

# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



June-July 2006

### ABC/NE Date Data

June 2-4 ABW Min. Conference  
Camp Moses Merrill

July 2 DEDICATION of Calvary  
Lodge at Camp Merrill

### E-Mail Addresses:

RegionOffice@abcnebraska.com  
campmerrill@nntc.net  
Messenger@abcnebraska.com  
SGillies@abcnebraska.com  
area.minister.ne@charter.net  
SBils@abcnebraska.com  
SGammel@abcnebraska.com  
Bookkeeper@abcnebraska.com



Incorporated as  
The Nebraska Baptist State Convention

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

## NEW LIFE IN NEBRASKA CHURCHES!

As part of NEW LIFE 2010, American Baptists are bringing a new sense of vitality to ministry and mission. The ABC of Nebraska NEW LIFE CARAVAN has been visiting churches during the last year looking for signs of new life. The caravan has many more churches to visit but already the search has been successful!



"The creative imagination of Nebraska Baptists is great," said Executive Minister Susan Gillies. "We have seen signs of new life in churches of all sizes in cities, towns and rural areas. What seems to make the difference is when a congregation puts fresh, dual emphasis on inner spiritual growth and outer ministry and mission."

Among others, the staff noted recent growth in First Baptist of Alliance and new and creative outreach ministries in several churches. The staff also noted a dramatic increase in youth trips with a mission focus.

Churches that focus more on what they are "for" rather than on what they are "against" seem to achieve higher degrees of vitality. Area Minister Dave Lundholm observed, "Enthusiasm about the gospel and the community of faith attracts people."

## Dedication of Calvary Lodge

Camp Moses Merrill's Calvary Lodge will be dedicated July 2 at 3:00 pm. EVERYONE IS INVITED! The Lodge is the next-to-the-last project of the Building Bridges Campaign. The



Campaign was begun in 2002 to increase the camp's capacity to serve as a year-round conferencing facility.

Calvary Lodge is named in honor of Calvary Baptist Church of Omaha. The Lodge has 11 sleeping rooms. Each of the rooms is named in honor of an American Baptist pastor, missionary or congregation. Five of the rooms have three single beds, five have two queen beds and one has a queen and a single. Each room has a sliding glass door to the outside. The building is air conditioned. In addition to the sleeping rooms, there is a utility room and a laundry. Calvary Lodge is part of the Ward Conference Center Complex. It is connected to the central part of the conference center, the Fullerton Room and to Friendship Chapel.

## Family Reunion

The ABC/NE Family Reunion (annual convention) will be Sept 15-17 in Lincoln. The ABC/NE Youth Convention will be held at the same time at Camp Moses Merrill. Registration materials will be sent to local churches in June and will also be in the August MESSENGER.

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

## Is Your Church Like a Spring of Water in an Arid Land?

When folks visit your church, does it feel like a place of refreshing love and encouragement? I hope so. Not a deluge of over zealous, needy people; Not a "who are you" look; Not a subtle "you are welcome to visit but not to belong. It's our club."

Do you know how to engage the visitor in a conversation that is comfortable and gives you some information about them – without making them feel like they are being quizzed, their privacy invaded?

[I'm making an assumption that folks visit your church. Do they? The overwhelming reason people visit churches is because someone they know invited them. If you don't have a steady stream of visitors, it's because you are not inviting folks. It's a job of the laity. See chart on page three.]

When people visit your church, what do they find?

### Good news or bad?

Many people have been reached by a message that they are sinners. It's still part of the total story of salvation. But more people are reached today when the story begins with God's amazing grace and love. "You are a child of God. You are special. You are loved. You are welcome here – to experience joy and peace. We have a good time here. We celebrate and share and encourage. We walk with you in times of joy and times of sorrow. Whoever you are, there is a place for you here."

### Deep joy or contentiousness?

Are you aware of the message you send when people see you fussing about the way another person does his/her job? When people visit do you "clue them in" about certain people in the congregation. Are you so busy talking with your friends that you don't have time for the visitor – other than a polite "hello, we're glad you're here." Are you more warm and open to a family with a mom, dad, boy and girl, than to the single person?

