

the **ESSENGER**

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



November 2004

ABC/NE Date Data

ABC/NE Executive Committee
Nov. 13 FBC, Grand Island

ABC/USA General Board
Nov. 18-21 Green Lake

THANKSGIVING Nov 25

E-Mail Addresses:

RegionOffice@abcnebraska.com
SGillies@abcnebraska.com
bookkeeper@abcnebraska.com
Messenger@abcnebraska.com
SBils@abcnebraska.com
area.minister.ne@charter.net



6404 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104-4079
Phone 402-556-4730
Toll-free 877-244-7339
Fax 402-556-1910

Beryl Hornberger, Darren Stroh Elected ABC/NE President, Vice President

Beryl Hornberger of First Baptist, Fremont, will become the new President of the ABC of Nebraska in January. New officers were elected by the ABC of Nebraska at the Family Reunion in Kearney in September. Hornberger currently serves as Vice-President. She succeeds Bob Phares, North Platte, who served for three years as President and will continue on the Board as the past president.

The new Vice-President of the Board is Rev. Darren Stroh, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bridgeport. The new Board Secretary is Roberta Williston of Judson Baptist, LaVista; the current Treasurer Bob Fairchild of First Baptist, Lincoln, was re-elected to another term.

The Executive Committee of the Board will meet November 13 with newly elected members to begin the transition.

Camp Merrill Construction Continues With Ward Conference Room



The sound of construction equipment is being heard once again in the usually quiet Camp Moses Merrill forest. Following last November's dedication of Friendship Chapel, construction has now begun on an addition to the chapel. The addition will house bathrooms, a conference room and a serving kitchen. There will also be a lobby area that will serve the lodging rooms once they are added.

The conference room in the facility will be named the Ward Conference Room in honor of James and Floretta Ward. Mr. Ward was an international bridge builder. Following his death, Mrs. Ward committed herself to building bridges among people and between people and God. Her generous financial support has made construction possible at this time.

Camp Director Clarence Reiss praised Nebraska Baptists for their commitment to Camp Moses Merrill becoming a strong center for Christian growth. "The addition of Friendship Chapel and the Ward Conference Room is a blessing that will make it possible for us to expand ministry opportunities. This is one of the ways Nebraska Baptists demonstrate their ongoing commitment to making and growing disciples."

A small ground-breaking service was held on October 21, during the Pastoral Leadership Seminar. Seminar participants joined the celebration with camp staff, Mrs. Ward, Rev. Palmer Swenson, and others.

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

The Gift of Growth

A couple of times lately I seemed to startled people when I said I have so much growing and learning yet to do in my life. There are those who think this kind of admission might weaken a person's image of strength and competence. I believe that competence in leadership demands a mind and heart open to learning. Of course, learning also opens us to the possibility of discovering we are wrong about something.

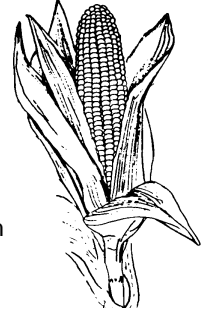
A few years ago many corporations began talking about becoming "learning organizations." They were companies that wanted to be alert to possibilities and opportunities. Numerous books were written on the subject, but, as so often happens, the fad faded. I'm happy to report that some companies have held on and have grown tremendously as a result.

I love to find churches that are truly engaged in vigorous learning. They aren't afraid to stretch and grow.

God created us as thinking creatures. We are separated from the animals by our gifts of complex reasoning, careful evaluation, and joyous imagination. I believe God expects us to be effective stewards of these gifts.

As I approach Thanksgiving this year, I am grateful for colleagues in ministry who are committed to personal and congregational growth. I am grateful for the ability to ask for, receive, and grant forgiveness. I am grateful for the way God moves among the Baptists in Nebraska blessing us with refreshing ideas and energy and hope.

May you have a very special time of Thanksgiving in your home and in your church this year.



From the Minister of Mission Support Steve Bills

Celebrating "Everyone does their part"

Every month I have the opportunity to review the contributions that our Nebraska churches make to the wider mission of our ABC family. While it is easy to focus on the top of the list and be thankful for the congregations which excel in terms of total giving, this month I want to focus on the churches that excel in another category, the per capita leaders.

