



# the MESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



December 2005/  
January 2006

### ABC/NE Date Data

- Dec 10 Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska Nativity Display — Lincoln
- Dec ?? Dozens of church Sunday School pageants. Go to at least two for a great Christmas blessing!
- Dec 25 CHRISTMAS !
- Jan 29 CAMP MERRILL SUNDAY

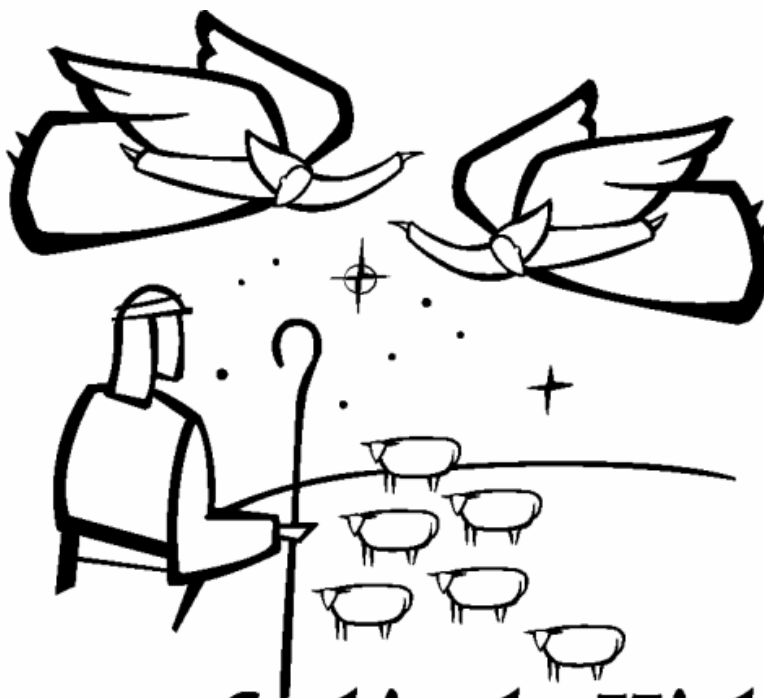
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## Glory to God in the Highest

*The Board and staff of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with opportunities for growth and service.*

### 2006 Prayer Emphasis: LOCAL CHURCHES

All Nebraska Baptists are invited to pray for the ministry of our churches. During 2006, the MESSENGER will issue a call to prayer for a specific list of churches each month. ABC/NE churches and individuals will be encouraged to pray specifically for the ministry of these churches. While some churches in the state have already established prayer partnerships church-to-church, this emphasis will reach the whole family.

“Our hope is that each congregation will be encouraged and strengthened in ministry,” stated ABC/NE President Beryl Hornberger. “As we continue to think about ‘churches helping churches’ we realize the power-potential in supporting each other in our ministries through prayer.”

Individuals and congregations, men’s & women’s groups, and Sunday School classes are all invited to join in the 2006 Prayer Emphasis.

On page four of this issue of THE MESSENGER is a list of the churches for January.

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

## **“Um . . . what exactly is UM . . . and why is it so important?”**

If you've been around American Baptist Churches for any length of time, the acronyms can get confusing. **UM, AFC, WMO, OGS, BIM** . . . they can make your head spin. UM, United Mission, is the bread and butter, meat and potatoes, most basic way that we collectively do and fund ministry in the ABC family. Both at home and abroad, United Mission absolutely essential to ministry. It is the primary vehicle through which the regions (like ABC Nebraska) get ministry accomplished, and is of significant importance to the work of National Ministries, International Ministries and the General Secretary.

Every UM dollar given is apportioned to these areas. Hopefully you know and appreciate the ministry your region does together with, and on behalf of, our churches. National Ministries includes Alaskan and Native American ministries, Neighborhood Centers, Refugee Resettlement, Homes and Hospitals, etc. (see [www.nationalministries.org/mission/partners\\_programs.cfm](http://www.nationalministries.org/mission/partners_programs.cfm)). International Ministries is self-explanatory, but broader than most of us realize and the Office of the General Secretary provides the shepherding and leadership to keep us working together and have a voice through the representative process and other traditional denominational functions.