### A positive outlook or depression?

Have you already decided God is not going to give your church new life? Do the members of your church think the church is dying? Or, not what it used to be? Or, are the members of your church convinced the problem is someone or something other than themselves? --the pastor, --the neighborhood or town, --the deacons, --the "power" people in the church, --the people who won't stand up and take responsibility?

When you step back and take a look at it, why WOULD a visitor want to come back a second time? Some of us have developed habits that are comfortable for us but are not really welcoming to the stranger. There are enjoyable ways to work on this. The habits can be broken. Your church can become a truly refreshing place for both visitors and members.

The churches that have signed up for The Good Soil Project will be addressing some of these questions. Your church can, too. Or even you, as an individual, can take a look at your church. If you start behaving in a more positive, encouraging way, it may just become contagious! Change usually starts small. Begin by praying. Then try out some new behaviors and see what happens. The ABC/NE staff is here to help. Keep us posted!



*From the Minister of Mission Support . . . . . Steve Bills*

## UM: United Mission -- Its History and Its Purpose

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 us.

From the very beginning, Baptists in America have been a people of mission. The forming of the First American Baptist Church in Rhode Island was itself an act of mission in an often hostile environment. Mission pastors were soon preaching the Gospel and forming churches through New England in all 13 colonies.

Mission brought these Baptists into closer fellowship and cooperation. *Adoniram Judson* and *Luther Rice*, who left Massachusetts as missionaries of the Congregational Church, studied the teaching of Believer's Baptism, and were baptized by *William Carey* in India. Suddenly, without prior planning, the Baptists had a foreign mission. Rice eventually returned to the United States to organize support for Judson's mission in Burma.

Luther Rice encouraged a growing interest in mission as he traveled throughout the colonies and the burgeoning frontier. Interest in establishing new churches resulted in mission at home. Interest in proclaiming the Gospel to the whole world resulted in mission overseas. Interest in training pastors and laity, providing Bibles and teaching helps for the unchurched led to educational mission. Interest in strengthening local churches by helping them bond together in fellowship and service resulted in regional mission.

A network of societies emerged, giving direction to the American Baptist system of fundraising for mission. The societies spearheaded the promotion and development of mission within the family of churches eventually known as American Baptist Churches USA.

The societies each approached churches directly with appeals for support of their ministries. But in 1907, with the formation of the Northern Baptist Convention to merge the societies, a cooperative strategy for mission support fundraising and a unified mission budget developed. In its early form, all dollars raised by any group were put into a common fund and shared with each ministry for a negotiated percentage distribution.

In 1977, the American Baptist General Board adopted a Budget Covenant that recognizes and assigns responsibilities of cooperative distribution of mission receipts by affiliated boards and regions. American Baptist Mission Support provides a variety of ways to support the mission, including four annual offerings for specific board ministries. The largest category, which provides vital and basic support for all American Baptist mission and ministries, was named United Mission.

Whether your church's 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 us.



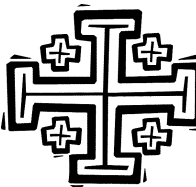
## NOTE THIS:

Recently, a research study was conducted (Church Leadership Survey 2) which asked church newcomers the primary reason that influenced their coming to a particular congregation. The results are shown below:

- 48% A friend invited me.
- 12% I was looking for a church in this denomination.
- 10% I noticed the church as I was driving by one day.
- 5% My child attends daycare in this church.
- 4% I found it in the phone book.
- 1% A media advertisement influenced me.
- 1% I attended a meeting here previously.
- 1% I received a letter inviting me.
- <1% A stranger invited me.

## Ethics Conference for Tri-Region Pastors

Once again, a pastoral ethics course will be offered by ABC of the Dakotas, ABC of Nebraska and Mid-American Baptist Churches. The course will be held at Camp Moses Merrill August 7-9, 2006. The event begins at lunch on Monday and concludes at 2pm Wednesday.



The ABC/NE Department of Professional Ministry recently made a decision to urge pastors to participate in an ethics course every five years. All pastors must complete an ethics course prior to having

their ordination recognized by ABC/NE.

Nebraska pastors' registration, meals and lodging will be paid by The Carpenter Fund. Any pastor wishing to attend should contact the region office toll-free at (877) 244-7339.

