

# the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



August 2003  
ABC/NE Date Data

Digging Deeper Aug 1-4  
AB Men's Conference  
August 15-16, 2003  
Family Camp II Aug 29-Sept 1  
Family Reunion  
Sept. 26-28, 2003  
Adult Ministries Conference  
October 6-9  
Thanksgiving Day November 27  
Christmas Day December 25

#### E-Mail Addresses:

RegionOffice@  
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com  
sgillies@  
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com  
bookkeeper@  
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com  
Messenger@  
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com  
sbils@ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com  
area.minister.ne@charter.net

## A Heart for Ministry in The Heartland

#### American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

6404 Maple Street  
Omaha, NE 68104-4079

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



## You Are Invited . . . !

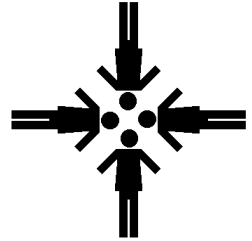
The pleasure of your company is requested at the 2003 ABC of Nebraska Family Reunion. Please join us at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte September 26-28. A great program is planned! A registration form is enclosed with this issue of *The Messenger*.

We are honored to have the ABC-USA General Secretary Roy Medley as keynote speaker. Roy has a pastor's heart and has already made a difference in ABC life. He has called American Baptists to be "Centered In Christ," in all we do as people of faith. Missionary Karen Smith will bring a special message to the convention from her experiences in Thailand.

Special Features of the reunion are the "Equipping Sessions" that will be held on Saturday afternoon. Sessions include, "Connecting with Kids – lively ministry with children and youth," "Tomorrow's Harvest – connecting with God," "Connecting with Our Community," "Faith Weaver – integrated curriculum for children/youth/adults and Wednesday nights," "Camp Merrill Connection," and a special opportunity for everyone to share successful ideas with each other in a session titled "Connecting With What Works!"

Dr. Kate Harvey, Executive Director of the ABC-USA Ministers Council, will lead two equipping sessions, one for pastors "Being Strong In the Lord," and one for laity "Connecting with Our Pastor."

This is a family event. There will be childcare for infants and toddlers. There will be a VBS-type program for children. The Jr. High and Sr. High Youth will meet at a nearby youth camp for their program and join the rest of the family on Sunday morning for worship. Registration forms for children and youth are available at your church or by calling the region office 1-877-244-7339.



## Special Event for Nebraska Men

August 15-16 at Camp Merrill

A great time for Baptist men in Nebraska is planned for August 15-16 at Camp Moses Merrill. Fifty-six men and boys gathered in Arnold last March for the Far West men's retreat. The men are challenging each other to have double that figure at the August event.

The musical group "Forgiven" from Sunset Hills, Omaha, will perform. The group is popular throughout the area and well known to many American Baptist churches.

The featured speaker is Cody Pollington, President, American Baptist Men's Council. He energetically communicates that Christ helps us turn our problems into opportunities! Pollington is an active member of First Baptist Church of Great Falls, MT. He is recognized for the work he has done to motivate men and boys in Montana to become involved in disaster preparedness and observance of the National Day of Prayer for ABMen and Boys. He was long active in Macedonia Ministries and lay leadership at the regional level.

Prices are \$50 for full session (Aug 15&16) and \$35 for Saturday (Aug 16 only) plus \$10 ABM Nebraska membership. Register by contacting Ken Sciford, 402/451-3573, or by contacting the region office 402/556-4730 or toll free at 877-BIG-RED9 (877/244-7339)



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

## Gatherings & Celebrations

The Bible is full of stories of people gathering together to share their common history as people of faith and to celebrate special occasions. Throughout our history, Christian people have found that special events are important to spiritual health.

### Albion

I participated in a wonderful celebration recently in Albion, NE, as the First Baptist Church celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a great day of music and speaking (and eating). We heard stories from the past that give inspiration for the future.

### A Gathering for Men

Men from our churches have a unique opportunity to gather together at Camp Merrill this month. I remember, when I was a child, hearing my father talk about "Laymen's Retreat." At that time

my dad worked a five-and-a-half day week going to work about 6am and returning home after 5pm most days. He was also a square dance caller who had classes and clubs several nights each week. After getting off work at noon on Saturday, he would make the trip all the way to Fullerton for just one night. I was fascinated to hear him tell my mom about walking and talking most of the night with men friends. It was probably the only time during the year when they could talk as openly and as deeply about matters of faith. It was a source of tremendous spiritual strength for him. Of course, times have changed . . . or have they? It may be that this is just what a new generation of over-extended, over-worked men need.

