

# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



October 2006

**ABC/NE Date Data**

Adult Ministries Conference  
Oct 2-5 Camp Merrill

Good Soil Oct 21 Alliance

Pastor Installations Oct 22  
Sunset Hills, Omaha  
New Life, Bellevue

Pastors' Seminar Oct 23-25  
Camp Merrill

Good Soil Oct 28 Grand Island

Small Church Conference  
Nov 6-8 Camp Merrill

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## JOURNEY TO LODGEGRASS

The ABC/NE "Lodgegrass Convoy" will depart the Region Office in Omaha on October 26. The convoy will stop in selected places across Nebraska. In each location, churches will load their overland White Cross quotas in the vans. Once filled, the vans will continue their trek to Lodgegrass, Montana.

At First Crow Indian Baptist Church the vans will be unloaded providing supplies and expressions of love and support from Baptists in Nebraska.

Convoy Master, Steve Bils, who also serves as Associate Executive Minister for Mission Development, will lead the trip ably supported by American Baptist women — the force behind White Cross. The second van in the convoy will be driven by ABC/NE Mission Dept. chair Larry Adams of Columbus.

Nebraska Baptists enthusiastically participate in White Cross. It allows them to fill specific requests from mission workers. Through White Cross gifts, church members provide urgently-needed supplies that cannot be purchased with limited mission budgets.

Through the years, American Baptist women have given leadership in this ministry, which now provides some \$800,000 annually in mission support. And entire congregations often work together to fill White Cross requests.



Steve Bils and Nina Jean Meth check out the space in one of the White Cross Convoy vehicles that will travel across Nebraska in late October en route to Montana.

## ABC/NE Youth Honored at Reunion

ABC/NE Youth were honored at the Sunday morning worship service that concluded the 2006 ABC/NE Family Reunion.

Speaker Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, Executive Director of National Ministries, preached from II Samuel on hearing God's voice. Following the sermon and communion, ABC/NE Executive Minister Susan Gillies and Host Pastor Harry Riggs honored the youth of the state for their mission action during this last year and called on them to continue "listening for God's voice."

On the sanctuary's big screens, pictures were shown of young people from many Nebraska churches in action to help others. Youth from Nebraska have helped with Katrina clean-up and rebuilding, Camp Merrill maintenance, Habitat for Humanity projects, a mission work trip to Thailand, Bible school at Great St. John in Omaha, and in many, many other ways.

Gillies called on the youth to continue to find ways to be of service. She also told of the need for church leaders. While everyone can find ways to be in service every-day, she asked the youth to listen to hear if God was calling them to leadership.

The surprise announcement was that full-tuition scholarships to Central Seminary would be given to two young persons who were in the worship service. Gillies told the youth to finish high school and college and two scholarships would be waiting. [The ABC/NE Carpenter Committee will set aside two scholarships for up to 10 years.]

Riggs then called on the rest of the congregation to listen for God's voice in their lives.

Following the service, ABC/NE Youth Adjunct Jason Workman said, "I knew the youth would be honored but I didn't know about the scholarships. This is awesome!"

From the Executive Minister ..... Susan Gillies

## Another Family Reunion Done, A New One to Plan

I am writing this at the conclusion of the 2006 Family Reunion. Baptists in Nebraska have gathered regularly for 139 years, to share in Bible study, mission education, worship, encouragement and fellowship. It is an awesome heritage. And, I think, we contributed to that heritage very well this year. There were some glitches but over-all I think folks were glad they came. I'll find out when I read the evaluation forms.

Holding a convention like ours is a big project. Each year a committee is gathered by the region President in late fall to plan the convention for the following year. The committee includes representatives of ABW Ministries, ABMen, the Ministers Council, youth, host church, and musicians as well as the region Pres. and Vice-Pres. and staff. In the fall meeting, evaluations are reviewed carefully and decisions are made about speakers and basic format of the convention. (Often we have to get our speakers more than a year in advance.) The committee, the ABC/NE staff, and a host church plan the convention and implement the plan. This includes everything

from selecting the theme to making sure we have child care.

