

Bring a Rock !

Each ABC/NE church is invited to bring a rock representing their church to the Family Reunion in Kearney. These rocks will be brought forward in a special service at the beginning of the convention. They will become part of an Ebenezer that will be raised at Camp Merrill as testimony to God's faithfulness.
 [Rocks should not be larger than one person can carry.]

Trivia Answers: (from page 4)

1. b. Vice-President Darren Stroh was ordained Aug. 28.
2. a. Rev. Charles Gregory is ABC/NE's only representative on the General Bd.
3. d. The Carpenter Fund assists clergy education.
4. b. Tapoothka was the name the Indians gave to Moses Merrill the first missionary in NE. It meant, "The one who speaks the truth."
5. c. All but one Family Reunion in the last six years has been in Kearney.

ABC of Nebraska Staff

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Executive Minister..... | Susan Gillies |
| Area Minister..... | Dave Lundholm |
| Minister of Mission Support..... | Steve Bils |
| Director of Camps & Conferences..... | Clarence Reiss |
| Camp Staff..... | Jerry Buss, Elizabeth Dietrich, Lou Grotelueschen, Joe Huss, Beverly Pacas, Richard & Delores Prather, Trudy Reiss, Adam Robley, Linda Wilmot |
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| Volunteer Mission Secretary..... | Judie Heller |
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| Church Life Consultant..... | A. J. Wagstaff |
| Pastor to Pastors (W)..... | Paul Kondy |
| Pastor to Pastors (E)..... | Dick Peterson |
| Youth Ministry Adjunct..... | Jason Workman |

Welcome to New Members:

OMAHA BENSON: Martin Strober, Cynthia and Geoffrey Hamilton
 FREMONT FBC: Will Blocker, Lynn Hassler, Mark & Janet Bayliff, Kelsi Anderson, Don Prell, and Lillie, Amber, and Matthew Hammond.

BEATRICE FBC: Taylor Hancock
 LAVISTA JUDSON: Brandt Cox, Ashley Thomas, Derek Houdesheldt, Joy Clark, Brad and Cindy Stephan
 OXFORD FBC: Ron and Sharon Ludeke



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NEBRASKA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
 AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEBRASKA
 RICHES VENTON

the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



September 2005

ABC/NE Date Data

ABC/NE Family Reunion
 Annual Convention
 Kearney, Sept. 9-11, 2005

Adult Ministries Conference
 Camp Moses Merrill
 October 3-6, 2005

Women's Retreats
 Camp Merrill Oct 7-9
 Camp Norwesca Oct 14-16

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 The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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ABC/NE President Issues Call to Prayer For Family Reunion in Kearney

Nebraska Baptists are in the final countdown to this year's FAMILY REUNION/Region Convention. The gathering will take place in Kearney

Sept 9-11. The theme is "Out of the Boat" The Reunion offers opportunities for worship, learning, and fellowship.

Region President Beryl Hornberger is making a special request, "I am encouraging everyone to pray daily for the reunion. We want Christ to be the center of our Family Reunion and all the ministry we do together in Nebraska and around the world. Please pray for our speakers, Dr. Jeff Johnson and Rev. Lisa Harris; our host church, Benson; our ABC/NE Board and Staff; our music and worship leaders, the convention choir; and for each person who attends."

Pre-Convention Evangelism Training Opportunity



Everyone is invited to participate in a unique evangelism training opportunity. Dr. Jeff Johnson will offer a pre-convention seminar from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Friday, Sept. 9, at First Baptist Church of Kearney. Dr. Johnson is one of the speakers for the Annual Family Reunion. He has a refreshing approach to evangelism that adapts the strategy to the personality type of the person engaged in outreach. Pastors are encouraged to attend and bring lay leaders with them. The seminar is open to all.

Registration is REQUIRED. Cost for the seminar is only \$10 (which includes lunch). To register, simply call the region office 1-877-244-7339 or 402-556-4730.

FOCUS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT For World Mission Offering

One of the ways to see your church's World Mission Offering at work is to direct your offering to international rural development being led by Missionary Mike Mann. Mike has traveled Nebraska meeting with folks in local churches and at Camp Merrill. He has met with Nebraska Baptists engaged in agricultural work and research to see if there are ways we can exchange ideas and minister more effectively to people in third world countries.