### Associations

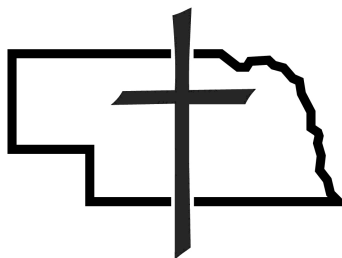
Sometime in the next year or so, the Board of the ABC/NE will talk about the role of Associations in our life as a region. Some of our

Associations meet regularly; some don't meet at all. It may be that some associations may find it helpful to redesign their meetings to minister in fresh ways to our need for times of gathering, encouragement and celebration.

### Family Reunion

A very special part of our life as the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska is the annual convention when we gather from all parts of the state for worship, fellowship, education and nurture. For many folks, this year will require a longer drive. I encourage you to make the effort. Our western folks have been traveling great distances year after year. Let's show our appreciation for them by heading their way. Besides, it's going to be an absolutely wonderful convention!

## Is this the time for YOU to take a mission trip?



The ABC of Nebraska **Mission Exploration 2003** is scheduled for October 13-18. Rev. Steve Bills will lead the group in a comfortably paced visit to some great ABC mission locations. A highlight of the trip will be a visit to the **Murrow Indian Children's Home** in Muskogee, OK. The director of Murrow is Joan Brown, a widely recognized Indian artist and a wonderful Christian woman. The group will also visit Bacone College and Anadarko Christian Center among many interesting stops. The price for the trip is \$465 per person, double occupancy. This covers all transportation (from Lincoln), lodging and meals. It is rare to find a mission trip of this caliber for such a low price. Some churches will provide financial assistance if there are folks in their congregation who would like to take the trip but can't afford it. The deadline for registration is August 11.

## BUILDING BRIDGES

Rev. Steve Bills, Mission Development Director

Engraved on the lectern that has stood before the Rainbow Ranch Sunday School class at First Baptist Church in Omaha since the 1930s is a quote from Jesus when he was discovered teaching in the temple at the age of 12. In the old King James English the question is posed, "*Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*" To Jesus it seemed only natural and logical that he would be investing his time doing what his Father wanted us all to be doing, helping others understand and connect with God.

In the same vein, after so clearly reminding the Ephesian believers that it was by God's grace that they had been saved through faith alone in Christ alone, the apostle Paul spoke of the bridges that God built to unite us with himself as well as to unite us together with other believers of different ethnic and racial backgrounds. "*But now in Christ you who once were far off have been made near . . . for He Himself is our peace, who had made both one, and had broken down the middle wall of division between us . . .*" (Ephesians 2:13,14).

**Building Bridges** is being about our Father's business. We have chosen **Building Bridges** as the theme for our current campaign to make some much-needed improvements at Camp Moses Merrill. As you know, Camp Merrill utilizes the scriptures in its unique mountaintop atmosphere, **building bridges** that enable people to develop closer relationships with God, His people, and His creation. These relationships are essential if we are to function effectively as godly servant-leaders in the world.

Our ABC/NE mission statement reminds us that American Baptist Churches in Nebraska are joined together as a region in a covenant partnership to encourage, challenge, and empower one another to be transforming Christian communities in the world. A significant component of that partnership is the ministry that we do together at Camp Moses Merrill.

We are nearing the conclusion of the silent phase of the **Building Bridges** campaign and will be entering the public phase near the middle of August. We believe that every American Baptist in Nebraska has the right to hear what is being done at Camp Merrill, and the **Building Bridges** campaign will provide an opportunity for you to hear. Please prayerfully consider what your part in the campaign might be when you are given the opportunity to participate.

**"Wist ye not that we must all be about our Father's business?"**

## NOT BECAUSE YOU MUST....

*(1 Pet 5:1-5) To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

I am writing to pastors this month but feel free to read this if you are not clergy.

The passage takes up the issue of motivation for ministry and reminds us we are in this vocation not because we must, but

because we are willing.