Contracts with hotels have to be made four years in advance of the event. In most cases this means we have to pick our dates prior to the announcement of the UNL football schedule. This makes no difference to some folks and it makes a BIG difference to others. Prices have to be negotiated for the room rates at the hotel and for the meals.

The best ABC/NE Family Reunions are those that have been surrounded by prayer from the very beginning of planning through the end of the event. Join in -The prayer has begun for next year!

... If your church has not yet been a host church and you would like to be, contact me for further information. Next year, Bridgeport has agreed to be host church for the convention, which will be held at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte, Sept. 21-23. We need host churches for 2008 and 2009.



From the Associate Executive Minister for Mission Development ..... Steve Bills

## World Mission Offering 2006 Challenge: \$3 X 12 Months X Church Members = Be Amazed!

The Theme for the 2006 World Mission Offering is:  
**Be Surprised by God!**  
**Give. Pray. Be Amazed!**

The Challenge for the 2006 World Mission Offering is:  
**\$3 X 12 Months X Church Members = Be Amazed!**

All the missionaries of International Ministries (IM) strive to glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ. They pursue this goal through an amazing variety of ministries done in partnership with local believers around the globe. The staff members of IM both support these creative missionaries and also do additional mission work directly with local church leaders in many places where IM does not have missionaries. Through over 170 mission partnerships in more than 70 countries, IM works to both to proclaim and to embody the good news of Jesus Christ.



International Ministries

IM was founded by Baptists in America in 1814 as a tool for doing mission throughout the world. Over the last 192 years, many secondary things have changed (methods, structures—even our name!), but the primary thing has remained constant: to see people enter into a deeply transforming relationship with God in Jesus Christ. IM continues to look to American Baptist congregations to make this global outreach possible, through your praying, your giving and your going.

The World Mission Offering is an absolutely essential part of International Ministries' ability to reach out to others in the Gospel and to change lives around the globe. It is the single largest source of financial support for the global outreach God accomplishes through IM. We need your help to achieve what God is calling us all to do.

But we're not setting a limit this year – because we know and believe in faith that God is planning a great surprise for us all – one that will amaze us when we look back and see what God is doing in the world. In addition to your church setting a goal, we want to offer you a challenge – one that can bring turning points in literally hundreds of thousands of lives around the globe.

### Think about it.

Three dollars is less than you'd spend for a gourmet coffee.  
Three dollars is less than you'd spend for a fast food meal.  
Three dollars is less than you'd spend on a tip at a restaurant.  
Three dollars is less than you'd spend on 8 postage stamps.

### Think about it.

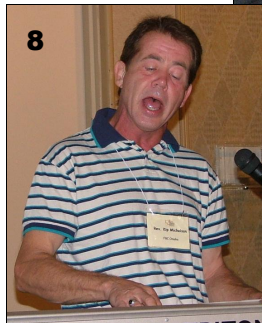
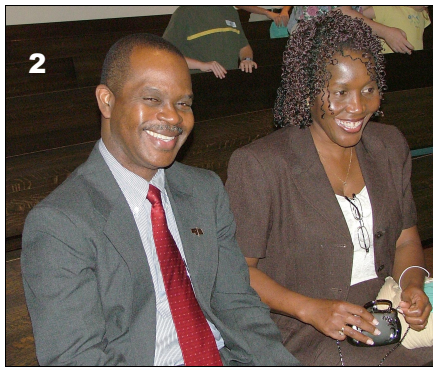
Thirty-six dollars is less than you'd spend on internet service.  
Thirty-six dollars is less than you'd spend on your cell phone bill.  
Thirty-six dollars is less than you'd spend on a tank of gasoline.  
Thirty-six dollars is less than you'd spend on a nice meal for two.

Three dollars, per person, per month.  
That's only \$36 per person for an entire year of Mission giving.