## An idea worth sharing . . . *Harvest of Community* . . .

By Doug Davidson

Pastor Corey Laughary knew things were changing at Palouse Federated Church when he looked around during the church's Harvest Dinner and saw a number of people he'd never seen in church before.

Nearly every fall the church has celebrated harvest with its annual dinner. "But this year, we tried to open the dinner to the whole community," says Laughary. "We established a service award to be given to someone outside our church who is doing good work in our community. We took nominations for the award from inside and outside the church, invited the person honored and their friends and family to the dinner, and encouraged our own people to invite friends and family. An event that had been very inward became an outreach

Transforming their fall banquet into the Harvest of Community Dinner is just one way Palouse Federated Church is making itself visible in this town of about 1,000. And the efforts are bearing fruit: Over the past year, the church's average worship attendance has increased from around 50 each week to nearly 80 worshippers most Sundays. On Palm Sunday, six new disciples were baptized. "We're doing evangelism, and we're growing," says Laughary, "but it hasn't been a lot of revivals and altar calls. It's much more about offering events that proclaim the gospel while letting people know they are welcome here."

Laughary is a member of National Ministries' National Evangelism Team (NET), a network of eighty American Baptist pastors, laypeople, executive ministers and regional staff, leading American Baptists toward the NEW LIFE 2010 goal of 1,000,010 new disciples by the year 2010. NET Associates receive training in *Got Style?*<sup>™</sup>, a personality style-based evangelism approach developed by National Ministries with Dr. Jeff Johnson's leadership. Drawing on 16 years of pastoral experience, Johnson urges churches to approach evangelism with an attitude of discovery and discernment: "Churches need to believe that God has a plan for them. Their responsibility is not to create that plan, but to find and figure out God's plan for them."

*Got Style?* training helps pastors like Corey Laughary think about evangelism in fresh ways. "We pastors sometimes think only in terms of how we do evangelism ourselves," he says. "But our members have different skills, gifts and opportunities. Style training can help churches think about how every member can be sharing their faith, sharing the good news, without necessarily being the preacher type."

The members of Palouse Federated Church used a skills assessment to determine evangelism strategies that best matched their relational styles and life skills. "The assessment helped us see that we have a lot of people who are inviters — people who are good at establishing friendships," Laughary reports. "That lends itself to a more invitational style



Dr. Jeff Johnson

of evangelism rather than something more assertive. We also have people who are good at planning and pulling off events. So we began to focus our evangelism around those particular gifts."

Last summer, the church skipped its labor-intensive Vacation Bible School so it could instead offer a range of opportunities for people to make contact with the church. They offered weekly Bible story times for kids, held family movie nights with a short gospel message, and got to know youth with basketball and hot dogs in the park. In the fall, they had their harvest dinner as well as a table at the town's annual festival where they raised funds for Katrina relief.

More recently, they hosted a women's day with great food and a craft table, and opportunities for massages, manicures and facials. Every woman in the church was urged to buy a ticket for a friend or neighbor, in hopes that half the women attending would be from outside the church. But two thirds of 60-plus women attending were from outside the church.

### ABC/NE Trivia

1. How many rooms are there in the new Calvary Lodge at Camp?  
a. 6, b. 11, c. 16, d. 22
2. The old Camp Merrill at Fullerton was on what property?  
a. Indian meeting grounds, b. Chautauqua grounds, c. Civilian Conservation Corps grounds, d. all of the above.
3. What was the prior use of the Camp Merrill—Linwood grounds?  
a. Chautauqua grounds, b. Civilian Conservation Corps grounds, c. farm land, d. stockyard.
4. How many buildings are there at Camp Merrill?  
a. 10, b. 15, c. 20, d. 25.
5. Which of the following animals have not been spotted at camp?  
a. turkeys, b. deer, c. skunks, d. fox, e. owls, f. bluebirds, g. snakes, h. horses, i. rabbits, j. pheasant, k. peacocks

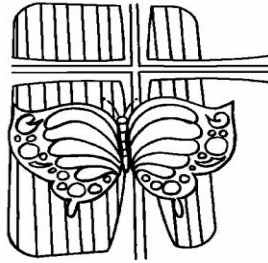
[Answers on page four.]