So many things in ministry seem like a job: We have production quotas (sermon). We have phone calls, extensive calendars, computers, and meetings. And sometimes it can get to feel like any other job. But ministry is not a job it is a calling that we chose to accept.

This calling is to be shepherds of God's people. We are called to take care of the flock. That means not only taking care of the administration and the preaching but also taking care of the people. People need to feel valued by their pastor. Value is communicated to each person in an individual way: for some it's e-mail; for others a personal note; for others a phone call; but for many (especially the elderly or the sick) it is a pastoral visit. I don't know how a pastor gets to know his flock without spending one on one time with them.

By Dave Lundholm

As an Area Minister, one of the things I most frequently hear is "my pastor doesn't visit me." It seems to me that, although home visits have fallen somewhat out of fashion, visiting our people is part of the calling we freely chose to accept. I know I had to discipline myself to make home visits when I was a local pastor (my goal was 7 per week) and I can't say that I was always "eager to serve" in this way. I do know the visits were helpful to those visited, and to the health of my ministry.

In today's world, those visits may take a variety of forms from e-mails to phone calls to visits in the workplace. The need for contact is there.

We have to take care of our people (in whatever form that's most beneficial for them). We are willing to do the preaching, and to do the administration. Let's

## Ansley Wins AFC Contest ... And Dinner Prepared by Staff



First Baptist Church of Ansley is the winner of the 2003 America for Christ Offering contest. The church won by combining creative ideas for promoting the offering with a significant increase in the amount of the offering. The 2003 offering exceeded the 2001 offering by over 300%. The prize for the first place church is a dinner prepared by the ABC/NE staff. The date has not yet been set but the staff has begun planning.

Second place was divided between First Baptist of Superior and First Baptist of Omaha. Third place in the contest went to First Baptist of Norfolk. The ABC/NE staff will provide refreshments following worship for the second and third place churches.

The contest was judged by the minister of mission support from another region who wrote, "You've discovered that promoting the offering in creative ways opens the door to more generous giving. All the churches should be commended for their commitment to mission in America."

*The Messenger* will share some of the specific ideas used by these winners in the January issue when churches are planning for their 2004 AFC offerings.

## Central Seminary To Host David Bartlett At Fall Lecture

Dr. David L. Bartlett will be the guest lecturer at Central Seminary's Fall Lectureship to be held Wednesday, September 24, 2003. Dr. Bartlett, Lantz Professor of Preaching and Communication and Dean of Academic Affairs at Yale University Divinity School, will speak on the theme *Preaching to Contemporary Corinthians*. Topics for the three individual lectures are: *The Foolishness of our Proclamation*, *Building Up the Church*, and *God is Really Among You*.

To make reservations, call 913-371-5313, ext. 111. There is a \$30.00 charge for the lectureship, which includes lunch.

## Trivia -- Match the region conventions/ family reunions:

- FBC Grand Island 9/93
- FBC Kearney 9/95
- BC Scottsbluff 9/97
- Kearney Conv. Center 9/2000
- Kearney Conv. Center 9/2002

- Which region convention had a theme of "New Beginnings" with Dr. Tom Johnson of the Univ. of Sioux Falls as the speaker?
- Which region convention had a theme of "Make His Praise Glorious" with Dr. Robert Webber as speaker?
- Which region convention had a theme of "Renewed for Mission By His Word" with Professor David May of Central Seminary as the speaker?
- Which region convention had a theme of "Discover Renewal" with Harry Riggs and Chuck Shawver as speakers?
- Which region convention had a theme of "Changing Times" with Carol Franklin Sutton as speaker?

You  
are  
my  
Witnesses  
Luke 24:48

## YOU CAN HELP CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SAVE IRAQ'S CHILDREN

### Simple items like a bar of soap and a toothbrush can make a difference in a child's life

In the last 13 years, the death rate of Iraqi children under 5 years of age increased 2.5 times. And the recent armed conflict hasn't yet made children's lives any easier.

Basic health and hygiene items are in short supply in Iraq right now, and these staples of daily life could become even more difficult to get in the weeks and months ahead, especially for children, who often go without as the most vulnerable victims of political upheaval. You can make a difference in the lives of Iraqi children by providing "Gift of the Heart" Health Kits.