**36 dollars per person  
could TRIPLE  
the amount of global  
ministry IM can do.**

We think it's worth it to turn a life around.  
How about you?





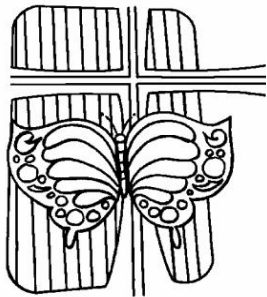
# Scenes from our Family Reunion



- 1. Keynote speaker, Reid Trulson, International Ministries
- 2. Michael Friday, new pastor at New Life, Bellevue, with wife, Vivienne
- 3. Susan Gillies and Sunday Preacher, Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Executive Director, National Ministries
- 4. "First Man" Ron and Region President, Beryl Hornberger
- 5. Bob Molby and Paul Marine congratulate each other on Bob's 59 years of ministry (the current longest in ABC Nebraska) and Paul's 10 year anniversary at Benson. Paul led worship for some of our sessions.

- 6. Welcome to new pastors Ron French (Sunset Hills) Michael & Vivienne Friday (New Life, Bellevue), Betty Johnson (Broken Bow) and Shawntrice Sanders, wife of Tony Sanders (Koinonia, Bellevue).
- 7. Dr. Wright-Riggins and Harry Riggs (FBC, Lincoln) at the Sunday worship service.
- 8. Kip Mickelson (FBC, Omaha) led worship at some of the sessions.
- 9. Region Vice President Darren Stroh (Bridgeport) welcomes Koinonia House of Worship and its pastor, Tony Sanders, into ABC Nebraska.
- 10. Stan Murdoch (Kearney) was accompanied by his wife, Pamela, when he received the ABMen's "Clergyman of the Year" award at the ABMen's Luncheon.
- 11. Dave Lundholm and a crew from Convention Host Church FBC, Lincoln, assemble registration packets

## October PRAYER: a part of the ABC/NE 2006 Prayer Emphasis



Join Baptists across Nebraska in prayer in October for:

- Shiloh Baptist, Omaha, Pastor James Clinton
- First Sudanese Church, Omaha, Pastor Peter Doluony
- Sunset Hills, Omaha, Pastor Ron French
- FBC, Oxford, Pastor David Hunt
- FBC, Scottsbluff, Pastor Jim Green
- Palestine Baptist, St. Edward, Pastor Carl Edwards

Pray that these churches will be:

- Blessed with energy for the work of ministry.
- Surprised by the movement of the Spirit
- Re-committed to reaching children.

Pray that these churches will discover:

- New ways of encouraging one another.
- A deepening commitment to vital Christian Education.
- Fresh joy in reaching out in mission.

## Nola's Take Five . . . Ideas from Nola Oberhelman ABC/NE Christian Ed Consultant

High five--resources to teach/learn about missions:

1. *Mission Service Project Book*--ABC publication
2. *Cross Cultural Connection* (by missionary kids)--ABC
3. *Christian Citizen*--also ABC  
(Use the Mission Center catalog for the above.)
4. [www.nationalministries.org](http://www.nationalministries.org)  
[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)
5. Steve Bils, our mission person at the ABC/NE office, toll-free 1-877-244-7339.