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

### Join Baptists across Nebraska in prayer in June & July for:

- **FBC, Kearney**, Pastors Stan Murdoch & Dwayne Bennett, Andy Falk & Kevin Holloway
- **Judson, LaVista**, Pastor Glenn Williamson Sr.
- **Belmont, Lincoln**, Pastor Dale Robbins
- **FBC, Lincoln**, Pastor Harry Riggs & Sandy Denton.
- **Second, Lincoln**, Pastors Jim Cummings & Renae Odell.
- **FBC, Mason City**, Pastors Vic Crawford & John Lewis
- **FBC, McCook**, Interim Pastor Stan Upchurch



### Pray that these churches will be:

- Blessed with refreshed energy for their ministry.
- Renewed in their commitment to their communities.
- Re-committed to ministry with children, youth, and young adults.

### Pray that these churches will discover:

- Wonderful joy as they serve.
- Summer is a great a time for spiritual renewal.
- Opportunities they didn't expect!
- [Note: **Fairhaven Baptist Church** is in the process of closing. Please hold the members in prayer as they make this transition. We praise God for the ministry through the years of Fairhaven Baptist Church.]



Above: On a sunny May day, Camp Director Clarence Reiss and Area Minister Dave Lundholm survey the eastern edge of Camp Moses Merrill.

Below: Dave Lundholm learns about "other duties as assigned" on his job description as he installs corner guards in the rooms of the new Calvary Lodge.

## AB BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

ABMen USA is proud to announce that Layman Pierce has been appointed to the Position of National Coordinator of ABBoys and YoungMen, effective immediately.

Pierce graduated from William Jewell College in May, 2005 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science and International Relations and will soon begin his graduate studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to pursue an MPA in Non-profit Administration. Currently working as a youth pastor in the Kansas City area, Pierce has been involved with the AB Young Men and Boys Ministry for the last eight years and is excited to see where God may be taking the ministry next.

On Pierce's appointment, Frederick A. Robbins, Executive Director, ABMen/USA said, "We are encouraged by the wisdom of scripture: 'Bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he shall not depart from it.' Many who were introduced to our programs as youth have, in time, introduced their sons to the fellowship. The appointment of Layman Pierce to this position serves as our commitment to the continuation of support and confidence in his leadership."

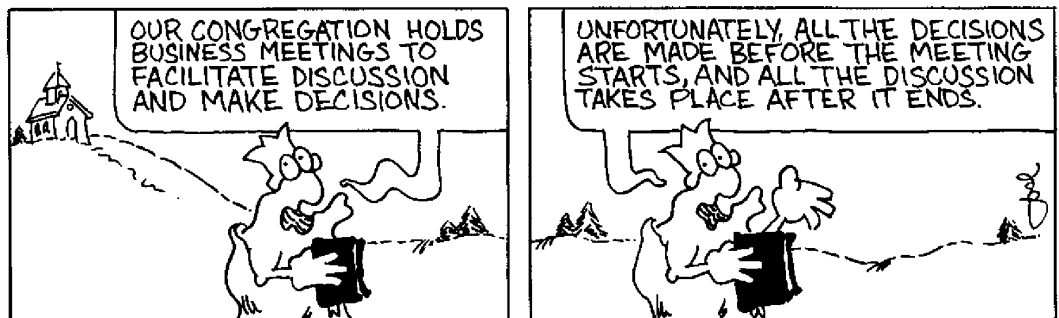
### Trivia Answers

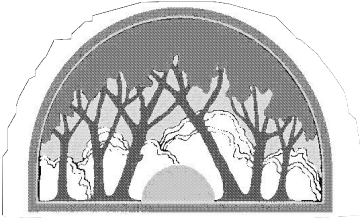
(questions on page three)

1. b. There are eleven rooms in Calvary Lodge. The building is built so that an additional 12 rooms can be added.
2. d. The Fullerton site served all the listed uses.
3. c. The Linwood site was farm and forest land prior to the construction of Camp Merrill.
4. d. There are 25 buildings at Camp Merrill.
5. k. No one has yet spotted a peacock at camp.