So when the pastor, or the missions committee, or the finance department talks about UM as it relates to your church budget, understand that what they are talking about is your participation in the larger ABC family and mission. Because UM is so important to how effective we are as a family, our ABC Nebraska bylaws uses the following language to describe in part the

covenant among the churches, “*a duly constituted church of the ABC of Nebraska shall support the mission of the ABC of Nebraska in reasonable financial and volunteer fashion. All churches are encouraged to give at least 10% of their income to ABC United Mission as a basis upon which to build their mission giving. Churches below this level will be encouraged to move toward this goal at the rate of 1% per year.*”

We ask our church members to tithe to the church and we ask our churches to tithe to United Mission. As individuals we may wish to make gifts and offerings beyond our tithe. Likewise, churches may also wish to support outside mission work above and beyond their foundational obligation to United Mission. The annual offerings to America for Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, World Mission Offering and the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering are examples of such gifts. It would be contrary to the spirit of the covenant to count monies given to those offerings as part of the 10% covenanted to United Mission.

I have printed a list of our churches together with their 2005 UM contributions through October. Compare what your church has given with its income. Ask your leaders if your congregation couldn't set an example of tithing for its members in this and future years by giving at least 10% its income to UM. Some mission-minded congregations have determined to increase the percentage of their budget to UM every year and are well beyond the 10% minimum. We are thankful that God allows us to be a part of what He is doing, and for the committed partners He has brought together here in Nebraska!

Albion, First Baptist Church.....	102.63
Alliance, First Baptist Church.....	3,809.13
Ansley, First Baptist Church.....	177.00
Arnold, First Baptist Church.....	5,011.69
Arthur, Arthur Baptist Church.....	8,036.97
Beatrice, First Baptist Church.....	1,656.16
Bellevue, New Life Baptist Church.....	0.00
Bellevue, Strangers Rest Missionary Baptist Church.....	0.00
Blair, First Baptist Church.....	24.33
Bridgeport, First Baptist Church.....	1,554.71
Broken Bow, First Baptist Church.....	3,332.98
Chadron, First Baptist Church.....	8,299.08
Chapman, First Baptist Church.....	2,242.75
Columbus, First Baptist Church.....	5,055.35
Decatur, Riverside Baptist Church.....	673.98
Fairbury, First Baptist Church.....	7,635.40
Fremont, First Baptist Church.....	11,784.39
Gibbon, Gibbon Baptist Church.....	9,000.00
Grand Island, First Baptist Church.....	5,301.97
Guide Rock, First Baptist Church.....	1,243.93
Hastings, First Baptist Church.....	1,597.05
Holbrook, First Baptist Church.....	11.10
Holdrege, First Baptist Church.....	8,744.14
Juniata, Juniata Community Church.....	708.48
Kearney, First Baptist Church.....	10,035.83
Lexington, Fairhaven Baptist Church.....	1,277.58
Lincoln, Belmont Baptist Church.....	3,357.92
Lincoln, First Baptist Church.....	13,000.00
Lincoln, Second Baptist Church.....	12,988.62
Mason City, First Baptist Church.....	3,576.65

Mc Cook, First Baptist Church.....	4,566.88
Norfolk, First Baptist Church.....	10,821.95
North Platte, First Baptist Church.....	18,086.68
Omaha, Benson Baptist Church.....	28,219.01
Omaha, First Baptist Church.....	4,354.99
Omaha, First Kachin Baptist Church of America.....	616.50
Omaha, First Sudanese Baptist Church.....	0.00
Omaha, Greater St John Baptist Church.....	0.00
Omaha, Judson Baptist Church.....	7,131.16
Omaha, King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church.....	600.00
Omaha, Miracle Hills Community Baptist Church.....	4,433.77
Omaha, Mt Nebo Baptist Church.....	0.00
Omaha, Parkside Baptist Church.....	3,337.49
Omaha, Shiloh Baptist Church.....	0.00
Omaha, Sunset Hills Baptist Church.....	8,711.00
Oxford, First Baptist Church.....	979.10
Scottsbluff, First Baptist Church.....	4,391.80
Shubert, Prairie Union Baptist Church.....	1,155.90
St Edward, Palestine Baptist Church.....	2,724.00
Superior, First Baptist Church.....	3,093.30
Tecumseh, First Baptist Church.....	219.52
Tekamah, First Baptist Church.....	2,353.44
Union, First Baptist Church.....	24.35
Valley, United Faith Community Church.....	2,500.00
Wayne, First Baptist Church.....	72.00
Wilsonville, United Baptist-Christian Church.....	448.60
York, York Baptist-Congregational Federated Church.....	0.00



**PLEASE NOTE:** Steve's column and this list of churches is provided in response to questions folks have had about UM. This list of ABC/NE churches shows ONLY what they have given to United Mission through October. This is NOT all that churches give. This does not include direct gifts to missionaries or the region. It does not include special gifts. For a list of total American Baptist Mission Support by ABC/NE churches, please contact the region office. — Ed.