These kits--part of the "All Our Children" campaign, sponsored by Church World Service and other organizations--help meet the day-to-day hygiene needs of children in this war-torn country.

"Gift of the Heart" Health Kits, packed and sealed in one-gallon plastic bags with a zipper closure, include:

- One hand towel,
- One washcloth,
- One comb,
- One metal nail file or nail clipper,
- One bar of soap (bath size),
- One toothbrush,
- One tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces) and
- Six band-aids.



For complete packing and mailing instructions, visit this online site: [www.churchworldservice.org/kits/iraq-kits.html](http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits/iraq-kits.html)  
These kits are critically needed. Will you or your congregation or church group reach out and help?

## Nebraskans at the ABC-USA Biennial

Nebraskans participated in the Biennial Convention of American Baptists held in Richmond, VA, in June. The student representative of the region was Adam Slechta, Sunset Hills. Pastors present included: Frank Armstrong (and Mert), Norfolk; Lee Foreman (with his family), Fremont; Stan Hendershot, McCook; Paul Marine, Benson; Charlene Morris-Quarells, Lincoln; Mark Stevens, Sunset Hills; military chaplain Shelia Wilson, and ABC/NE General Board representative Martha Sorenson, FBC, Lincoln. Region staff Susan Gillies, Steve Bills and Dave (and Linda) Lundholm also attended.

## AB MEN CLEAN UP AFTER TORNADOES TOUCH DOWN IN MIDWEST

### At two Kansas sites, American Baptist men make life a little easier for tornado victims

In May, American Baptist Men were called upon to provide assistance following devastating tornadoes in Kansas and Missouri.

Some homes literally vanished in the winds; those left standing needed clean up and repair. That's where AB Men's Central Region Men's Disaster Relief Team could "be of most help," says Larry Oyer, who coordinated the group's efforts in Franklin, Kan.

Twenty-five volunteers worked at the Franklin site in the week following the storm cleaning yards and houses of disposable debris. With chain saws, the volunteers cut up trees and brush, dragging the logs and wood to the curb for hauling by city and county trucks. The team carried metal debris to the curb for pick up as well.

In Kansas City, 53 volunteers worked 550 hours over eight days removing trees to make way for linemen to restore power to homes. Immanuel Baptist Church hosted the AB Men trailer with its tools and supplies that served as clean up "headquarters," and church folk helped with meals for the volunteers. Eight volunteers from Iowa and two from Pennsylvania traveled to Kansas City to join the effort, and pastors and laypeople from area ABC churches helped too.

"This ministry is a gathering of caring, sympathetic volunteers who see their role as encouragers," says Oyer. "We listen to the victims' stories, hug them when appropriate, cry with them at times, and pray with them if they will allow us to."

ABMen Central Region President David Edwards says all the tornado victims appreciated the help of the disaster teams: "When people have lost everything and are overwhelmed with the job of cleanup, it is very fulfilling to know that you can do something to help them. ...We feel that God has called us into this ministry of helping when a disaster strikes. To know that you have helped in some small way is the blessing for us."



## *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)

**AN EXPENSE OR AN INVESTMENT?**

Greetings from Camp Moses Merrill,

Here at the Visitor's Center we have had the pleasure of observing one of God's wondrous creations. Traci, the office assistant and a butterfly enthusiast, one day brought in a milkweed plant, home to a pin point size egg. We watched with anticipation the transformation of that egg to a beautiful butterfly. The process completed its cycle in a matter of days, right before our eyes. It was awesome!

We have been observing other new life here at camp; young fawns are venturing out of the woods. Everyday someone reports a sighting of one or more, maybe twins. Richard and I have had fun watching a pair of wrens build a nest and now gently coaxing their young to come out.

We are also observing another transformation—although usually a much slower one—that of young campers here for a week. The kids come to camp to have a good time; and they certainly do that, but they also hear the word of the Lord, read their Bible, sing praises to God and many make decisions that affect their lives. At one of the camps 37 kids were in attendance and 10 of these young people made first time decisions to accept the Lord. Now that is even more exciting than the transformed caterpillar. These kids are changed because they came to camp. Most of the Young adult counselors probably discovered what it means to live for Jesus at a church camp and are reaping the rewards of serving in camp ministry.