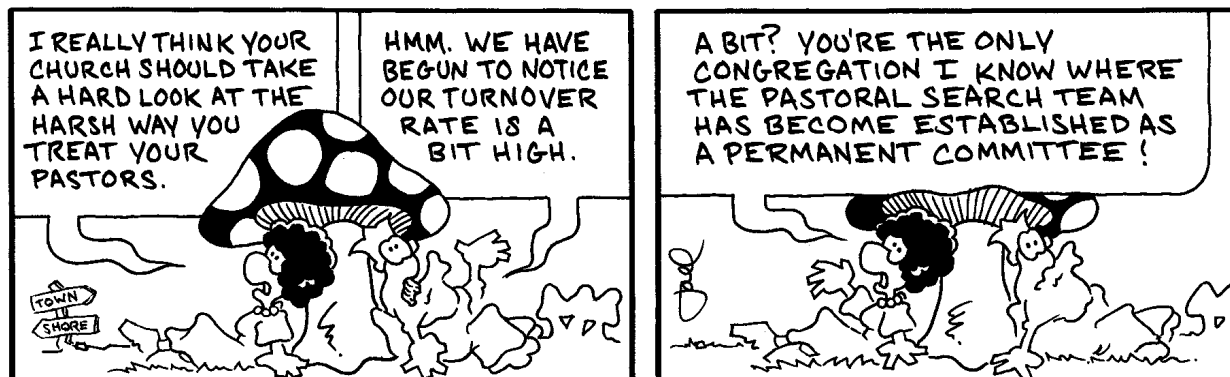
## Encouraging Your Pastor . . . . . It's good for you!

Many churches celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month in October. In an article in *Christianity Today* in 1999, author Victor Parachin wrote about "8 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor: Simple acts that feed a shepherd." Parachin wrote in detail about each of these. *The Messenger* will share a bit of what he wrote:

1. **Cut the criticism.** "We would do well to remember that most spiritual leaders work hard to make worship a unique celebration each week."
2. **Pray regularly.** As you pray keep in mind this wisdom from German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "If you treat a person as he is, he will stay as he is; but if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be, he will become what he ought to be and could be."
3. **Express appreciation in writing.**
4. **Use your skills to bless.** Are you proficient with computers? Help your pastor master the church's new computer. Are you a mechanic? Offer to service the pastor's car free of charge or at a reduced fee.
5. **Squelch gossip.**
6. **Offer to meet a need.** Don't tell your pastor what he/she needs to do, offer to help, take responsibility. Be active in the church.
7. **Be openly responsive.** "Nothing so animates and excites a spiritual leader as seeing people respond to the preaching and teaching."
8. **Throw away the measuring stick.** "Don't expect that your present spiritual leaders will do things the same way their predecessors did. Lay aside personal agendas and preferences. Instead, focus on how your leader is being used by God to do effective ministry now. By serving your shepherds, you will ensure that they will not only be encouraged but will feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy."

This article first appeared in the Sept/Oct 1999 issue of *Today's Christian*. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188."

## Pontius' Puddle





## *Camp Moses Merrill News*

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# **OCTOBER'S BRIGHT BLUE WEATHER . . . WHAT A TIME TO SEE CAMP MERRILL!**

As nature continues its preparation for winter, we at Camp Moses Merrill do too. Of course the squirrels have been busy all summer storing away their winter supplies. The fawns have grown up enough to be ready for their first winter. And the other animals are following their natures in preparation as well.

For camp staff, fall means a time of more adult retreats, more fireplace fires, more groups discovering the Ward Conference Center and wanting to schedule meetings, retreats, weddings, etc. Fall is time to prep the swimming pool for winter. We also have to decided how many cabins



to shut down for the season and how many to leave ready for the increased year-round use. Attention must be given to maintenance of equipment and storage of things that won't be needed until spring.

The camp staff encourages you to come to camp in the fall. It may be a retreat or meeting. If you live nearby, plan a day at camp — bring a picnic lunch, hike, sit and read, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. If you live further away, plan a two or three-day family or personal get-away. (It's not too early to plan a holiday visit!)

Camp Moses Merrill is a special place. Take time this fall to enjoy it!

Years ago, school children memorized a poem by Helen Hunt Jackson. Here is just the first stanza:



*O sun and skies and clouds of June  
 And flowers of June together,  
 Ye cannot rival for one hour  
 October's bright blue weather*

## **Youth Convention at Camp**

This year since the adults were in Lincoln for the Family Reunion, the youth gathered at Camp Merrill. Although rain and storms tried to dampen their spirits. The youth had a great time and Camp Merrill staff loved having them there.

## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN PASTORS WILL TOUR FACILITIES Oct 12**

Camp Merrill is busy preparing for a visit from ABC/NE African-American pastors. The pastors will have a special tour and be guests of the camp for lunch.

ABC/NE Church Life Consultant and Pastor of King Solomon Baptist Church, A.J. Wagstaff said: "Sometimes some inner city people are skeptical about the desirability of having meetings in a forest. But we know that when leaders see the facilities of Ward Conference Center, they will want to schedule meetings and retreats there."

African-American leaders will also continue planning for the King Vision Fund which will support encouraging diversity at Camp Merrill. All ABC/NE churches will be invited to participate in the fund at the time of the King Holiday in January.

## **THANKS . . .**

Very profound thanks to the special friends who are helping fund the transition to the new staff position. Also thanks for gifts in memory of Marjorie Akers from Rev. John Akers and in memory of Carroll Morkert from Darlene Shrader. Thanks to Johnny & Evelyn Nelson, Dave Black, Duane Wolf, FBC-Grand Island, Rev. Joan Stewart, Phyllis Abel, Platte County Historical Society, Children's M.A.D. Camp, and FBC-Norfolk's VBS.

*From the Associate Executive Minister for Professional Ministry ..... Dave Lundholm*

## What Exactly is a Christian Life Coach?

I am about to complete my training to be a Christian Life Coach. I am currently coaching several ABC Nebraska pastors and have promised to provide coaching for the pastors of Good Soil churches.

I thought you might like to know what exactly Christian Life Coaching is and what it isn't.

Christian Coaching is an ongoing relationship between a coach and a person being coached.

1. Coaching is not therapy, counseling, advice-giving, mental health care, or treatment for mental illness, recovery from past abuse, professional medical advice, financial assistance, legal counsel, or other professional service.
2. Coaching is for people who are basically well adjusted, emotionally healthy, functioning effectively, and wanting to make changes to their lives.
3. Coaching is designated to address issues the person being coached would like to consider. These could include (but are not limited to) career development, relationship enhancement, spiritual growth, lifestyle management, life balance, decision-making, and achieving short-term or long-term goals.
4. Coaching is an ongoing relationship that may take a number of months, although either party can terminate the relationship at any time. Most of the coaching is through telephone contact.
5. Coaching can involve brainstorming, values clarification, the completion of written assignments, education, goal-setting, identifying plans of action, accountability, making requests, agreements to change behavior, examining lifestyles, and questioning.
6. Coaching is most effective when both parties are honest and straightforward in their communication.
7. Coaching is a confidential relationship and the coach agrees to keep all information strictly confidential, except in those situations where such confidentiality would violate the law.

The most exciting thing for me is when the people I am coaching "connect the dots" in a new way and come up with a new insight that helps them better achieve their goals. I'd be happy to talk to you about coaching.



## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

### November Deadlines

**October 10, 2006 - Print Copy**

**October 13, 2006 - E-Mail**

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### E-Editor

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Subject: Messenger

ALLIANCE FBC: Vacation Bible School. Aug 7-11 was a great success. The theme was "Let the SON shine in". It ended with a Pizza Party.

ARNOLD FBC: The Custer Association of ABW met at Arnold on Sept 22. Ron Snell of The Connection (a shelter for the homeless) was the speaker, telling about his work, his and his wife, Tammy's, 1000-mile walk across Nebraska, and sharing his faith. The women gathered a collection of items useful to The Connection. The ABW furnished salads for the Bloodmobile on Sept 14.

ARTHUR BC: We started our fall youth programs, Adventure club for the lower grades at the church on Wednesdays and upper grade youth at the home of Greg & Carmen Sizer on Sunday nights. Pastor Ben conducted four funerals in eight days time. Three in the church and one in the High School gym. The "Four on One" group from Kearney blessed us recently when Pastor Ben was on vacation and the Roger Williams Fellowship conducted our

service while Pastor Keene attended the ABC NE Family Reunion in Lincoln.