# WATCH NIGHT

If you live or grew up in a Black community in the United States, you have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve. The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the *only* New Year's Eve event.

Like many others, I always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service. . . . Still, it seemed that most predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in Mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, in doing some research, I discovered there are two essential reasons for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations. Many of the Watch Night Services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Americans of African descent came together in churches, gathering places and private homes throughout the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and according to Lincoln's promise, all slaves in the Confederate States were legally free. People remained in churches and other gathering places, eagerly awaiting word that Emancipation had been declared. When the actual news

of freedom was received later that day, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God.

But even before 1962 and the possibility of a Presidential Emancipation, African people had gathered on New Year's Eve on plantations across the South. That is because many owners of enslaved Africans tallied up their business accounts on the first day of each new year. Human property was sold along with land and furnishings to satisfy debts. Families and friends were separated. Often they never saw each other again in this earthly world. Thus coming together on December 31 might be the last time for enslaved and free Africans to be together with loved ones.

So, Black folks in North America have gathered annually on New Year's Eve since the earliest days, praising God for bringing us safely through another year and praying for the future. Certainly, those traditional gatherings were made even more poignant by the events of 1863 which brought freedom to the slaves and the Year of Jubilee. Many generations have passed since and most of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night. Yet our traditions and our faith still bring us together at the end of every year to celebrate once again "how we got over."

Written by Charyn D. Sutton a writer and talented community leader who died Dec. 30, 2004.



## ***New Year's Ideas for Local Churches . . . . .***

These ideas can be combined and customized for use with your family or congregation!

### **WATCH NIGHT SERVICES**

Services can be planned on a theme of new beginnings, hope for the future, God's faithfulness. Or, using the essay printed above, incorporate the history of watch night.

### **STARLIGHT VIGILS**

Gather families & friends together with a leader who can identify constellations in the sky. Plan to sky watch from a hill away from city lights. Have an alternative plan in case the sky is filled with snowflakes! Hot cider is good with either plan. [There are still Camp Merrill cabins and Callender House available for rent for New Years. A winter retreat at camp is a great experience!]



### **FAMILY PARTIES**

Use the game "LIFESTORIES" — a fun way to know each other better.

### **PROGRESSIVE DINNER IN THE CHURCH BUILDING**

Weather can be a problem for progressive dinners planned for the wintertime. How about appetizers in the pastor's office? Salad in the Sunday School room? Main Course in the Fellowship Hall? And Dessert in the Narthex? Of course, you'd want to adapt the plan to a specific building. The blessing before the meal and the time of thanks after the meal can be in the sanctuary.

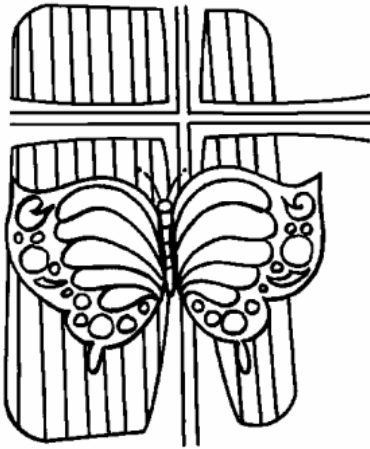
### **A Combination Study and Worship on "A NEW ME IN A NEW YEAR"**

Fun and helpful sessions for adults and children can help everyone consider the ways they could bring a new outlook to a new year. Follow the break-out sessions with a commitment service.

While a new year comes simply by one day fading into another, the transitions of the calendar give us the opportunity to pause, reflect and renew our commitments to family, friends and as disciples of Jesus Christ.

# JANUARY PRAYER:

## a part of the ABC/NE 2005 Prayer Emphasis



### Join Baptists across Nebraska in prayer in January for:

- ? FBC, **Albion**, Pastor Blaine Pritchett
- ? FBC, **Alliance**, Pastor Jim Rowe
- ? FBC, **Ansley**, Interim Bill Regan
- ? FBC, **Arnold**, Pastor Irv Jennings
- ? **Arthur Baptist**, Pastor Ben Keene

### Pray that these churches will be:

- ? Surprised by joy
- ? Filled with energy
- ? Focused on mission

### Pray that these churches will discover:

- ? New gifts for teaching
- ? New ideas for outreach
- ? Renewed commitments to nurture and care for each other.