Through the end of September of this year, 10% of our churches [Benson (\$34,000), Holdrege (\$29,300), New Life (\$25,900), Kearney (\$23,800), North Platte (\$23,500), and Fremont (\$22,200)] have given 40% of the total mission dollars given. Nebraska has given a total of \$401,030 through the end of September with an average statewide worship attendance of 5,140. This works out to an average of \$78.02 per capita.

As exciting as these numbers are, what reminds me that we are all able to make valuable contributions to the overall success of our team are the churches like Parkside in Omaha, with an attendance of only 29, but a per capita average of \$157.65 or Guide Rock with only 12 in attendance but a per capita giving average of \$138.58!

Celebrate with me this month the following churches which are all giving above our statewide average of \$78 per person:

Church	Total Giving	Avg Att	PerCapita
1 Gibbon, Gibbon Baptist Church	\$20,029.93	100	\$200.30
2 Bellevue, New Life Baptist Church	\$25,905.62	130	\$199.27
3 Holdrege, First Baptist Church	\$29,254.44	151	\$193.74
4 Lincoln, Second Baptist Church	\$17,836.77	112	\$159.26
5 Omaha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$4,571.83	29	\$157.65
6 St Edward, Palestine Baptist Church	\$2,975.92	20	\$148.80
7 Guide Rock, First Baptist Church	\$1,662.92	12	\$138.58
8 Omaha, Benson Baptist Church	\$33,967.07	250	\$135.87
9 Norfolk, First Baptist Church	\$13,806.64	114	\$121.11
10 Beatrice, First Baptist Church	\$7,379.42	61	\$120.97
11 Omaha, Miracle Hills Comm Bapt Ch	\$3,679.34	31	\$118.69
12 North Platte, First Baptist Church	\$23,534.44	205	\$114.80
13 Omaha, Sunset Hills Baptist Ch	\$11,690.78	104	\$112.41
14 Arthur, Arthur Baptist Church	\$10,591.86	95	\$111.49
15 Lincoln, Belmont Baptist Church	\$3,898.06	36	\$108.28
16 Lincoln, First Baptist Church	\$16,363.16	152	\$107.65
17 Lexington, Fairhaven Baptist Church	\$1,545.85	15	\$103.06
18 Mc Cook, First Baptist Church	\$7,438.41	73	\$101.90
19 Fremont, First Baptist Church	\$22,223.42	225	\$98.77
20 Omaha, Calvary Baptist Church	\$6,760.18	70	\$96.57
21 Omaha, Judson Baptist Church	\$8,132.05	85	\$95.67
22 Alliance, First Baptist Church	\$5,009.40	55	\$91.08
23 Mason City, First Baptist Church	\$4,447.24	51	\$87.20
24 Chadron, First Baptist Church	\$7,751.28	89	\$87.09
25 Shubert, Prairie Union Baptist Ch	\$1,787.62	21	\$85.12
26 Juniata, Juniata Community Church	\$3,387.81	42	\$80.66



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

I understand that some of our churches tend to make a larger percentage of their annual gifts near the end of the year so it is not too late to see your congregation added to this list.

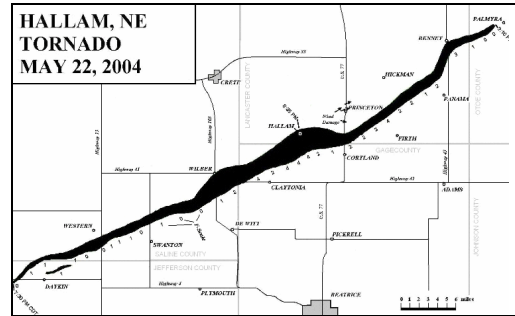
At this time of year many of our churches are making their budgets and missions commitments for the coming year. If you have a heart for missions, and have any influence on that budgeting process, now would be a good time to speak up and ask that your church attempt to increase their commitment to missions. Our covenant with each other expects each church to give at least a tithe of their offerings to United Mission and to generously support our special offerings (the World Mission Offering, OGHs, America For Christ, and RMMO).