Our mission at camp involves a lot of people power; Program Coordinator and Cabin Leaders, hired Summer Service Staff, Volunteers, and a very important ingredient; intercessory prayer warriors. To keep camp functioning as it should takes lots of people power and money—it's expensive! I hope that as you give of your time and/or money to camp that you will not consider it an **expense** but a **good investment**. We thank you for all your support and encouragement.

— Delores Prather

*CHAPEL UPDATE*



Finally we can see the beginnings of Friendship Chapel itself. You can see that the foundation is being poured, which means we will soon see the building taking form. We continue to give thanks for what will be a wonderful addition to our camp.

*AMPHITHEATER UPDATE*



The Amphitheater is nearly complete, just a few more benches need to be installed. It has made a nice setting for morning chapel, small groups and evening gatherings. Many volunteer hours have been invested in this project. Thanks to all!

**SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS**

**August 1 - 4 . . . . . Digging Deeper**  
 For those entering 11, 12 grades or just graduated. This is your opportunity to dig deeper into your faith with activities that focus on spiritual disciplines.

**August 15 - 16. . . . . AB Men's Conference**  
 Speaker: Cody Pollington, President ABM/USA

**August 29—September 1 . . . . . Family Camp II**  
 A fun filled weekend for the family

**October 6—9. . . . . Adult Ministries Conference**  
 Featuring Mike or Becky Mann, Missionaries to Thailand, Bible Study Leader, Bill Belli and Discussion Leader Paul Kondy

**October 10—12. . . . . AB Women's Retreat**  
 Relaxing & inspirational get-a-way time

**MAKE RESERVATIONS SOON**

# LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

## September Deadlines

**August 1, 2003 - Print Copy**

**August 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 Church Name

**ALBION, FBC:** CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF SERVICE The First Baptist Church of Albion is celebrated their 125th Anniversary July 12 and 13th. The theme is "Building Upon 125 Years of Christ-Centered Ministry." The agenda for the two day event included a catered meal at the church on Saturday evening, followed by Singspiration, special church service on Sunday, a basket dinner, and an open house for the community with a planned program and cake and ice cream. The church families have published a new cookbook with new recipes, that sells for \$10.00 (plus postage if mailing.)

**LINCOLN, SECOND BC:** Louise Hill, Missionary to Latvia, was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Senior Adult Ministry Fellowship. In June the Senior Adults (SAM) took a bus trip to Goehner, NE to see a turn of the century musical presentation. The Faith Weavers participated in the worship service June 1. Graduates were honored on June 8. Two members of the Special Class accompanied by Marge Daugherty attended a Renewal Week for Persons with Disabilities at Green Lake. Eleven youth and two adults attended the Quest Youth Week at Green Lake, WI. Family Ministries had a family night on June 22 at Haymarket Park where they enjoyed a night at the game with the Saltdogs." June 29 was Youth Sunday. The youth led the worship service. Nate Wilcox, Ot-tuwa Uni. student, and Second Baptist Church member, was the guest speaker.

**ARTHUR, BC:** Bible School was held in June with 36 children participating. Directors for the Bible School were Patty Powers and Kari Trimble. Pastor Glendon Epp was director for the Junior 1 camp at Camp Moses Merrill. Several people from Arthur participated in leadership roles. Jolene Rose was in charge of music, Dean and Doris Thompson were camp grandparents, and Jane Epp, Annalea Epp, and Sami Vasa helped out as needed. Everyone reported a successful camp and a great time.

**BROKEN BOW, FBC:** VBS was held July 21-25 in evening sessions with the theme—Journeys of Jesus. Marian Woodward celebrated her 80th birthday at an open house at the church. The ABW hosted bingo and furnished refreshments at the Regency Place.

**CHADRON, FBC:** Richard Wheatley (and his wife, Linda) have accepted the call to FBC as full time pastor. The Wheatleys have been at Glenwood, Iowa for the past 14 years. The Interim pastors; Rev. Richard (and his wife Cora Mae) Sutterlin were honored at a farewell dinner on June 22, before they returned to Montana. Genevieve Thomas Rogers celebrated her 90th birthday on June 14. VBS was held June 2-6 at Wilson Park. FBC joined the community worship on July 13 at the fairgrounds in conjunction with Fur Trade Days. The church has a summer college Bible study.