### ABC/NE TRIVIA — Pastors & Staff

1. Which of the following is not known for his singing voice?
  - a. Kevin Walden, b. Kip Mickelson, c. Jim Green, d. Steve Bils
2. Which of the following is not a motorcycle rider?
  - a. Glenn Williamson, b. Charlie Gregory, c. Irv Jennings, d. Dale Robbins
3. Which of the following has been in the most foreign countries?
  - a. Frank Armstrong, b. Norm Williston, c. Stan Murdoch, d. Dave Lundholm
4. Who has served as an interim pastor in the most ABC/NE churches?
  - a. John Dennert, b. Bob Molby, c. Dave Bender, d. Paul Kondy
5. Which of the following is not married to a woman named Linda?
  - a. Tom Wiles, b. Rick Wheatley, c. Dan Osborne, d. Dave Lundholm

See answers on Page 8

### DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

American Baptists didn't actually form a denominational body until a meeting in Washington, DC in 1907. Before that, the work of American Baptists was done by the AB Foreign Mission Societies, the Home Mission Societies, and the Education and Publication Societies. We'll celebrate the centennial of the 1907 Washington, DC meeting at the 2007 Biennial Convention in Washington.

### Martin Luther King Day

Honor Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16. Dr. King was an American Baptist pastor. If your community doesn't have special services for the holiday, check your local library for a copy of a speech by Dr. King that you and your family can read and discuss.



### CONCLUDING Vow the VOW! December 2005

#### ☞ Dec 4 Psalm 85:9

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

#### ☞ Dec 11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

#### ☞ Dec 18 Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### ☞ Dec 25 John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All this month's passages are from the New International Version

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Accountability Partner \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Vow the VOW has made available to Nebraska Baptists a Bible Verse Of the Week throughout 2005. Blessings to all who memorized the verses!

### Taize Pilgrimage for Young People Slated

An ecumenical experience for American Baptist young people that will be centered in the Taize community of France is scheduled for May 31-June 13, 2006.

"The purpose of the trip to Taize is to introduce young people age 17 to 29 to the ecumenical movement and to begin their ecumenical journey in prayer," said the Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, director of Ecumenical Formation for American Baptist Churches USA. She noted that participants will spend a week in Taize "and join the community for sung prayer three times a day, meet with the Taize brothers for Bible study and belong to a small group of other young people from around the world."

Chhangte will lead the event with the Rev. Brad Berglund, well-known American Baptist minister, pastoral musician, author and worship leader.

The trip also will include a visit to Geneva and The Ecumenical Institute in nearby Bossey, as well as a tour of Old City Geneva that will highlight the Reformation. A day in Paris will conclude the event.

Information is available by e-mail at [brad@reinventingsunday.com](mailto:brad@reinventingsunday.com)



# 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

## CMM's CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

The **top ten** wishes on our Christmas List:

10. That the computers at the Visitor's Center would straighten up and stop blinking at us.
9. Every ABC Church in Nebraska would send a group to enjoy their beautiful and peaceful camp.
8. No more water or sewer line repairs for at least a year.
7. That the Lodge will be completed by Spring, 2006.
6. That all the Cabins will have new porch roofs by April 1, 2006
5. That we have several Grandparent volunteers for a week at camp.
4. That contributions would double next year.
3. That each of us remember "The Real Reason for the Season".
2. That every young person who attends camp at CMM will go away feeling closer to God.
1. Our Number 1 wish is that every member of our ABC/NE family will enjoy the Grace and Peace of God in their lives. D.P.

## VOLUNTEERS!!

### We Love Em!!!



Volunteers since the last newsletter include: Stan Oberhelman, Chapman Baptist; Karl Billings, Palestine Baptist; Kay Cherry, Genoa, NE, Paul Greisen, Palestine Baptist; Carl, Jolaine, and Forrest Edwards, Palestine Baptist; Phillip and Lane Prather, Crieghton, NE. With the help of these people a cabin roof was torn off, interior painting was done, rail fence painted and snow fence posts put in the ground. Unfortunately the rain came so the new roof was not put on till later. Also, some of the Pastors that were here to attend the Pastor's Conference helped plant trees and flowers and cleaned the roadsides along Gillies Clim. To each one of you goes our sincere THANKS!