Mike's creative water projects in Thailand stimulated interest across the state. The AB Men in Custer County committed themselves to funding one of those projects.

Most churches have a tradition of taking the World Mission Offering and sending it "as is." Several years ago, International Ministries, began to encourage directed giving as a way to increase connections with missionaries and mission sites around the world. The theme for this year's offering is "Abound In Hope!" The scripture is Romans 15:13. For more information, contact Steve Bils, 877-244-7339.

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

SELF-TALK

Psychologists will tell you the damage we do to ourselves with negative "self-talk." This is a reference to the little voice in our heads that tells us we will probably mess up, that we are ugly, that we are never going to make it, that we should have done a project better— after all, other people would have, etc.

As Christians, we are cautioned about pride. We are encouraged to walk humbly with our God. The problem is, humility is not the same thing as low self-esteem. Humility is more about accepting our gifts with gratitude and joyfully using those gifts without expectation of public praise. We don't NEED plaques and trophies but it's appropriate to gratefully accept them when presented and to enjoy the fact that God worked through us. We use our gifts for God's glory and not our own. But it's wonderful to feel good about it!

I am writing about this because I have a concern that our negative "self-talk" dampens our ability to use and celebrate the gifts God has given us. Every week in our churches, someone turns down a job or new responsibility because negative "self-talk" makes them feel unworthy.

I was talking with a trusted friend and colleague recently and asked if he ever went home at the end of the day and, in the pri-

vacy of his own home, shouted "YES!" and perhaps walked his wife around the living room because he had been able to use his God given gifts on that day. His response, "No." What a tragedy. His negative "self-talk" tells him that whatever he does is never enough.

If you give someone a gift and they have a very passive response, how do you feel? God has gifted you. If you don't respond with joy, what are you communicating to God?

Celebration is an important part of demonstrating our gratitude to God. We should feel GREAT when we've done a good job — even if there is more to be done — even if there is someone somewhere who could have done it better.

We have been called to be disciples for the long haul. It's not just one project. It takes energy and practice to be effective in faithfulness, service, caring, hoping, loving. Celebrating the steps forward will help give you energy for whatever follows.

All this is true for churches and groups of churches, too. The ABC of Nebraska gathers this month for our Family Reunion. It's a time to celebrate God's good gifts among us. Let's join



From the Minister of Mission Support Steve Bilis

Our Mission Together

The call for unity in Christ's church resounds through the New Testament. Jesus prayed for the disciples "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). The book of Acts speaks of the earliest church as being of "one accord" (8:6). The Apostle Paul heralded, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph 4:5).

should prayerfully consider God's vision of ministry for your church, and include increased support in your financial commitment to **United Mission**. United Mission can also be a good way for churches to set the tone of stewardship for the rest of the congregation. Whether your United Mission budget is a tithe or an offering, your faithful response and increased support of your church's mission budget throughout the year is vital to our shared ministry. Including mission support in your vision and strategic plans for your church are paramount for growth in God's ministry through ABC/NE and ABC/USA.



The New Testament church united for mission. The great commission affirmed this mission simply and powerfully: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mk 16:15).

Your ABC **United Mission** responds to the mandate

from Jesus that "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). **United Mission** funds ministries that witness in Jerusalem - local congregations; and witness in Judea and Samaria - mission in America and international mission around the world.

The largest portion of the **American Baptist Mission Support** budget is called **United Mission (UM)**. These contributions from local churches provide the foundation of support for God's mission through ABC. It is the primary source of funding for ABC of Nebraska.