BEATRICE FBC: Wednesday Night Kids Time is going again, with the theme "God's People Celebrate". The sessions began with a Pizza Night on Sept 13.

CHADRON FBC: The BYG (Baptist Youth Group) reorganized on Aug 17, and will meet on Thursday nights.

COLUMBUS FBC: The church family is saving Hy-Vee receipts for the Cash For Kids program. The funds they receive are used for the kids programs in the church. Those honored for perfect attendance were: 1 year - John Larrington and Alice Larrington; 3 year - Karen Effa; 4 year - Rebecca Adams, Larry Adams, and Cristina Adams; and for 23 years - Bill Evans Jr. and Bill Evans III.

FAIRBURY FBC: A Men & boys Retreat was held Sept 16-17 at Camp Jefferson. Those

celebrating anniversaries included Joe and Gertrude Jelinek - 52nd; Vaughn and Rosella Cline - 56th; and Dean and Marge Terrill, LeRoy and Bobby Welch, and Gail and LaDonna Southwick, all the 59th. Furniture was gathered for the Habitat families the church members met when they went to South Dakota to help on Habitat house. The BYG group held their annual barbeque to begin their new year. A "good-bye" gift was gathered to send to the former youth leader, Jessica, who is now in Italy at Saints Bible Institute.

FREMONT FBC: Sunday school promotion was held Aug 27. The ABW served a Habitat lunch on Sept 13. Kids Klub resumed on Sept 6. The ABGirls are sponsoring the Operation Christmas Child project. "Grateful Heart" gave a concert of southern Gospel music on Sept 24, with an ice cream social following.

GIBBON FBC: "Five Wishes", a program that centers on how you will be treated should you become seriously ill, was given at FBC on Sept

17. The Lord's Harvest Table is set up for surplus garden produce, with donations going to the Deacons Fund. A community carry-in picnic and concert was held at Davis Park on Aug 27, with "Narrow Way" giving the concert. AWANA began on Aug 30 with a family night. FBC held the 88th annual Sunset Social on Sept 27, which honors the senior citizens of the area.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: The ABW was in charge of the morning worship service on Sept 17. Phyllis Dibbern recently celebrated her 80th birthday.

HASTINGS FBC: The church is reviewing their church constitution. The ABW hosted a luncheon for the ladies from Superior FBC, Guide Rock FBC, and Juniata CC on Sept 20, with the speaker Loren Uden, presenting a program on disaster preparedness.

HOLDREGE FBC: Sunday school Promotion was held on Sept 10. A Woman's Conference was held at FBC on Sept 8-9, with Julaine Christensen as the featured speaker. The Five Wishes Program was presented at FBC on Sept 17. AWANA began on Aug 30, with a Family Fun Night. FBC is helping to sponsor "Men's Fraternity", which began on Sept 26. See You at the Pole was observed on Sept 27 by Sr. High and Jr. High students.

JUNIATA CC: The JCC Women met on Sept 6, with the program presented by Pastor John Curtiss and youth from Hastings Presbyterian Church telling of their mission trip to Romania. The JCC women attended a luncheon at Hastings FBC on Sept 20.

LAVISTA JUDSON: AWANA is back in session. Promotion Sunday was held with Bibles being given to six children. The young people collected over \$43 for the Sri Lanka Mission Project. Several Judson youth attended "See You at the Pole" at their schools. The Just Older Youth went on a Mystery Trip. ABW was treated to a wonderful speaker from Uta Halle, Tracy Wells. Several of our women attended the 2006 Women's Fall Spiritual Retreat at Camp Moses Merrill. Several men and women attended the ABC Nebraska Annual Convention in Lincoln. Lest we forget, moments of silence were observed throughout Patriot's Day, Sept 11, for those lost or injured that day. A challenge was given to each Judson Member to give as much as possible to the 2006 World Mission Offering. The Judson White Cross Overland quota is almost finished thanks to the generous women and men of Judson. The crafty knitters of Judson are also working on making bandages for use in mission areas throughout the world. Thank you for your prayers last month, our loan was approved and hopefully by the time you read this, we will have begun digging dirt and expanding our building.