## **Progress on Calvary Lodge**

The contractors started digging the foundation on October 31 and by Wednesday, November 2, the first of the cement was poured. The beautiful weather at the beginning of November certainly helped keep the work going.

### **Special Volunteer Opportunity**

Special senior volunteers are needed at Camp Moses Merrill for eight weeks in the summer of 2006. Because of limited housing, it would be ideal if some volunteers had their own RVs. Volunteers are needed to host the RV area, to provide office/reception services, to provide general handyman services, to coordinate recreation, and provide other services to assure quality camping experiences. Application forms are available from Clarence Reiss, Director of Camping.

### **OCTOBER GIFTS**

- MONETARY GIFTS: Diane Salerno and 1st Western Union Foundation-Matching Gifts**
- Dave Black:** 2 Pickup Tool Boxes
- Joyce O'Brien:** 3 Double Sheet Sets
- Monte Mickley:** Galvanized angle iron brackets & used lumber
- Charles & Mary Davison:** 2 Gas Cans, Sm. cement mixer, roll belting
- Lee Kleine:** Praise & Worship Songbooks



*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year  
 ~ The Camp Moses Merrill Staff*



## From the Executive Minister . . . . . Susan Gillies

### OPEN TO NEWNESS

In early November I was at President Beryl Hornberger's home. She had a rose bush that was still blooming and cut a rosebud for me . . . surely 'the last rose of summer.' In the week that followed, the rosebud gently opened and its fragrance filled my kitchen. I just hadn't expected that much from a November rose.

The unfolding of that rose made me think about the way newness in our lives often comes slowly, unexpectedly and gently. It doesn't always crash into our lives. Daily watching the rose unfold gave me peace and joy. A quiet reminder of the gift of beauty.

In our society today the celebration of Christ's birth is filled with noise, commotion, too many parties, too many programs, too much decorating and utter exhaustion. Now don't get me wrong. I think it's great to have a tremendous party for Jesus' birthday. My concern, rather, is with our readiness to be open to the newness. The image of a child humbly born in a stable and becoming Savior of the world is an amazing gift of new possibilities. In our walk of faith, we are offered newness over and over again. New insights and understandings. New learnings. New opportunities. Finding the newness in life is a matter

of attitude. A responsive attitude to God's opening of possibilities.

You "no nonsense" folks are probably rolling your eyes asking what difference "newness" makes. I think "newness" is the ability to look at a problem with a fresh perspective. Being open to newness is an effective antidote for negative thinking and feeling down about your life, your church, the world. It's the gift of seeing God at work in very subtle ways. It's the gift of learning. It's beginning a new discipline of prayer in your life . . . and then seeing – ever so gently, an unfolding of God's will for your life.

Why do folks celebrate New Year's Day? Because, at least on the calendar, it is a new beginning. Maybe this year we can do right what we did wrong last year. Maybe this year we'll make better choices. Maybe this year . . . Unfortunately for many the hope soon fades.

As 2006 dawns, my prayer for you is that you will experience and be open to a gentle unfolding of newness in your life. May God fill you with hope and joy.



## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

### February Deadlines

January 6, 2006 - Print Copy

January 9, 2006 - E-Mail

### Home Town Editor

Darlene RIMPLEY

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Arnold, NE 69120

### E-Editor

area.minister.ne@charter.net

Subject: Messenger

NOTE: This column is devoted to news from local ABC/NE churches. While there is never enough space for all the good things happening, we do like to highlight ideas that might work in other churches. Send written articles to the Home Town Editor, send e-mail articles to the E-Editor (see above). Submissions may be edited to fit into the space available.

**ALLIANCE FBC:** Mr. Joe Roten was the Gideon guest speaker during worship on Sunday, Oct 9. The offerings go to purchase Bibles. Five were baptized on Sunday morning Oct 16. The ABY held its annual Christian Halloween party Oct 23. A Soup and Dessert dinner was held following worship on Sunday Oct 30.

**ARNOLD FBC:** The annual Harvest Supper was held on Nov 6 with 140 persons in attendance. "4 for 1", a quartet from Kearney FBC, and the bell choir presented the evening program. Items for the food pantry were also gathered at the event. FBC joined with the other churches of the community at a Thanksgiving service at the United Methodist Church on Nov 20. A soup supper was held on Nov 27, followed by the decorating of the church for the Christmas season.