### Pontius' Puddle





## Camp Moses Merrill News

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

Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: [campmerrill@nntc.net](mailto:campmerrill@nntc.net)

Website: [www.campmerrill.com](http://www.campmerrill.com)

## It's "High Season" at Camp!

WOW! It is truly "high season" at Camp Moses Merrill. You should see it. The summer staffers have arrived and are at work. An army of volunteers helped prepare the facilities for the campers. Churches across the state are praying for the life decisions that are being made at camp this summer.

**New, New, New** this year are disc golf, the cargo net and Calvary Lodge. We also have planted new varieties of trees and bushes.

**Ready to go** are the 10 cabins. Sponsor church volunteers and others have been here helping repair, clean and prepare the cabins for the summer season. The horses are hitting the trails carrying campers on new adventures. The kitchen staff is unveiling new, fun ideas. The pool has been painted.

**YOU are making a difference** in the lives of boys and girls, men and women! Without the support of the ABC/NE churches and individuals — camp just wouldn't be here. This ministry belongs to all of us. We are grateful for your support and encouragement! **THANK YOU!**



### Former Camper Reunion

June 30—July 3

Join us for a fun, relaxing time of renewing friendships and enjoying Camp Moses Merrill!

**THANKS TO Volunteers:** Ron Hornberger, Stan Oberhelman, Elvera Walker, Gail & LaDonna Southwick, Bob Howe, Richard Hale, Lee & Joyce Kleine, Mark & Ruth Steele, Lucas, Nate.

**THANKS FOR financial & material contributions:** York Association, Karlyn Billings (memorial for Al Grotelueschen), Lou Grote-lueschen (Honor of Charles & Mary Davison 50th Wedding Anniversary), Bob & Fayette Molby, Floretta Ward, Doug & Keri Bedke, Mindy Swanson, Rev Victor Crawford, Troy Dowty. These good folks provided money and a clothes dryer, an 8 ft area rug, a propane grill & nozzle for pressure washer, a shower curtain, 4 children's stirrups, an 80 foot rain gutter plus installation and more!

**THANKS to ALL BUILDING BRIDGES CONTRIBUTORS !!**

**Needs:** funding for a replacement chipper, volunteers for building preparation & cleaning, trimming trees & trails.



Clarence Reiss and Steve Bils carry one of the new mattresses into Calvary Lodge at Camp Merrill. The official dedication of the Lodge is July 2 at 3pm.

From the Area Minister ..... Dave Lundholm

Taking the Gospel to Where the People Are

I have had two delightful conversations recently that I would like to share with you. Both of them involve the type of ministry known as Chaplaincy.

The first conversation was with Rev. Dr. George Langhorne the director of the Chaplaincy office at ABC's National Ministries. I learned that Chaplains are ministers that are specially trained to provide ministry and presence where people are. American Baptist endorsed chaplains serve in the military, in hospitals, at horse racing tracks, at NASCAR tracks, with sports teams, in shopping malls, in trucking companies, and even at airports. Chaplains take the love and care of Jesus Christ to where people are.

There are currently around 160 ABC endorsed military chaplains with about 100 of them on active duty. Another 280 serve as hospital, institutional, and prison chaplains. There are about 300 endorsed pastoral counselors. In addition there are 44 people preparing to be military chaplains.

To be an American Baptist endorsed chaplain requires the same college and seminary preparation as does being a pastor. In addition, two years of experience in serving the local church and 1600 hours (4 CPE units) of supervised clinical experience is required.

Providing chaplains is one way that we as American Baptists

carry the good news of Jesus Christ out into the world. They are our missionaries to everyday folks.

The second conversation was with Lt. Nathan Kane of the Nebraska National Guard. His job is to try to recruit people to be Army chaplains in Nebraska Guard units. There is a critical shortage of chaplains for the Nebraska Guard. The Guard is looking primarily for pastors that are under the age of 40 (45 for prior service people) but will consider older pastors on a case-by-case basis. The pay and benefits are substantial. There is also financial assistance for people in seminary preparing to be chaplains.

When the unit is at home, the only time commitment is one weekend a month (Which I am told can often consist of Friday and Saturday leaving Sunday free to be back in the pulpit.), and a yearly training experience.

When the unit is deployed, the pastor is lost to the local church for the duration of the deployment (the local church would need to provide for interim leadership.)