You can also impact your congregation's per capita giving by personally increasing your contributions to the special offerings.

American Baptist Men of Nebraska: Committed to Disaster Relief



Disaster can happen at any time. These pictures are from the Hallam, Nebraska tornado which followed the path of destruction shown on the map below.



The American Baptist Men of Nebraska have been working with the Mid-American Baptist Men (Iowa and Minnesota) for disaster relief efforts over the last decade.

The disaster relief trailer owned jointly with them is stored in Iowa and requires a semi-tractor to move. It has become clear that there are times a smaller trailer would be more efficient. ABMen in some other states have used small trailers like the one below.

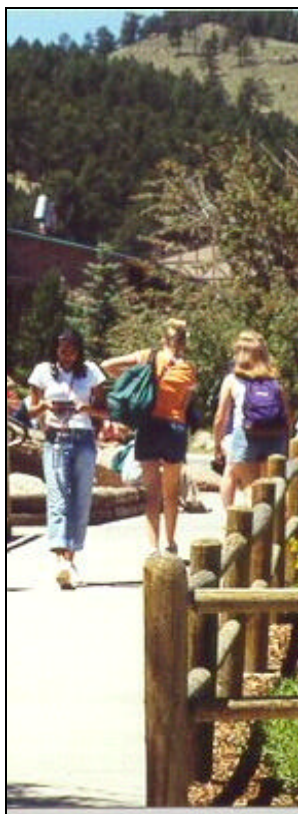
The Baptist Men in Nebraska would like to have two such trailers, one in the east and one in the west for speedy response when needed.



A trailer fully equipped to support four workers would cost approximately \$12,300. To contribute, please contact either:

James Musick
610 N. 42nd St
Omaha, NE 68131
(402) 553-5562

Bud Keenportz
805 W. 12th St
McCook, NE 69001
(308) 345-4478



CLOSE TO 2000 PARTICIPATED IN AMERICAN BAPTIST NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

High in the Rocky Mountains, this youth event rocked!

In the majestic setting of the Rocky Mountains last July, each day of Encounter, the national gathering of American Baptist youth, started and ended with worship and included small group Bible study, free time for exploring, late-night activities and a full program for adult youth leaders.

After two years of planning, the conference--built around the week's theme, "Encounter God, Go Deeper, Change Your World"--was a success by any measure. Here are some yardsticks that prove the point:

- ? Close to 2,000 people journeyed to Colorado to participate (1300 youth and 450 adults); this number included youth from Nebraska and ABC/NE Adjunct staff person for Youth Ministry **Jason Workman** who worked on the " Help Team," an on-site emergency and special needs response team.
- ? 200 young people came forward to commit their lives to the Lord, make a recommitment or answer a call to Christian ministry; and
- ? More than \$8,000 was collected at the free will offering for two social service agencies in Estes Park.



ABC/NE Matching Quiz

(answers on page 8)

1. Sponsoring spring trip to Alaska
 2. Helps pastors seeking ordination
 3. Sponsors Sturgis ministry every August
 4. Helps make everything happen
 5. Monitors staff job performance
- a. Evangelism Department
 - b. Finance Department
 - c. Mission Department
 - d. Personnel Committee
 - e. Professional Ministry Department

NO MATTER WHERE THE "FEARFUL FOURSOME" HURRICANES HIT, AMERICAN BAPTISTS ARE THERE

National Ministries' Office of National Disaster Response, along with ABMen and American Baptist Haitian churches, continues to meet the ongoing needs of storm victims.

The sound and the fury of **Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne** wreaked havoc in August and September. For six weeks, the world watched in amazement as these four hurricanes pounded the United States, one after another, after another... after yet another.

For the most part, attention was focused on **Florida**, which seemed to bear the brunt of nature's unbridled power--indeed one news report indicated it's been more than a century since four hurricanes stormed through the same state in one season. But the wake of these storms left devastation in other places as well, namely **Puerto Rico**, and, perhaps surprisingly, **Pennsylvania**.