**BEATRICE FBC:** The Baptist Women's Day of Prayer was observed on Nov 7 at FBC, with the

women from Tecumseh FBC participating in the event. FBC gathered food items and took a special offering in support of the community food pantry.

**BRIDGEPORT FBC:** We have 5 sets for the new season of "Tables of Eight" with many new members. Our Tuesday night Bible Study is looking into Romans. Our average attendance is about 8 members. Several of our congregation are involved in preparation for the All Community Thanksgiving Service to be held on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, at the High School. Our Building Committee is interviewing general contractors for the new church. We have six couples enrolled in the Crown Ministries Small Group Bible Study on Finances. The Kid's Club (K-3) has an average attendance of 18 and the Jr. Varsity Youth Group (4-6<sup>th</sup>) is averaging 14. Many of these children are from unchurched families and some have no idea who David, Noah, Abraham, etc. were and what makes them important in their lives. Many are hearing of Jesus for the first time.

**BROKEN BOW FBC:** Coffee and fellowship are enjoyed every Sunday preceding the Sunday school hour.

**CHADRON FBC:** Glen and Maxine Cavaness celebrated their 50th anniversary at an open house on Nov 5. Steve Bills presented a training session for the "one board concept" on Nov 19.

The Hanging of the Greens took place on Nov 27.

**CHAPMAN FBC:** We were happy to receive two new members on September 25, 2005. Todd Brondel and Alana Cloran came forward on that day and we welcome them. Todd and Alana also have a wedding planned at FBC on Dec 3. Oct 23 was the quarterly business meeting and was preceded by a pot luck dinner. Nov 1 was the second meeting of the Goldenrod club with 11 in attendance. It was a nice afternoon of games and snacks. Oct 31 was a busy day outside . . . a "handicapped accessible" sidewalk was installed.

**COLUMBUS FBC:** A Hospice Memorial Service was held at FBC on Nov 6. A new youth group has been organized, with the first event being a pizza party on Oct 9. The Harvest Home potluck dinner was held on Nov 20. The church was in charge of delivering Meals on Wheels Nov 28 - Dec 2. A Deck the Halls service was held on the morning of Nov 27.

**FAIRBURY FBC:** Sam and Doris Hackbarth celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on Nov 9, and Charles and Mary Campbell their 51st on Nov 11. The ABW hosted the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov 20, with proceeds going to meet their White Cross quota. The Deaconesses are selling poinsettias to decorate the church.

**FREMONT FBC:** A joint Thanksgiving service with First Methodist, Salem Lutheran, Episcopal Churches, and FBC was held on Nov 23. The youth had a mission work day on Nov 12, when they cleared trees at a family farm, and then concluded the day with a bonfire and hot dog roast. A Harvest Celebration was held on Nov 16 with a turkey supper.

**GIBBON BC:** A garage raising was held for the Hunter family on Nov 5. Invite-a-Friend Sunday was Nov 13. The Church Women United World Community day was held at FBC on Nov 4. The annual community Thanksgiving Meal and Service was held at FBC on Nov 20, with Pastor Peggy Michael-Rush from Faith United Church giving the message.

**GRAND ISLAND FBC:** A church hayride was held on Nov 5. The Thanks For Giving dinner was held on Nov 12. The ABWM held a bake sale on Nov 20, with proceeds going to help with White Cross and other expenses. The church family gathered to decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday evening, Nov 27.

**HOLDREGE FBC:** The church joined with Trinity and North Park Assembly Churches to hold a Harvest Celebration on Oct 30, with a family fun-filled night, with 300-400 people in attendance. Pastor Gary gave the daily devotions on radio Nov 21-25. Items were collected to fill Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the local food pantry.

**JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Rev. Dale Phillips, who has a ministry called C.A.R.E., gave a program at a women's meeting on Nov 2. JCC participated in the community Thanksgiving service at the United Methodist Church on Nov 23.

**LA VISTA, JUDSON:** Gifts, songs, and poems, were presented to Pastor Williamson and Pastor Williston and their wives during Pastor Appreciation month. Judson met their White Cross quota 100%. The Judson ABW held their installation of new officers, New Start - New Plans. A book review of "Nice Girls Don't Change the World" was given following the installation service. Members of Judson attended a Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at Harrison Street Baptist Church. The bell choir is hard at work on special music for the holidays. Surveying has begun on the planned expansion. Judson has their very own orange construction cone! The youth have started their own building campaign for the new building. Several women made lap robes that were presented to Maple Crest. Rev. Steve Bils preached one Sunday when Pastor Glenn was to have been in Florida, even though the hurricane kept him home at the last minute.