In the course of our conversation I learned that no chaplain has been killed on active duty since Vietnam. I also learned that in that same time only two chaplains have been wounded (both serving in Afghanistan).

If you are interested in exploring Guard chaplaincy, I have some informational materials I would be happy to send to you.



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

August Deadlines
July 5, 2006 - Print Copy
July 10, 2006 - E-Mail

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

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

ALLIANCE FBC: The funeral service for Morris Roebuck was held on Thursday Apr 16. Church school children, teachers and adults participated in the Palm Sunday celebration. Maundy Thursday communion was held in the Chapel with a good attendance. 106 attended Easter morning worship. A new week-day daytime Bible study for women is off to a good start. Rebecca Morse is the teacher. Pastor participated in the annual Gideon appreciation dinner Apr 20. The ABW held its April meeting Apr 25. There was a needs shower for items to be given to the battered women's home. Miriam Bowen and LaVeta Cole were hostesses. Pastor Rowe, Joyce, Harlan Loch, Billie Counts, and Nona and Joe Roten met with the state staff caravan on Apr 28. Several attended the NW Baptist Association meeting in Scottsbluff.

ARNOLD FBC: "Fill My Cup, Lord" was the theme of the annual May Breakfast held for the area women at FBC on May 5. Eight eighth grade and seven senior graduates were honored with recognition and a gift on May 7 and mothers were honored on May 14. An Alumni Choir, which consists of all Arnold High Alumni present, sang at the service on May 28.

FBC participated in the National Day of Prayer, which was held at the Church of the Nazarene. FBC furnished cookies and workers for the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

ARTHUR BC: The Sr Hi Youth who had been meeting on Wednesday evening and the Jr Hi that had been meeting right after school for "adventure club" closed out the year with appropriate programs and activities. The Deacons served the evening meal to the graduates and their families before Baccalaureate services at the church.

BEATRICE FBC: Twenty-four graduates and family members were honored at a potluck dinner on May 7. "Jesus' Friends" was the theme for the community Vacation Bible School, which began on May 30 at the Beatrice Mennonite Church.

BRIDGEPORT FBC: The men of the church are hosting a dinner for the church families. We will be honoring our 90+year old members. The Kids Club and the Jr. Varsity Youth will share a Year-End Party. On Sunday, the 21st, the Kids Club will be doing the memorizations and songs

they learned this year. During the month of May, our church was in charge of collecting non-perishable foods for the Bridgeport Food Pantry.

CHADRON FBC: A Baccalaureate service was held at the High School on May 7, with FBC taking part in the service. FBC also participated in the National Day of Prayer observance, which this year was a breakfast at the Country Kitchen.

CHAPMAN FBC: Our quarterly business meeting was held on Apr 23 with a potluck dinner before the meeting. The Goldenrod Club met on May 2. A potluck lunch was served with the usual visiting and games. (Potluck dinners/lunches are always the best at a Baptist church) Congratulations goes to Amanda and Alyessa Hudnall, who have graduated from high school this year and will be going to college this fall.

COLUMBUS FBC: Charles & Mary Davison (now living in Calif) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 16. Some of the Sunday School classes will be combined for the summer session, using a Group Curriculum. A church rummage and bake sale was held May

5. FBC furnished cookies for the Red Cross on May 10, and delivered Meals on Wheels May 1-5.

**FAIRBURY FBC:** "Hawaiian Shirt Day" was held at FBC on May 21, followed by a luau at noon, which was sponsored by the youth group as a fund raiser for their mission trip this summer. A reception was held for the graduates following worship service on May 14. Buck & Lois Welch celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on May 7; and Sam & Marilyn Johnson their 63rd anniversary on May 12.

**FREMONT FBC:** The Fremont FBC room at Camp Merrill's Calvary Lodge will be named for Laura E. Johnson, a missionary to China. The church presented a check for the room to Susan Gillies in worship on May 14. A breakfast for the graduates was held on May 21. The ABW held a salad luncheon on May 4, at which time officers were installed and a memorial service was held.

**First Baptist Church of Fremont is selling some large antique sanctuary lights for \$150 each. If you want more information or wish to purchase, please contact the church. 402-721-1265**

**GIBBON BC:** Leland & Wanda Gangwish celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 28 at an open house. Graduates, including four college graduates, were honored on May 7. The FBC women participated in the Church Women United Friendship Day at Faith United Church.