United Mission is typically a part of your church's mission budget. Each fall, when pastors and congregational leaders plan your church's budget for the following year, they

YOU ARE INVITED TO A Homecoming at Bethel Neighborhood Center 14 South 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101 Saturday, September 17, 2005 11:00 am - 4:00 pm (come and go as time allows) Calling all former "Bethel Kids" staff, board of directors, volunteers and everyone who has ever been (or wants to become) a part of the Bethel Neighborhood Center ministry! Renew friendships • Enjoy great food • Learn about existing programs and outreach • Tour the classrooms • See historical photos • Reconnect with the community Pass this invitation on to anyone you know who might be interested Please contact Mrs. Doris Wiggins or Rev. Lisa R. Harris by September 14, 2005 to respond to this invitation 913.371.8218 or bethel@bethelcenter.org

FREMONT FBC: Twenty youth and sponsors went to Bethel Neighborhood Center on a mission trip August 2-6. Sunday School Promotion was August 21. An all-church picnic was held on August 14 at Clemmons Park, with the AB Men providing the hamburgers and hot dogs, along with the trimmings. The YAH group took a trip to Durham Western Heritage Museum on August 19.

GIBBON FBC: A Family and Friends Fun Night was held on July 31, with games, pop, and snacks being shared. A Lord's Harvest Table is being held with extra garden produce being available for a donation, with all funds going to the Deacon Fund. AWANA began on August 31.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: Sunday School Promotion was held on Aug. 21. An all-church evening picnic was held on August 21 at Hall County Park.

HOLDREGE FBC: Ben Edwards, who was a youth pastor intern for the summer, was presented a love gift offering for his work.

JUANITA COMMUNITY CHURCH: Pastor Tom Murray and Kay have announced their plans to give up the pastoral work they have been doing at JCC, but will fill in when they are at their home and are needed. The Murrays have been considered "Part-time but very committed" for 20 years. In August, the "home-made" Ice-Cream Social was held, Paul Spence, the director of Crossroads Center, was a guest speaker, and Church in the Park was held at a Hastings park followed by a potluck dinner. Sunday School classrooms have been painted, and ceiling lights/fans have been installed in several. A pictorial directory, which will be done by church members, is being put together.

LAVISTA, JUDSON: Judson had a fellowship luncheon in July and a "Summer Salad Luncheon" in August. Twenty-two young people attended camp this summer. Vacation Bible School was a resounding success with over 40 children in attendance. In August the youth attended "The Gathering" at Papillion/La Visit High School. The Joy Club met in July and August and enjoyed playing games and hearing the "Heartland Country Gospel Singers" perform. Awana will begin again in Sept. This year we are adding the pre-school club. During the summer our young people had special Sunday School classes where they learned about life in Jesus' day. One Sunday the congregation enjoyed a performance by the youth with instruments they made out of odds and ends. They played drums, harps, and cymbals and truly made beautiful mu-

sic. The men of Judson attended the ABM Event at Camp Moses Merrill. We would like to invite each of you to attend our "Silent Auction" on Saturday, September 17th from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Lunch will be served from Noon-1:00 PM. All proceeds will go to the church expansion program.

LINCOLN FBC: Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs has accepted the call to FBC as senior pastor. He and his wife Dee will arrive in September. The Riggs have two children, Alexandra and Jordan. Youth and sponsors spent time in Deadwood, SD helping with the ABC Sturgis Aid Satellite Stations and took a day to visit tourist attractions. The College/Young Adult group had a day of sailing on August 7. A Russian Harvest Festival was held on August 17, and a Chinese Mission Event on August 20, both in the fellowship hall. A teacher Appreciation Breakfast was held on August 28, and the Mid-High Family Back to School party was also held that day.

LINCOLN SECOND: In August VBS was held with over 65 children. The theme was Serengeti Trek. Families Ministries held a party at the Hartung family "cabin." The youth gave special presentations during worship on one Sunday during August. The service was followed by a VBS picnic celebration. The Jr & Sr High had an "End of the Summer" pool party. Also in Aug, we had a church lawn care work day. Aug 31 began a new year of Wed. night supper & Bible study and Faith Weavers for the children.

MCCOOK FBC: The church family offered cups of cold water and tracts to cyclists who were on their way to Sturgis Aug. 4-6, just inside the NE/KS state line. FBC hosted the community Gospel Sing on Aug. 27. Sunday School Promotion was held on Aug. 28, followed by the annual Sunday school picnic, which was held at the Reynolds home in Danbury.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: ABW Ministries held a calling day on July 28. Church leaders participated in a spiritual retreat this summer.