American Baptists far and wide, however, felt the effects of the fearful foursome as they reached out with compassion and concern to help heal the wounds, no matter their location, ripped open by such fierce winds. Ken George, National Ministries' coordinator of National Disaster Response, says, "Because American Baptists have given faithfully and generously, we can respond more quickly to needs following disasters like Hurricane Charley."

In September, more than 30,000 Pennsylvania homes and businesses were damaged in flooding caused by the remnants of Ivan. The Pittsburgh Baptist Association asked for help for First Baptist Church of McKees Rocks, where floodwater damage totaled more than \$14,000, and First Baptist Church of Apollo, where storm damage meant a new roof at a cost of \$5,000. National Ministries responded once again.

American Baptist Men responded, too, on the scene in the Pittsburgh area with their mobile trailer of tools and volunteers. The group's Pennsylvania Disaster Relief Team started working in McKees Rocks, just west of Pittsburgh, and when the work was finished there, volunteers headed over to Apollo, east of the city, to lend a hand.

The Office of National Disaster Response also released a grant to Puerto Rico, where 56 out of 78 municipalities have been declared disaster areas.

Then, late in September, in New York and New Jersey, Haitian churches affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA responded to the devastation of their homeland by Jeanne--news reports indicated more than 300,000 people were left homeless and more than 2,000 may have been killed.

Here's how you can be part of the ABC effort to show God's love to those who suffered damage from the winds and waters of these storms:

- ? *Contribute through your church's monthly report of mission support, designating your OGHS donation for the hurricane relief efforts,*
- ? *Contribute online at abc-usa.org by accessing the "American Baptist Missions" or "Give Now" pages, again designating where your OGHS donation should go, or*
- ? *Call the Rev. Brenda Halliburton, National Ministries' national coordinator of Intercultural Ministries and Black Churches Strategist, at 800.ABC.3USA, ext. 2443, for more information about the ABC Haitian church effort in the United States.*



Camp Moses Merrill News

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

Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a special time of the year. Every day we need to count our many blessings and give thanks to our God who provides for us, but once a year a day is set aside just to celebrate and give thanks to our Lord. A time for us to pause our everyday, hectic lives and actually count blessings. We here at Camp Moses Merrill are so blessed with many friends that show their support through prayers, financial gifts, donations of time, talents and material goods. Thank you.

Just about one year ago Friendship Chapel was dedicated, and on October 3, 2004, Smith Amphitheatre was dedicated, blessings indeed. This past year has seen an increase in usage of Camp Moses Merrill. Non-ABC Churches are finding what a treasure we have and are renting our facilities, a shared blessing for both groups. Different groups have blessed us by cleaning trails, chipping up downed trees, completed setting benches in the Amphitheatre, spreading chips on Amphitheatre floor, making new trails, setting benches along the prayer walk, etc. Individuals have blessed us by building shelves for Cabins, making signs for trails and roads, shoveling dirt around cabins, the list goes on and on. Another blessing; funds are coming in for the Conference Center Addition to the Chapel, therefore work has started on plans and hopefully construction will start this fall. And CMM is surely blessed with a dedicated couple as they manage and direct camping activities. Thank you Clarence and Trudy.

Dolores Prather

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
FROM THE
CAMP MOSES MERRILL
STAFF



Floretta Ward and Susan Gillies

Mrs. Floretta Ward saw the need and stepped forward pledging to match contributions of up to \$100,000.00 for the Conference Center Addition to the Chapel. Many of you have accepted her challenge and now plans are under way to start construction. Thank You, Floretta, and to the many friends who so generously keep giving and supporting Camp Moses Merrill.

NEEDS LIST

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- A. To sand and refinish wood doors.
- B. Someone who has a good metal detector and would use it to detect cast iron 6" to 1 ft. deep. This is needed to help find water line valves.
- C. To provide funds for a new camera. Our camera is losing some of it's parts and other parts are not working.



SMITH AMPHITHEATRE DEDICATION

Sunday, October 3, 2004

Dick and Clare Smith were special guests at the dedication of the new amphitheatre built here at Camp Moses Merrill and named in their honor. Approximately 120 people enjoyed the service and the reception. The amphitheatre is a great addition to our facilities.