**CHAPMAN, FBC:** ABW Ministries hosted a luncheon for seniors from the community on April 22. The luncheon included devotions, music, and fun. ABWM also recently contributed financial support to Murrow Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma; presented birthday flowers and cards to residents in a local care home; and led devotions on two occasions at a local assisted living residence. ABWM member Nola Oberhelman led an after-school program, "Going to Jerusalem" for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders throughout the school year. Nola is also coordinating the ABWM-sponsored Day Camp for children kindergarten through 6th grades, which is held one day a week all this summer. Pastor Pat Moore and wife Julie attended Project Camp at Camp Moses Merrill June 1st-6th.

**FAIRBURY, FBC:** Sam and Marilyn Johnson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. Fathers Day was observed with an all-church swim party. A barbeque, fishing, and fun party celebrated "School's out." The 2nd Annual Streetfest was held on July 25, including a car show, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, concert and games throughout the night. The youth and sponsors take out the church vans to "pick up stragglers" for the Wednesday evening meetings.

**HASTINGS, FBC:** April 27th a dinner party was held to bid farewell to our Interim Pastor, Harland Minscer and Leah, and to welcome our new Pastor, Tim Semotan, Cha "J", Dan, and Arthur. We were pleased to have our Executive Minister, Susan Gillies, our Area Minister, Rev. Dave Lundholm and his wife, Linda, as guests. May 4 we celebrated our 130th Anniversary. Jack Newell of Grand Island, a descendant of our founder and Larry and Alice Grummert of Superior were special guests. Seven of our ABWM members enjoyed joining the Guide Rock ABWM members at the Superior ABWM May Day Luncheon.

**FREMONT, FBC:** The FBC Day Care was voted #1 in the Fremont Tribune. (ed. Congratulations!) Pastor Walt Hickman celebrated 48 years of ordained ministry and Pastor John Dennert celebrated 40 years since his ordination. "Son Harvest" was the theme of VBS June 8-12. The "Young at Heart" took a four-day trip to the Black Hills June 11-14. Members of the ABWomen of Hope went to Green Lake for the gathering July 25-Aug 2. Don and Mil Sic observed their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Dalton and Edna Benson their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ruby Precht, a 102 year old member, still shares her memories of the church with all who come to call.

**JUNIATA, FBC:** The children of the church were honored on Children's Day. The "March For Jesus" was held on June 8, at which time the church family marched around the perimeter of the town. Community Film Festival was held on June 8. A Church Growth Summer Seminar began on July 13, using materials prepared by Dr. Ruth Sims. The Hol-drege ABW members were the guests of the JCC women for a "Sister Society Exchange" on July 16.

**GIBBON, FBC:** Ken Dennert's family, son of Pastor John and Mary, presented a musical program on June 1. "S.C.U.B.A." is being used for the summer Sunday School program. Glenn and Aileen Sigler celebrated their 75th wedding Anniversary. Sunday School Promotion was held on June 1, beginning with a continental breakfast and program. Alyce Keiper celebrated her 89th birthday recently. Trees and planters in memory of loved ones are being given for the lawn beautification. FBC served free ice cream cones following the July 4th parade. ABW hosted an all-church birthday party on July 19.

**GRAND ISLAND, FBC:** "On Fire" is held on Wednesday evenings and offers the children from the church and community to be part of a Kids' Praise Team. "Sizzling Sundays" is the youth group meetings. Edith Pinkston celebrated her 90th birthday with a reception at the church on June 15. The ABW made decorations to be used at the Salvation Army mealtimes. A "Growing In Faith Campaign" has been adopted by the church. One of the objectives is addressing concerns about the present church building.

**TECUMSEH, FBC:** The One Great Hour of Sharing giving came to \$1,000, which was enough for Pastor Ruby Gibson to build his house in Jamaica.

**ARNOLD, FBC:** "S.C.U.B.A." (VBS) was held June 2-6, with the program being on June 8. The mission project was shoes, socks, and offering for Murov Indian Children's home. The children and leaders contributed 54 pair of shoes and \$200.00 for the project. A "Trail Ride and Black Powder Camp" was held in July. The camp ended with Sunday worship in a farm corral.