NORFOLK FBC: The ABW served at the Rescue Mission on July 27. Rally Day was held on August 28, beginning with a breakfast, balloon fun and a balloon launch. The AB Women held their annual breakfast on Aug. 11 at Village Inn. An all-church potluck picnic with a corn roast and a watermelon feed was held on Aug. 21. Swanhelm's Sunday school class served the Rescue Mission on Aug. 25.

OMAHA BENSON BAPTIST: The annual

church picnic was held on Aug. 21. The 41 individuals who taught Sunday school and other classes, and the 30 who supported them, were honored on August 28. Pastor Paul and Anne hosted a get-together for the chancel choir on Aug. 25 as a time for them to fellowship, welcome new members, and prepare their hearts for their new year of music. Mission news from BBC: Adam DeFrancesco finished a two month mission in New Zealand, Esther Reeves is at Kodiak Baptist Mission, Bryan Marine is with Youth for Christ in Lincoln and an intern at SBC in Lincoln, and Jason Grogan is with Military Community Youth Ministries at Ft. Riley, KS. A 17 member team went to Hutchison Ks on a Mission Trip Aug. 14-20, where they worked with Interfaith Housing, and Victory Village, a home for struggling girls.

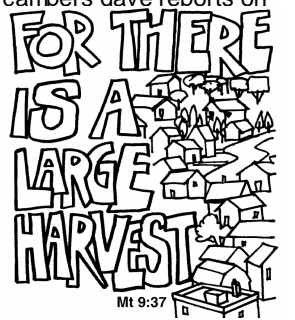
OMAHA FBC: A carnival was held on July 31 to kick off VBS, which was held August 1-5. It was very successful with over 50 children attending. Rev. Kip Mickelson was installed as pastor on August 14. An open house to showcase the newly re-decorated sanctuary was held at the same time. We held a drive for backpacks to be given to children in the Salem Baptist neighborhood. Many backpacks and supplies were collected. Electric Wednesdays will begin September 14 with activities for all ages.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS BC: Sunday School Kickoff and Teacher Recognition Sunday was August 21.

OXFORD FBC: A community Vacation Bible School was hosted at the Oxford First Baptist Church the week of July 18th. Puppets, skits, music and lessons were offered around the theme "It's Time for Jesus."

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: The new church directories are being distributed. A VBS Kick-Off Bar-B-Que was held on July 31, with a week of "Beach Blast VBS" following in evening sessions.

TEKAMAH FBC: The ABWM Society had Mr. McDonnen as a speaker, telling about Ethiopia. Camp Sunday 2 was held on August 14, when campers gave reports on their time at camp.



Mt 9:37

From the Area Minister Dave Lundholm

An Opportunity for Laity to Take a Look at the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches (part 5)

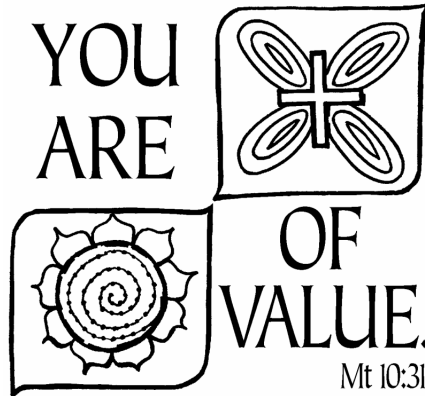
Affirmations 4 and 5 read as follow s:

"I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession. I will help lay persons and colleagues to understand that ministerial leaders should not require fees for pastoral services from constituents they serve, when these constituents are helping pay their salaries."

"I will not seek personal favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status."

For many pastors this is the most difficult area in the Covenant and Code of Ethics for them to address. Many pastors feel uncomfortable advocating for their own compensation.

Some pastors believe that someone else will speak up to suggest they be given a raise and are subsequently disappointed when no one does. Other understanding the financial stress that churches sometimes experience decline raises when offered to "help the church." Churches pastored by clergy with either of these approaches will be shocked by the "sticker price" when the time comes for them to move on and find new leadership.



It was always my practice to advocate for a cost of living adjustment each year and my request to be evaluated for a merit increase every three to five years. I found this easier to do when I considered it as part of my pastoral role to prepare the church for my replacement and to build a strong foundation of stewardship for subsequent pastors. It is part of your pastor's job to advocate for adequate compensation.