Denominational Goals Formingby Dave Lundholm

I was going to write about resources for church renewal this month in the Messenger but something even more exciting has come up. Last Tuesday I was part of a group of area ministers that was invited to provide input on the new set of denominational goals that are being discerned. They are not set in stone yet, but here is what I heard.

1. **LEADERSHIP:** The number one goal is to work on leadership and leadership development, developing lay and clergy leaders that can move us successfully into the future. (In Nebraska we have always focused on attracting the very best in church leadership,. We've also been committed to the continuing education of our leaders.) I'm looking forward to the new resources that will result from having leadership our top denominational priority.

Leadership will be the priority but there are four other goals. These four are all of approximately equal weight.

?!!!!!!**RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP:** We will work to do evangelism, to encourage spiritual renewal, to teach Biblical stewardship, and to work for reconciliation. (For me this goal is the most exciting. Imagine being part of a denomination committed to radical discipleship. Imagine churches actively involved in winning others for Christ, churches being spiritually renewed, not strapped for funds any longer because they are now practicing Biblical stewardship. Imagine churches where reconciliation happens, where disagreements are dealt with and forgiven instead of lying dormant under the surface of church life.)

?!!!!!!**EMPOWERING YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS:** We heard some excellent youth testimonies at the Family Reunion in September about what God is doing in ministry with youth and young adults. Imagine the extra energy and improved vision we will have with youth and young adults participating in leadership.

?!!!!!!**CHURCH PLANTING:** It will be good to keep the emphasis on planting churches. Most church growth comes from new people joining new churches.

?!!!!!!**MISSION AND MINISTRY:** We will work globally, nationally, regionally, and locally to improve the quality of life of those we touch. This includes initiatives at all levels and touches on the need for social justice.

These goals are not yet finalized and we are invited to provide input. If you have comments or suggestions get them to me and I will pass them along.

I can't wait to respond to the question "Who are American Baptists anyway?" with the phrase. "We are a group of people dedicated to radical discipleship."

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

December Deadlines
November 9, 2004 - Print Copy
November 12, 2004 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor
 Darlene RIMPLEY
 Rt. 1 Box 74 A
 Arnold, NE 69120

E-Editor
 area.minister.ne@charter.net
 Subject: Messenger

GRAND ISLAND FBC: Homecoming was held on Oct 10, with Rev. Don Jones giving the message and doing special music; and a potluck dinner following. Dan Sawatsky presented a musical program on Oct 24. Wednesday night fellowship hours resumed, with a study of Genesis is being held. The youth held a "Fall festival" on Oct 31.

HOLDREGE FBC: The oldest member of FBC, Bernice Lund, 97, passed away on Aug 29. Bernice was baptized at FBC in 1916. The All-Stars for Jesus clubs began their meetings on Oct 6. A seminar was held featuring Jim Weidmann from Focus on the Family. FBC Women of ABWM hosted the October Birthday and Anniversary Party at Christian Homes on Oct 28.

HASTINGS FBC: Lenora Plum celebrated her 90th birthday on Sept 26. A pancake and sausage breakfast was held on Sept 26. Paul Spence from the Crossroads Center spoke during morning worship on Oct 10, and had a question and answer session during the Solid Rock Cafe. The Solid Rock Cafe youth also sponsored a meal on that day.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: The Wednesday night program for children, "Noah's Park" began on Sept 22, with Jr. High youth helping. The Mid

and Senior High youth went to Maxwell for a night at the corn maze and pumpkin patch, and held a Lock-In, with area youth attending. The North Platte Association of ABW Ministries met at FBC on Oct 14. Barbara Conley, a world champion weight lifter and a member of FBC, was the speaker. A silent auction was held, with the proceeds going to Love Gift.