**KEARNEY, FBC:** New ministries for the summer include Shepherd Ministry and a mini-series Leadership in the Church and a Bible study for women. Ten youth and six adults went to Barrett, MN for a faith-building adventure of service to people suffering hardship. Senior Adults attended summer theatre in Republican City and plan a trip to Red Cloud for a tour of the Willa Cather area. Andy Falk, the campus pastor of Roger Williams Fellowship is holding a summer Bible study for the college students at the church.

**LINCOLN, FBC:** The adult choir sang the national anthem at Haymarket Park on June 4, which was Music Ministries Night. VBS/Arts Week was held June 23-27. Used eyeglasses were recently sent to the Cap Haitian Eye Center. All Sunday school children and their families held a picnic on June 6. Toni Biskup, a medical missionary since mid-May in Haiti, shared about her mission on July 27.

**COLUMBUS, FBC:** VBS was held June 16-20, with an adult VBS held also. The theme was SCUBA, (Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure) with the mission project being the Columbus Rescue Mission. The ABW held their annual breakfast on July 1. The York Assoc. ABW held a carry-in picnic at Pawnee Park on July 16. FBC delivered "Meals on Wheels" in both June and July.

**MCCOOK, FBC:** The youth served a lunch of reubens, German potato salad, and dessert as a fundraiser to help expenses for camp. FBC was represented in the program for Family Night at the Red Willow County Fair. The ABY and adults had a food booth. The ABW held an ice cream social at the Hillcrest Nursing Home. VBS was held July 7-11 in the evening, with the theme SCUBA.

**ST. EDWARDS, PALESTINE BC:** The church, with the help of sister churches provided a ministry for ATV riders on July 18-19 at the St. Edwards ATV riding area.

**NORFOLK, FBC:** The New Way Singers from the Nebraska Christian College sang and shared during the morning worship service on June 22. VBS was and all day session on June 7, with "Into Christ's Kingdom" as the theme, with the emphasis on bugs. A Father's Day picnic was held at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park. Arla Clark celebrated her 80th birthday on May 25.

**NORTH PLATTE, FBC:** The AGAPE/SEEKERS attended an evening at the Hastings IMAX Theater. The youth have organized a praise band. A Bible study is being held for K-5th graders, directed by Youth Intern Jessica Elsbury. A "50 Year Member Celebration Sunday" was held. Honored were Waneita Schomer for 50 yrs. of membership, sisters Lorena Huffman and Bertha Maline for 79 yrs., and the oldest church member, Mattie Rumery, who is 97. An "Intergenerational Liberation Celebration" was held on July 4 for the church family. Dr. Dwight Neuenschwander (and his wife, Aladine) is Interim pastor at FBC.

**OMAHA, BENSON BC:** Education Ministry Sunday was held on June 1, with all teachers being recognized and a fellowship time being held. A group of 15 youth and three adults left on June 22 for a mission trip to California. The first five days were spent at Vallejo doing service, and the remaining five days were spent at Greenville for a spiritual retreat. The Fellowship Ministry attended the College World Series on June 16. Walt and Alice Blackford celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. "Dare to Dream" get-togethers are being held to share ideas, concerns and prayers.

**OMAHA, FBC:** Micah and Koya Dorner, who recently completed two years of mission work in Malaga, Spain, shared with the church on June 8. A pot luck dinner was held June 29 with Quarterly Meeting following, during which Hudson Shires (a Grace University student) was introduced as our new part-time Minister to Youth. A Fun Fair Carnival was held at a nearby park on Sun. July 13th to promote our Vacation Bible School program to the community the same week. A Constitution Revision Committee has been appointed to review our constitution and recommend any necessary changes. Pam Kulisek was named the Outstanding Volunteer for Outstanding Service to the Community by United Way of the Midlands.

**ANSLEY, FBC:** VBS was held June 29-July 4 with a missionary from New Mexico who told about producing a Navajo/English Bible, developing water systems for the reservation and programs to educate youth.

**OMAHA, FIRST KACHIN:** The church celebrated its first anniversary with a worship service and a picnic at Louisville Recreation Area. New Kachin Bibles and hymnbooks were dedicated. Members were forced out of Myanmar (Burma) because of their Christian beliefs and came to Omaha because a Baptist from their tribe was studying here. The congregation meets in the Calvary Baptist building.