LINCOLN FBC: Cottage Meetings began on Sept 5, held at five different homes. "Food for the Journey" resumed on Sept 6. Following the supper meal meetings for all ages are held. A special offering was taken during the month of September of the People's City Mission. Food supplies were also collected for the mission and for the Food Pantry. Pastor Harry Riggs and

some of the men held worship and Bible Study at the penitentiary on Sept 23.

LINCOLN SECOND: Nancy Comer & Mila Wilcox led a very informative SS Teacher Workshop, Aug 20; Rally Day Sunday Aug 27 there was a Sunday School celebration Breakfast-Theatre Program and Promotion to the next grade (class) for some of the children and youth. Weekly Wed. Fellowship Suppers began for families and other adults, followed by Faith Weavers for the Children and for adults, the choice of attending Bible study, or Bell Choir/Chancel Choir rehearsals. A small group of women traveled to Sioux City, S.D. to experience Beth Moore in person. The church men enjoyed fellowship at a Men's Breakfast. A Morning Women's Bible Study began Sept 11 with the study of Mark led by Jodi Hartung; Thanks to Church Member, Denise Meredith, Second Baptist Church now has a new Website; [www.secondbaptistlincoln.com](http://www.secondbaptistlincoln.com). Oct 12 in the evening the Senior Adult Ministries will sponsor an all church event of a visit to the Hyde Observatory in Lincoln.

MCCOOK FBC: The ABW Ministries were in charge of the morning worship on Sept 17. FBC helped celebrate McCook Heritage Days.

NORFOLK FBC: AWANA held a Christian Carnival on Sept 13. Buzz and Wanda Glaze celebrated their 60th anniversary on Aug 26. Darel and Marilyn Heppner celebrated their 60th anniversary on Sept 9, and Darel his 80th birthday on Sept 14.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: The VBS offering of \$312.10 was given to City Gate in Washington D.C. as part of the mission project we participated in this summer. Bibles were given to new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on Promotion Sunday, Aug 27 and an all-church picnic was held at Cody Park in the afternoon. "What on earth are we here for?" - Small groups will begin this study for 40 Days of Community, a church wide spiritual growth campaign.

OMAHA BENSON BC: The 100th anniversary of the church was celebrated with a float in the Benson Unity Parade on Sept 23. Following the parade a party was held at the church to continue the celebration. BBC provides lunch for the Omaha Street School the first Tuesday of every month. Bob and Virginia Thompson celebrated their 60th anniversary on Aug 6. Colene Morena observed her 90th birthday on Sept 30. See You at the Pole was observed on Sept 20. The men of the church gathered for breakfast and then went to Wehrspann Lake for a "Fishing Derby" on Sept 30. The KIDS program began with a Kids Carnival on Sept 13. The annual Road Rally was held on Sept 24. A Sunday School Teacher Fellowship Lunch, provided by the Christian Education Dept., was held on Sept 10. The Centennial church cookbooks have been published.

OMAHA FBC: Promotion Sunday was Sept 10 during the 11:00 Worship Service. Several young people were promoted and presented with a Bible or a certificate. The Sunday School teachers and the volunteers who are helping in the Electric Wednesday Program were also recognized. Hand Bell Choir and Chancel Choir

began rehearsing again on Sept 13. We had several from the church attend the annual, "Family Reunion" in Lincoln, Sept 15-17. Our "Electric Wednesdays" program, which was launched last year, for kids 5 years to 6th grade, kicked off on Sept 20th. Rebecca-Ruth Circle met on Sept 20 for a salad luncheon and to plan the program for the year.