LINCOLN FBC: Flint Miller, who is an ABC missionary in the Philippines, spoke on October 10, with the annual Mission Potluck following. Servanthood Day was observed on Oct 23, when the church family signed up for volunteering their services to local groups. Pastor Don has promised the teens that if FBC reaches their World Mission Offering goal he will dress up in teen clothes and sing a Christian rock song. Food (approx. 700 lbs) was collected for the Southeast Lincoln Food Pantry. FBC paid for eight children and youth sponsors to attend the National Youth Workers Convention in Dallas Oct 6-11.

ARNOLD FBC: The ladies attended a salad luncheon at Morning Star Church on Oct 7. Heart to Heart was held on Oct 17 at 9:00 am, and the entire Sunday School hour was spent in the fellowship hall with all ages being present for a fun teaching hour. The Sunday School classes

have begun a three month contest which is being done to encourage attendance. Some of the youth attended the North Platte Teen Lock-in on Oct 29. The oldest member of the church, Nellie Twist, 98, passed away recently.

FAIRHAVEN BC: A baptismal service was held on Sept 12 at the pool at the Assembly of God Campgrounds at Lexington. Following the service the group gathered at Pastor Al and Sudie Cole's home for a fellowship welcome time.

OMAHA BENSON BC: A fellowship supper was held on Oct 24, followed by a church business meeting focusing on goals, utilization of the church facilities, and creative ways of mission outreach and small group ministries. A "Live" Mission adventure was held on Oct 17, when Stephen Foreman, a summer volunteer to Alaska, and Eric and Lisa Purcell, who took a mission trip to Thailand, spoke. It was an Omaha ABC Men and Women event. Diapers and wipes were collected to go to the Food Pantry Ministry. Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child are being filled, and the children's classes will be working on that as part of their class projects.

FREMONT FBC: A pep rally, which consisted of

(Continued on page 7)

a carry-in supper and a video, to start the 40 Days of Purpose was held on Oct 3. FBC donated school supplies to the Low Income Ministry of Dodge County.

OMAHA PARKSIDE BC: The AB Women's Ministry met on Oct 1, with Rev. Steve Bills bringing an up-date on Mike Mann's work. Care and Share Circle met on Oct 19, with John Armagost, missionary to Japan, as speaker; and women from the Omaha Baptist Churches as guests. A weight loss group meets at the church on Thursdays. Mary Dixon celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct 3.

CHADRON FBC: The Northwestern Assoc. ABW Retreat was held at Camp Norwesca at Chadron Oct 15-17. Vicki Sprock celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

MCCOOK FBC: The ABW observed Women's Sunday on Sept 26, with the women presenting homilies and a women's choir singing a special song. Kids' Club was begun on Oct 13, with the lesson plans centering on the "Ten Commandments." The AB Youth went "trick or treating" for the Food Pantry on Oct 31.

COLUMBUS FBC: The AB Girls spent the afternoon of Oct 17 working on mission projects. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels the week of Oct 25-29.

BROKEN BOW FBC: American Baptist Men's Sunday was observed on Oct 3, with the men having part of the worship service. A spaghetti supper was held on Oct 21 for the church family. The ABW Ministries, which still meets in the homes of the members, received magnetized pictures of their special interest missionaries, Mike and Becky Mann and Ruth Mooney at their September meeting.

NORFOLK FBC: The York Association ABW Fall Rally was held at FBC on Oct 23, with ABW State President, Marge Daughtery, as speaker. The church family was then invited to join the ABW for the noon meal and to hear missionary John Armagost. The Women's Fall Banquet was held on Oct 14, with the theme "Underground Railroad - Code of the Quilt", with guest speaker, Lorraine Naslund. Butch and Lil Butcher celebrated their 60th anniversary on Oct 18.

OMAHA FBC: John Armagost, an ABC missionary to Japan, spoke at FBC on Oct 17. The Rebecca-Ruth Circle assembled shoebox gifts for the Operation Christmas Child at their October meeting. The Quarterly Potluck dinner was held on Oct 17. The Youth Ministry attendance has doubled over the past month. "Electric Wednesdays" is replacing the Awana program at FBC this year. The church family can get "plugged in" at dinner for \$1.00. The different groups are: preschool - "Lightning Bolts"; age 5-2nd grade - "Spark Plugs"; grades 3-6 - "Transformers"; and there are several choices for the adults during that time, which include Bible study, evangelism class, and bell choir and chancel choir.

