goals for the missions of reaching out to others in the community a meeting was held on May 4 (and one to be held June 1) following church, with the participants bringing sack lunches. A sharing time of mission outreach suggestions was held. AWANA Awards Night was held on May 5. The Kindergarten through 4th grade Sunday School classes will meet together for the summer, with various activities planned. A Ministry Fair was held on May 11 and May 18 immediately following worship service. Those attending had an opportunity to explore possibilities of ministry for themselves.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: A community gathering was held at the gazebo on the site of the old village hall to observe the National Day of Prayer. The elevator project is underway! The youth sponsored a garage sale to raise funds for an upcoming mission trip.

GIBBON, FBC: The graduates were honored on May 18. During that same service the Clavinova was dedicated. Mary Boyd was chosen as the Mother of the Year" at the Ladies and Girls' Luncheon. FBC will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pastor John Dennert's Ordination at a covered dish luncheon and a program. Mothers were honored at the worship service on May 11. Vernon Weeks celebrated his 90th birthday in April.

FREMONT, FBC: The National Day of Prayer was observed with a breakfast at Salem Fontanelle, and ABW salad luncheon at noon, and a Community Prayer Meeting at Fremont Alliance at 7:00 pm. An All Church 50s Supper was held on May 4 with the participants dressing in "fabulous 50s" clothes, and the Simple Grace Family Singer giving a program following. A breakfast for the graduates was held on May 18. Day Care workers were honored during the May 27. A Salute to the Country was held on May 7, with a short service on the lawn in front of the church as a thanks to our Armed Forces. a Kids Klub Musical was held on May 7.

FAIRBURY, FBC: A reception was held on the church lawn on May 18 for the 2003 graduates. A Memorial Ceremony was held on May 25 honoring those of the membership list who had passed away in the past year. Regan Stoops and his wife Katie, will be the summer youth pastors. A scholarship fund has been set up to help Regan Stoops with his studies at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, which begins this fall.

PARKSIDE, FBC: The ABW Quilters have completed another quilt, and chances may be purchased on it, with all proceeds to go to the Morrow Indian Children's Home in Oklahoma. The Adults for Action visited the Artifacts from Bethsaida exhibit at UNO on May 23.

NORTH PLATTE, FBC: ABW Ministries presented a style show, "Here Come the Brides", on May 4.

MCCOOK, FBC: A new sound system and new sprinkler systems have been installed, and the reverse osmosis systems have been added to the church and parsonage kitchens. The AB Youth will be cleaning the headstones in the cemeteries again as a fund raiser for youth activities.

COLUMBUS, FBC: New church brochures are being printed. The National Day of Prayer was observed with a family prayer breakfast at the YMCA a noon prayer service at the city council chambers, and an evening prayer service at Pawnee Park Stadium. A procession of the area churches with their flags preceded the evening service. There was also a prayer walk at Lake Babcock all day. FBC provided 15 dozen cookies each week for the Red Cross.

HOLDREGE, FBC: The youth are planning ways to raise funds to purchases a new projector for the youth room, as well as a new stove and refrigerator, and to install a serving and snack counter in the youth room. FBC took part in the Phelps County Ministerial Association sponsored National Day of Prayer Service on May 1. An ABW salad luncheon was held on May 15. A "Chow and Chatter " Teacher Appreciation Brunch was held on May 18, to honor the Sunday school teachers for their service, with Susan Gillies as guest speaker.

TEKAMAH, FBC: The ABWM Breakfast was held on May 17. The program included the life of Jesus through hymns, with a puppet show. Ten "Hope Totes" were made and delivered to the Open Door Mission Lydia House.

Oxford, FBC: ABW Ministries had guest day March 23 with Sue Winget of Holdrege as speaker. There were 50 ladies in attendance. April 13 our church had a Senior Recognition Day with dinner, honoring two high school seniors and three college graduates. An Easter Sunrise Service was held April 20 with breakfast prepared by ABW Ministries group following at the church.

Alliance, FBC: The ABY is continuing in the video Bible study Velocity. A special Palm Sunday worship with students and teachers on April 13. Maundy Thursday communion was held in the Chapel. The Northwestern Association met April 19 with all Association churches represented. The ABY sponsored an Easter breakfast that was well attended.



Local Church News