**OMAHA, PARKSIDE BC:** Susie Brann celebrated her 100th birthday on June 22. Plans are being made for a mission trip to various Baptist mission stations in October. The Lydia Circle and other adults enjoyed a night out at the Putt Putt Range on June 17, after which they made ice cream delicacies. The annual church picnic was held July 13 at Cunningham Lake.

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS:** Floretta Ward has been named to the board of trustees of the University of Sioux Falls. Brian Marine has been hired for the summer as a part-time youth leader. Eight youths and three adults led vacation Bible school for a week at the Hopi Indian Reservation at Keam's Canyon, Ariz. ABW Sunday on June 29 featured Sweet Harmony, a women's quartet from Iowa. *Forgiven* performed at the ABW program at First Baptist of Tekamah on July 20, sang the national anthem at the Omaha Royals game July 26 and plans to lead the music August 15-16 at the Men's Conference at Camp Moses Merrill. The Senior Music and Drama Camp will finish with a program at Sunset Hills on Aug. 2.

**HOLDREGE, FBC:** ABW members were guests of Juniata women on July 16. Kids Kount is a summer outdoor fun time sponsored by FBC and other local churches. "Son Harvest County Fair" was the VBS theme. The children planted a garden behind the church, a carnival was held and pastor Gary kissed a piglet!

**OXFORD, FBC:** The Oxford First Baptist Church was the site for the Oxford Community 2003 V.B.S. There were between 75 and 90 youth involved each evening of the week of June 2 - 6, 2003, with "SCUBA" - Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure activities centered on the themes of believing in God, obeying God, trusting God, loving God and sharing God's love. Our "Outreach Committee" served homemade ice cream, pie and brownies at our annual community "Turkey Days" celebration.

**TEKAMAH, FBC:** S.C.U.B.A. (Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure) Vacation Bible School was held June 9-13, concluding with two programs on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A garage and bake sale was held on June 21 by the Women's Society and the Church Fellowship Committee. Items were collected in both June and July for the community food pantry. FBC youth participate in the "Student Venture" gatherings in Tekamah. A "Musical Feast and Ice Cream Social" was hosted by FBC and Riverside on July 20 for Omahaland churches.



Local Church News

**SUPERIOR, FBC:** With funds given by the Elmer Giger family in memory of the late Deacon Emeritus Elmer Giger, the balcony curtains have been completely restored and rehung. Ladies of Martha Circle and their guests enjoyed a progressive supper, followed by games. Lydia Circle ended their fiscal year with a brunch meeting. An all-church picnic was held in City Park, sponsored by the Deacons. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huffman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the church dining room June 21. Thirty family members and friends attended the dinner. Fred has been a member of FBC Superior since 1934, and Evelyn since 1950. Representing the Superior church as volunteers at the County Food Bank for June were Harold and Lorna Wilton.

**SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC:** The kids were recognized and honored on June 8, Children's Day. A barbeque and picnic was held on July 13 with water fights and games.

**NEW MEMBERS:**

**OXFORD, FBC:** David Hunt, Barbara Leach, Mark, Susie and David Bressler

**OMAHA, BENSON:** Monique Hartog and Laura Leland

**GIBBON, FBC:** Kathy Larson, Harold and Marcia Skrdlant

**LINCOLN, SECOND BC:** Albert Ball  
**SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC:** Darren Smith, Natasha Teall, Brittany Smith, Conner Koetman, Keira Koetman, James and LaRee Koetman, Darrell and Carol McIntosh

**LINCOLN, FBC:** Kaitlin Robertson, Juan Rangel and Judy Clark

**FREMONT, FBC:** Elizabeth Hall

**SUNSET HILLS, FBC:** John Walters

**HOLDREGE, FBC:** Robert Meade, Eric Voshell, Shawn, Shelli and Ali Halsted



**Trivia Answers:**

1. b. 1995 "New Beginnings"
2. d. 2000 "Make His Praise Glorious"
3. c. 1997 "Renewed for Mission By His Word"
4. e. 2002 "Discover Renewal"
5. a. 1993 "Changing Times"

**ABC of Nebraska staff**

Executive Minister ..... Susan Gillies  
 Area Minister ..... Dave Lundholm  
 Mission Development Director ..... Steve Bills  
 Director of Camps & Conferences ..... Clarence Reiss  
 Guest Services Manager ..... Scott Johnson  
 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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