TECUMSEH FBC: AWANA began its new year's sessions on Sept 22. Items are being collected for health and baby kits to go to disaster areas. Gene and Carol Pope and Paul and Ruby Meiser celebrated their 50th anniversaries re-

cently. A Christian Education and Dedication service was held on September 7. Missionary to the Philippines, Flint Miller, was at FBC on Oct 9 for a dessert and information time. The combined Sunday School attendees held a "Treasure Hunt" on Oct 31. Ages were mixed, and the young legs hunted for the clues, and the older minds helped solve them. Items and money are being collected for Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes.

GIBBON BC: The ABW ladies hosted the birthday party at Gibbon Senior Center on Oct 18. The ladies who attended the Women of Faith Conference shared their experiences at worship service Sept 19. The annual Sunset Social for senior citizens of the community was hosted on Sept 12 by FBC. The church recently received a donated copy machine from the public school system.

ALLIANCE FBC: Sunday School Promotion was held on Sept 12, with all classes gathering for devotions, a challenge, and refreshments. The fall meeting of ABW was held on Sept 14, with Bonnie Treggesser sharing about the Good Samaritan Assisted Living ministry. Pastor Rowe conducted the Sunday afternoon vespers at the Good Samaritan Health Care Center during September.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: The annual Beef and Noodle Supper was held on Oct 20. A group of JCC men cut and split three trailer loads of firewood for a family who needed some help.

FAIRBURY FBC: Good News: participation in worship has grown 20%, Sunday School has seen a weekly growth; the youth group has grown from three or four attendees in 2000 to 40-50 in 2004; more visitors are coming, and 16 new members have come to dedicate their life to Christ in 2004. FBC donated 750 lbs. of food to the Food Pantry recently. The ladies and girls of the church filled shoeboxes for the Shoebox Ministry Project. FAN (Family Adventure Night) is being held during October, which includes a \$1.00 supper and special mission projects, sing-alongs, and do-it-yourself crafts. A new church directory is being worked on, but this one is being done entirely by the church itself. The Youth-Net planned a "Death's Doorway" for October (more reports on this next month.) Mike Kidder from Lincoln FBC met with the church on Oct 3 to present the framework of the new structure for the church! .

MASON CITY FBC: The annual church picnic was held at the Hird farm, with hayrack rides, a wiener roast, and games and singing. A Monday after school program, "Jesus For Kids", was begun for Kindergarten through 5th grade students on Oct 4.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS BC: A baked steak dinner was held for the church family on Oct 23. A Young Adult Bible study began on October 3, with the study on "Experiencing the Heart of JESUS" by Max Lucado.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: The annual Harvest Festival was held on Oct 24. A "hobo stew" was concocted, with the people bringing cans of food, such as meat, stew, veggies, etc. to throw

in the pot; and the participants were dressed in hobo gear. Games were played, followed by a devotional time. FBC is preparing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, as well as being the regional collection center for the boxes. The Sunday School classes had a "wrapping party" on Oct 31, getting the boxes ready to fill.

SUPERIOR FBC: Sept 19 was Women's Sunday, with ABW in charge of the service. The Deacons sponsored the annual Hayrack ride and wiener roast at the Wilton farm, in the limestone hills south of town. The Superior and Guide Rock churches were hosts for the Family Reunion in Kearney. Workers were Pastor Les and Lona Warner, Kenneth and Vera Duncan, Merle and Laura McKay, and Leonard and Doris Worn.

ARTHUR BC: The Arthur Baptist Church was blessed for the past year with the interim ministry of Pastor Jack and Annette Snedaker from Colorado Springs. They were active in both the church and community and established many relationships with people during the year. They left at the end of September. The church is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new minister, Rev. Benjamin Keene and his wife Elaine from Warwick, Rhode Island. Having lived in Nebraska before, they are also anxious to get back to the "good life". He assumes duties on Nov 1.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: Jill Minarik and Ben Miller were married on Sept 25 at Sunset Hills. A new young adult Sunday morning Bible study began Oct 3. "Forgiven" provided the musical vesper service Sept 19 at the Arboretum in Omaha and a program at the older adult conference Oct 5 at Camp Merrill. The group is also presenting a program Nov 14 at the United Church of Christ in Plattsmouth.