This foundation affects the next two points. When adequately compensated, pastors have no need for fees for services from the constituents they serve. Although it is appropriate for the church or clergy to set fees for pastoral services for people who neither participate in nor support the ministry of the congregation. (Some churches in Nebraska have chosen to offer all of their services with no fees attached in an attempt to be welcoming and encourage the people served to become more a part of the congregation.)

When adequately compensated, pastors have no need to seek personal favors or discounts because they are clergy.

Please encourage your pastor to be an advocate for his/her compensation and then support your pastor's efforts.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

October Deadlines
September 13, 2005 - Print Copy
September 16, 2005 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor
 Darlene RIMPLEY
 Rt. 1 Box 74 A
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E-Editor
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ALLIANCE FBC: The church's annual anniversary dinner was held at the church in July 17. There was a great turnout with food, fun, fellowship, home made ice cream and sharing the good old times. The Church Librarian presented a display of the history of the church.

those wanting to tour it. Pastor Keene has started a Wed. Bible study/prayer service.

ARNOLD FBC: Ester Pearson, who has been a member of the church for approx. 85 years, celebrated her 99th birthday on July 31. A Back to School Appreciation brunch was held on August 17, with public school teachers and school personnel as guests. The High School Sunday School class, working with the Arnold Ministerial Association, sponsored a "Back to School Blow out" on August 20 at the Arnold Rialto Theater, with After the Order, Three Cord Wonder, and Elevate, performing.

BEATRICE FBC: Vacation Bible School was held July 25-29, in cooperation with two other churches.

BRIDGEPORT FBC: The ordination service was held for Pastor Darren Stroh on August 28, followed by a reception. The ABC/NE Staff attended along with members, friends & family.

BROKEN BOW FBC: The parsonage will have permanent siding installed, with a gift of \$2,000 starting the fund to finance it. The ABW Ministries was in charge of the worship service on August 14. The youth sponsored a night at the Pizza Hut on Aug. 2, with all proceeds going to purchase bulletin boards for the classrooms.

ARTHUR: An outdoor church service was held in the park July 31 with a good attendance from those attending the 5 year all school reunion. The "famous" old baled hay church was open

CHADRON FBC: Purpose Driven Church studies are held every Wednesday night. The church enjoyed the FBC, Lincoln, youth provid-

ing a Cup of Cold Water Way Station in Chadron prior to the Bike Rally in SD.

COLUMBUS FBC: Sunday school Teachers Appreciation and Promotion was held on August 28. Ginger Moon recently donated a fax machine to the church. A donation of 20 thrilling adventure stories for young readers was given to the church library.

FAIRBURY FBC: The BYG (Baptist Youth Group) went to Lincoln on Aug.20 for a Christian Skateboard-BMX Demo, and on August 31 attended a Casting Pearls and New boys concert in Lincoln. A "Restructure Plan" was adopted by FBC, in which all the by-laws of the church constitution concerning organization and duties of boards and committees will be suspended for two years. A "Back to School Bash" was held on August 28, beginning with a continental breakfast, games and prizes, and a worship service.



2005 Adult Ministries Conference
"God's Calling: What Haven't You Done Yet?"

Senior adults from across the state will gather at Camp Moses Merrill October 3-6 for a conference designed to stretch the mind and deepen faith in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. ABC Missionary to Japan, Chuck DeRolf, is the featured speaker. The Bible Study leader is Art Chapin, pastor of Prairie Union Baptist Church in Stella, NE. Pastor to Pastors Paul Kondy will lead the Digging Deeper sessions. Conferees will also enjoy hayrack rides, golf, tree planting, music, crafts and table games. Registration forms are available in local church offices or from the ABC/NE office. For more information, contact Roberta Williston 402-391-8939 or June Soderlund 402-455-0523.