**GRAND ISLAND FBC:** ABW Ministries news includes: 20 health kits and 12 layettes, plus monies, were sent for missions; the Ruth Circle donated the money left at the end of the year to camp scholarships; and the church women attended the Church Women United Fellowship Supper at the United Methodist Church on May 5, donating paper products for Hope Harbor. FBC participated in the National Day of Prayer, which was held at Trinity Lutheran School, on May 4.

**HOLDREGE FBC:** The kindergarten through 6th grade Sunday School students sold flower seeds as a fund raiser for new playground equipment. The All Stars For Jesus held a skating party for families and friends on May 3. The high school graduates were honored at worship on May 14. Jean Peterson, a member of FBC since 1949, passed away on Apr 17. The FBC family participated in the various National Day of Prayer observances: a prayer breakfast, a noon and an evening service.

**JUNIATA CC:** JCC observed the National Day of Prayer at a meeting at the Gazebo Memorial Park. A "Lovely Ladies Luncheon" was held on May 13, at the Country Meadows northeast of Hastings.

**LAVISTA, JUDSON:** The Easter Offering was given to the Run for the Son event held by the Christian Motorcyclists Association. Easter

Sunday featured a personal testimony by Brian, a member of CMA, and a wonderful program by our Judson Youth. Our monthly fellowship meal honored our graduates from high school and college. Judson ABW went to Mount Nebo Baptist Church to hear Rev. Charlene Quarrels talk about "Amazing Peace." The ABW were also fortunate to have retired pastor Del Eslinger come to talk about Restored Hope, a mission for homeless families. Judson has given furniture, clothing and household goods over the years. A big collection of used eyeglasses was given to the Bellevue Eagles Club. AWANA Awards night was held with each child's accomplishments recognized and all efforts awarded. The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Club took a field trip to Camp Moses Merrill for a tour of the camp and lunch, and encouragement for more adults to attend camp. Money was given for Blanket Sunday. Both youth and adults are gearing up for camp and special summer Sunday School classes. Next month we will kick off a program called "Do You Really Want to Follow Jesus?" Judson will also be holding its annual church picnic and fundraiser for our expansion program during the La Vista Days Parade - June 3

**LINCOLN FBC:** The youth had an "Out and About in Omaha" day on May 13, which was a time of shopping, playing, and eating. The youth hosted their motorcycle friends on May 24 in preparation for their Sturgis mission trip. Marjorie Neill celebrated her 85th birthday on May 5. A "Family Fishing day" was held on May 20 at Wagon Train Lake, with activities for children and adults. The Capitol Association Baptist Men held a golf tourney on May 13. The FBC Foundation has several projects in the works: funding the start up costs of the Parks' trip to India, paying for the Parks family airfare to India, funding the majority of the Youth Sturgis Trip, buying a new hand bell, and giving scholarships to Camp Merrill. On Legacy Sunday, May 21, the Foundation recognized past donors, and board members.

**LINCOLN SECOND:** A Camp Day Luncheon was held April 30th to share camp experiences and to be a fund raiser for camp scholarships; In May the Men's Softball Team's Tuesday summer schedule of games began; we had a Mother/Child Banquet with "Mother's Apron" as the theme; the men had a Breakfast Fundraiser for the installation of electricity for the new church garage; during the May 21 Worship Service the Women of the International Women Group sang the special music in (3) languages: Korean, Japanese and English; congratulations went to Tyler Hale for special vocal music honor he received at this year's Elk's Youth Day, to Nicholas Hoover for being chosen to sing in the youth choir at the Lied Center. The choir sang with Christie Del Ray, also to Tyler Pope, who was featured in a Journal Star article for being selected to compete in the Destination ImagiNation Global competition in Knoxville, TN; May 27 the Family Ministries group enjoyed their Annual Memorial Weekend trip to Kansas City.

**HASTINGS FBC:** The ABW held a Mother's Day program titled "Keepsakes - Show and Tell", with the ladies all sharing a special

keepsake and story.

**MCCOOK FBC:** The ABW held a "Musical Tea" on May 6, serving tea, scones, muffins and tea sandwiches. Family Night is being held once a month, showing a movie, having fellowship, and other activities.