LINCOLN SECOND BC: Second Baptist men hosted the American Baptist Men's Capitol Association Rally and Steak Fry Sept 25. The Youth Praise Team, Bell Choir and the Adult Chancel Choir have been practicing and making plans for the coming year's special music events. Six women experienced a spiritually uplifting time at the fall AB Women's Retreat at Camp Merrill Oct 1-3. An Intergenerational Church Family Mexican Fiesta Potluck was held Oct 8. Saturday, Oct 9, the Scrapbook Club had an OPTOBER-FEST. Sunday morning, Oct 10, the 2004 new members were recognized. An ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY, occurred Oct 16. Oct 23 teachers and leaders attended the "Children's Ministry Live!" Training Workshop held in Omaha. The Jr/Sr. High Youth Group traveled: to Roca Berry Farm, Oct 24; To Omaha to a Youth Event with Benson Baptist Youth Oct 29. Oct 30 Second Baptist members and friends gathered for The Fall Family Festival.

OXFORD FBC: Our church has had a "face lift!" The old carpets in our sanctuary, library, pastor's office and a classroom have been replaced. Landscaping has also been done, with new plantings, rocks and trellises, which add to the attractiveness of the lawn. The lot south of the church has been fenced in, with new playground equipment in place for the children in the JOY Preschool to enjoy.

(Continued on page 8)

LAVISTA JUDSON BC: Judson is collecting fall and winter clothing for project Restored Hope. We hope to fill the church bus with clothing for the homeless. The women of Judson met their White Cross quota in record time and it has been mailed off. The September Fellowship dinner was held in honor of all our volunteers who do so much for the church. September saw three more people enter into the waters of baptism. October's Fellowship dinner will be in honor of Pastor Glenn Williamson and also retired minister Rev. Norm Williston. To begin October several Judson women attended the Fall Women's Retreat at Camp Moses Merrill. The annual Meyer Family Hayrack Ride and Weiner Roast was held Oct 23. Judson was pleased to be one of the three churches to receive an Excellence in Ministry with Children Award at the Family Reunion in Kearney.

NEW MEMBERS:

SUMNER FAIRHAVEN BC: Ilene F. Holbrook

FREMONT FBC: Denise Depue

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: Byrle Gross, Teresa Spurgeon, Debbie Nuckles, and Carol Green

LINCOLN SBC: Logan Brocker, Preston Racicky

LAVISTA JUDSON: Jared Haas



Have A

Blessed

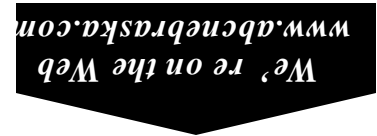
THANKSGIVING

ABC of Nebraska Staff

- Executive Minister Susan Gillies
- Area Minister Dave Lundholm
- Minister of Mission Support Steve Bills
- Director of Camps & Conferences Clarence Reiss
- Camp Staff Trudy Reiss, Richard & Dolores Prather
- Office Manager Sue Gammel
- Office Assistant Pat Galloway
- Accounting Services Jerry Buss
- Volunteer Mission Secretary Judie Heller
- Christian Education Consultant Nola Oberhelman
- Church Life Consultant A. J. Wagstaff
- Pastor to Pastors (W) Paul Kondy
- Pastor to Pastors (E) Dick Peterson
- Youth Ministry Adjunct Jason Workman

ABC/NE Matching Quiz Answers

- 1. -- c.
- 2. -- e.
- 3. -- a.
- 4. -- b.
- 5. -- d.



Place Label Here

Return Service Requested

6404 Maple Street
 Omaha NE 681044079
 Phone: 402 5564730
 Fax: 402 556 1910

NEBRASKA
 AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
 VENTON RCHES

NONPROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 OMAHA, NE
 PERMIT NO 712