New Pastors to be Welcomed at Family Reunion

Each year at the Family Reunion, new pastors are introduced and welcomed. Those who have begun a new ministry position in Nebraska since the last Family Reunion will be recognized. This year the group includes:

- Rev. Terry Arvie — Formerly Pastor of Hurricane Bluff Baptist Church, LA, to Pastor, Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist, Omaha
- Rev. Dr. Charles Gregory — Formerly Pastor of FBC, Broken Bow, to Pastor, First Baptist Church, Grand Island.
- Rev. Benjamin Keene — Formerly Pastor of Spring Green Church, RI, to Pastor, Arthur Baptist Church, Arthur.
- Rev. Beverly Melchor-Young — Formerly interim assignments to Pastor, Riverside Baptist, Decatur.
- Rev. Kip Mickelson — Formerly Associate Pastor of New Life, Bellevue, to Senior Pastor, FBC, Omaha.
- Rev. Blaine Pritchett — Formerly Pastor of FBC, Hamburg, IA, to Pastor, First Baptist Church, Albion.
- Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs — Formerly Director of Congregational Transformation, ABC-USA, to Senior Pastor, FBC, Lincoln.



AB Men of Nebraska Name Bud Keenportz Layman of the Year

Lloyd "Bud" Keenportz of McCook was named 2005 Layman of the Year at the annual conference of American Baptist Men at Camp Moses Merrill, Aug 13. Keenportz has lived in McCook for 29 years, working first for Corn Belt Chemical Company and then for RSA Micro-Tech. Now retired, he continues to do consulting work. He is also a Certified Emergency Manager for the city of McCook. Keenportz has been instrumental in getting a new ABMEN's disaster relief trailer functioning in Nebraska. The new trailer is smaller and more versatile than the large trailer shared with Iowa. He is currently the AB Men's Western Vice-President as well as their Nebraska Coordinator for the Disaster Relief Trailer Program. Keenportz is married and has four children and eight grandchildren. He is an active member of First Baptist, McCook, where he has served as youth sponsor, deacon, trustee, and usher.

Two Special Retreats for Women this Fall in Nebraska

FALL RETREAT FOR WOMEN AT CAMP MOSES MERILL

Women are invited to participate in a fall retreat at Camp Moses Merrill Oct. 7-9. The theme is "Things Fall, People Fall," based on Psalm 37:24. The retreat will offer women a chance to get away for a time of rest and renewal. The event is being coordinated by Rev. Renae Odell of Second Baptist, Lincoln, and Rev. Charlene Quarells of King Solomon Baptist in Omaha. For more information, contact Renae Odell 402-464-8398.

FALL RETREAT FOR WOMEN IN THE NORTHWEST

The AB Women in the Northwestern Association will host their annual retreat October 14-16 at Camp Norwesca near Chadron State Park. The event will begin with supper on Friday and conclude following worship Sunday morning. The theme is "God's Grace." The speaker is Joyce Piskorski from North Platte. For more information contact Marilyn Moeller 308-432-4570.

BUILDING BRIDGES UPDATE

Exciting things are happening with the Camp Moses Merrill Building Bridges Campaign. Completed to date are the Smith Amphitheatre, the new parking lot by Weaver Hall, Friendship Chapel, the Prayer Walk, and Ward Conference Center featuring the Fullerton Room.

Two parts of the campaign remain. The first is Calvary Lodge consisting of 11 sleeping rooms, each with bath and a sliding glass door to a small patio. The last part of the campaign is the construction of an Activity Building.



NAME A LODGE ROOM

Churches and individuals may name a room in the new Calvary Lodge for a contribution of \$15,000. The money will be used to complete construction on each room and furnish it. By mid-August, gifts had been committed for eight rooms. Construction will begin October 1. Churches and individuals wishing to give one of the remaining rooms or make smaller contributions for the lodge or activity building are encouraged to do so.

PRAYER SUPPORT

This campaign has been founded on and surrounded by prayer throughout. Please join in the prayers for the safe and joyous completion of the campaign and pray for the expanded ministry that is happening and will continue to happen at Camp because of the campaign.

Wait on the Lord Conference



Psalm 27:14: "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

ABC ministers will gather for this conference on Christian spiritual formation in Orlando, Florida, April 17-20, 2006. Put the dates on the calendar and plan for your pastor to attend. ABC/NE pastors are encouraged to participate. The Carpenter Fund will assist with costs. For more information about the conference check www.ABC-USA.org

Vow the VOW! September 2005

Sept 4 **Matthew 18:20***

For wherever there are two or three gathered together in my name, there am I among them.