OMAHA FIRST KACHIN: A church picnic was enjoyed with our host church Parkside. Pastor Gam Lahpai and others from the congregation attended the Family Reunion in Lincoln.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: An all-church picnic was held on Sept 10 in Dodge Park, with the Kachin Congregation joining Parkside. Extra garden produce is on a table for sharing, with donations going to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: Pastor Ron and the Executive Committee spent the day of Sept 30 at Mahoney State Park, spending the time in prayer and meditation concerning the vision of the church. Food items were gathered for the Food Bank during August and September. The Sunset Hills Youth Group presented a program telling of their mission trip to Bethel Center in Kansas City, at the Lightbearers Circle meeting on Sept 5. A Labor Day breakfast was enjoyed at the Garden Cafe. The annual Baked Steak Dinner has been scheduled for Oct 21, followed the next day by the installation service for Rev. Ron French. A neighborhood outreach is planned for both events. Mary Kline is teaching a new Sunday school class for 2- and 3-year-olds in a newly remodeled room. Former interim pastor, Rev. Bob Molby, and his wife Fayette, who spent much of their summer on staff at Camp Moses Merrill, have joined Sunset Hills.

OXFORD FBC: The Summer Sunday School classes theme centered on respect. The Jr. and Sr. High School students helped teach the kindergarten through sixth graders to feel and show respect for those in authority, God's Creation, others and self. We were pleased to have Susan Gillies, David Lundholm, Steve Bils Clarence Reiss and MaryBeth Robertson as our guests on Sunday, Aug 20. A very good program was presented on Aug 20 for our Sunday school promotion. Later that afternoon, the Christian Education Board sponsored an afternoon of bowling, followed by a dinner. All our church members were invited and a fun time was had by all that attended. Our "JOY Day" preschool will begin classes on Sept 19. There are currently 27 children, ages 3 to 5 years old, enrolled for preschool.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: "Welcome Home Sunday" was held on Sept 17, with Sunday School Promotion, worship, a carry-in dinner, and an "All Church Birthday Party". Conversation, Coffee, and Cookies is being held every Wednesday morning for a fellowship time. A Vision Session was held on Sept 19, to look at the direction of the church. The Couples Bible Study had a cookout, volleyball game and other games, at the Oregon Trail Park in Gering on Sept 23. BYF has resumed, with a Carry In Family Night on Sept 13.

TECUMSEH FBC: AWANA began its 14th year

on Sept 13.

TEKAMAH FBC: Food Pantry Sunday was Sept 24. Good News Club resumed on Sept 21, with JOY (Jesus, Others, You) as the theme. The Fellowship Committee held a "Tasty Luncheon" on Sept 15. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels Sept 11-15.

WILSONVILLE UNITED BAPTIST/ CHRISTIAN CHURCH: The Southern Union Fall Rally was held at the church on Sept 24.

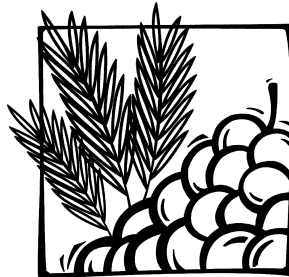


**New members in ABC/NE Churches**  
Arthur: Charlene Connell  
Sunset Hills: Rev. Bob and Fayette Molby.  
Judson: Scott and Teresa Prusia

### Rev. Stan Murdoch Clergyman of the Year

Stan Murdoch, pastor of FBC, Kearney, was named Nebraska-Clergyman of the Year by American Baptist Men. The recognition was given at the Men's Luncheon at the Family Reunion in Lincoln. (see picture on p. 3)  
Rev. Murdoch has been pastor in Kearney for 19 years. His church has actively supported men's ministries. Work teams from Kearney regularly help at Camp Merrill.

ABMen honored Murdoch for outstanding spiritual and organizational leadership .



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### A Note About This Issue of THE MESSENGER

Pages 3 & 6 were printed on our copy machine so that the pictures on page 3 would be higher quality. The remainder of THE MESSENGER was printed the normal way on a duplicator designed for large print jobs. The normal way does not look quite as good but is much less expensive. We hope you enjoy the higher quality pictures

— The Editor



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