**NORFOLK FBC:** A Retirement Reception for Pastor Frank & Mert Armstrong was held on May 20, and included a catered meal for the church family and a program. The women held a spring salad bar on May 11, with Cindy Stewart, minister at Stanton Methodist Church telling of her trip to the Holy Land. FBC is paying 50% of a camper's fee to camp.

**NORTH PLATTE FBC:** A team of ten traveled to Warrenton, MO for a week of missions with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Pastor Tim and several youth attended the Mid High - Sr High Youth Spring Retreat at Camp Merrill. Holy Week was observed with daily morning prayer, Maundy Thursday, Community Good Friday services, Easter sunrise services, Easter breakfast and Worship service on Sunday. Several Companions in Christ study groups are now in progress.

**OMAHA BENSON:** The graduates were honored at worship on May 21. The youth painted stairwell walls, and hallways in preparation for the retiling job. Camp scholarships are being offered to help campers. The K.I.D.S. ministry ended their year with a family picnic on May 12. The Senior Caring Ministry went to Lauritzen Gardens on May 25.

**OMAHA FBC:** FBC will be offering New Member Classes to 12 individuals who have expressed a desire to join FBC. Recently we held a pie auction with all proceeds going toward VBS activities. Work is underway toward renovation of the church parlor.

**OMAHA PARKSIDE:** The ABW held a salad luncheon on May 6, which featured Beverly Harrison presenting a program on tea and teacups. Parksiders served cold water during the Florence Days Parade on May 20. The Adults For Action went to the Mormon Trail Center to the quilt show on May 19.

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS:** Several men participated in the American Baptist Men's golf outing in Lincoln. Rev. Bob Molby completed his interim ministry Apr 30, with special music by Bob and Fayette's daughter, Kathleen Cain of San Antonio and the return of his walking stick. Baby Nolan Quinn McCormick was dedicated. Rev. Steve Bils filled the pulpit during May. A check from Sunset Hills to fund a room at Calvary Lodge was presented to Bils on May 7. Dorothy Hallback, who was received into membership, is 98 years old, and was represented by Eloise Johnson as Dorothy was unable to attend. The youth band conducted outreach visits to several Omahaland churches. VBS is June 4-10. Rev. Ron French was ordained May 7 and graduated from Central Baptist Seminary May 13, with delegations from Sunset Hills attending both events. He begins his Sunset Hills ministry June 1. A Memorial Day breakfast was held on May 29. The

"Forgiven" musical group sang the National Anthem at Rosenblatt Stadium on Apr 28. The Lighthouse Circle held a "Spring Fling" at the Farmhouse Cafe, with a country theme.

**OXFORD FBC:** Holy week services included a Good Friday service and an Easter sunrise service and breakfast that was shared with the Methodist church and our regular Easter service; they were all well attended. Pastor Dave Hunt is conducting a class for those wishing to be baptized with between 11 - 15 young people attending. Plans are being made for a community Vacation Bible School that is scheduled for July 10th through the 14th with our church as the host church.

**SCOTTSDLUFF FBC:** The youth of the church put on a barbeque as a thank you for all the help the church has given to them during the past year. The Men's Fellowship Group had Doug Winter from Lighthouse Missions as a speaker following their breakfast on May 6.

**TECUMSEH FBC:** An AWANA carnival was held on May 3.

**TEKAMAH FBC:** Food Pantry Sunday

was May 28. FBC offers two college loan funds for any member of the church. National Day of Prayer was held at FBC on May 4. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels May 8-12.



**ARTHUR:** Susan Connell, Jace Walker, Mikaela Walker, Mackenzie Walker, Hayes Rose, Dawson Helmer and Austin Helmer.

**COLUMBUS FBC:** Lou Groteluschen

**HASTINGS FBC:** Faye Holdeman, Shannon Pavelka, Tony Tibke, Kami Beahm, Sean Tullis, Jessi Geisler

**NORFOLK FBC:** Tony and Amy Chambers. Norma Sheets, Jeff and Marlene Schiermeier

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS BC:** Retired missionary and ABC Rev. W. Robert Hodges.

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**NOTE:**

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