Sept 11 **Romans 14:8†**

If we live, we live unto our Lord; if we die, we die unto our Lord. So then, whether we live or die, we belong to our Lord.

Sept 18 **Psalms 105:4†**

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Sept 25 **Philippians 2:4†**

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

*Montgomery Version †New Revised Standard Version

Signature _____

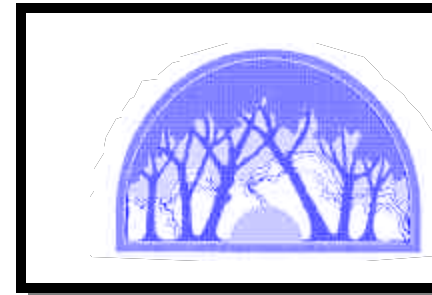
Church _____ Accountability Partner _____

"Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."
Psalm 119:11*

When completed, return to:
American Baptist Churches of Nebraska, 6404 Maple Street, Omaha, NE 68104
Fax (402) 556-1910

ABC/NE TRIVIA (answers on p.8)

- Which ABC/NE officer has just been ordained? a. President, b. Vice-President, c. Secretary, d. Treasurer
- How many representatives does ABC/NE have on the ABC/USA General Board? a. One, b. Two, c. Three, d. Four
- What is the name of the ABC/NE fund that provides support for clergy education? a. Shepherd, b. Caring, c. Leadership, d. Carpenter
- The name, Tapoohka, refers to whom or what? a. The pastor of the first church in NE, b. the first missionary in NE, c. the location of the first mission in NE, d. the first publication in NE.
- In which NE city has ABC/NE held the most Family Reunions in the last six years? a. Lincoln, b. North Platte, c. Kearney, d. Grand Island



Camp Moses Merrill News

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Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

A WEEK OF TRAINING

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it". Proverbs 22:6 Camp Moses Merrill certainly provides a wonderful training ground for children and we have dedicated leaders who give the training. After a busy summer at home Richard and I have been back at camp for a week. We arrived in time to enjoy the last few days of Children's Music and Drama Camp. It always amazes me how quickly those kids can learn the words, music and choreography to an hour long presentation. In the process they are being trained to spread the Word of God through their talents.

Another event that I was privileged to observe and host was a Ladies Luncheon for 23 women of First Baptist Church, Fremont. These ladies came out to learn more about the ministries of Camp Moses Merrill and to tour the new facilities. They also got to observe the children rehearsing for their concert, "The King of the Jungle", and enjoyed it immensely. Hopefully, their experience will refresh the ladies enthusiasm to tell others about our Camp.

Monday a group of young people came from Hiawatha, KS to work, and **work they did!** Trees were cut down, branches run through the chipper, the chips loaded on a trailer and put around trees and shrubbery, logs were split, electric fence rolled up, lights in Weichelman installed, etc. These youth were trained to give of their time and muscle to a worthwhile cause in addition to the spiritual training they received while here.

High School and College age youth get valuable experience here as Cabin Leaders for the younger children. Many feel the call from God to go into ministry. There are other places our young people could go if we did not exist, but, we do not want that to happen. Nebraska Baptists must be committed to supporting Camp Moses Merrill so it will be able to continue its valuable mission.

Dolores Prather

LOST AND FOUND

As usual, we have several articles in the lost and found box here at the Visitor's Center. This is an accumulation of personal items that were left behind after each camp. Articles are kept for 30 days after camping season and then given to a good cause, so if you left something valuable, please give us a call soon.

2005 FALL CAMP SCHEDULE



Sept 2-5

Family Camp II

Oct 3-6

Adult Ministries Conf.

Oct 7-9

AB Women's Retreat

Oct 17-19

Fall Clergy Seminar

The Fall season is a beautiful time at Camp so make your plans now to visit and sign up for an event.



JULY GIFTS

Monetary Gifts given by:
Richard and Diane Salerno
Gifts of Time and Talent: All those who helped with the summer program camps.
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