**LINCOLN FBC:** Betsy Perkins, an ABC missionary to India, spoke at a service on Nov 13. An all-church movie night was held on Nov 5, with a snack bar being

provided, also. FBC is partnering with Fairbury FBC and Lincoln Second Baptist to sponsor a New Orleans evacuee.

**LINCOLN SECOND BAPTIST:** Oct 29 the staff of American Baptist Churches of Nebraska stopped by for a chat with members; during the Nov 6th worship service special recognition was given for all Veterans, and especially church members; Nov 11 luncheon/meeting of the Senior Adult Ministries group had as their guest speaker a pharmacist who presented help to decipher the new Medicare drug programs; the AB Women's Ministries and Marge Daugherty made it possible for us to host Becky Perkins, ABC missionary to India during our Nov 16th, Wednesday night Fellowship Dinner/Bible Study time; congratulations went to our own church secretary, Teresa Hoover, who was named Radio Station KFOR employee of the Day, Friday, Oct 21; ground has been broken south of the church parking lot for a new garage. This is an Eagle Scout project for Don Siedband, member and high school senior. Don with the help of Mark, a contractor, drew up the blueprint plans and went through all of the usual pre-construction requirements prior to the groundbreaking. Don will receive much help and support from his Church on his project; the annual All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner was enjoyed Nov 20 with the Youth Praise Team and Youth Bell Choir presented the program; Hanging of the Greens began the Advent Season, Nov 27.

**MCCOOK FBC:** Baptist Women's Day of Prayer was observed on Nov 7 with a special program. A Fireman's Appreciation Dinner was held on Nov 14, when FBC honored the firemen and their wives. INVITE-A-FRIEND Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Nov 20.

**NORFOLK FBC:** A "fill-the-shoeboxes" day was held on Nov 1, when many boxes were filled for Operation Christmas Child, and a dedication of the boxes was held on Nov 13. A Thanksgiving meal, provided by the deacons, was held on Nov 20. The church family observed a Thanksgiving eve service.

**OMAHA BENSON BC:** The Senior Caring Ministry group went to Council Bluffs on Nov 10 to hear the gospel group, The Journeyman Quartet.

**OMAHA FBC:** A Thanksgiving Eve service was held at FBC on Nov 23, in which area American Baptist Churches participated.

**First Baptist, 421 Park Avenue, invites any men interested in exploring ministries in the Omaha community to attend the Men's Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. This newly formed group also enjoys a time of fellowship and learning.**

**OMAHA MIRACLE HILLS BC:** The ABW and ABM hosted other area groups to hear Betsy Perkins, ABC missionary to India

on Nov 11. The ABWM held a Thank Offering luncheon on Nov 3. Over 40 members and friends met at Camp Merrill for a Thanksgiving Celebration & Hayrack Ride in November. We joined 7 other local ABC churches in a Thanksgiving Eve Service at First Baptist. Plans are well under way for our annual Christmas Dinner Theatre on Dec. 9.

**OMAHA PARKSIDE BC:** Members of the church family rang bells for the Salvation Army on Nov 25. The Adults For Action went to Red Oak for a day out trip on Nov 4.

**OMAHA SUNSET HILLS BC:** ABW served about 100 at the Baked Steak Dinner. The women led the worship service Nov 13, with Susan Gillies providing the message. The new members dinner and Thanksgiving service were held Nov 20. Sunset Hills was host for the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on Nov 7. Sunday Night Live youth have events scheduled into the summer, including mission trips to Kansas City in December and August. Girls Night Out on Dec 16 will give young mothers an opportunity for fellowship; the youth will be watching the children.

**OXFORD FBC:** We celebrated our church's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Nov 6, enjoying a "carry-in" dinner. Nov 11 & 12 are the dates set for our Fall Bible Conference, Pastor Jason Thacker, of Country Bible Church, south of Lincoln will be our guest speaker.

**SCOTTSBLUFF FBC:** A wrapping party was held on Nov 6, when boxes were wrapped for the Operation Christmas Child project. The church had a Nativity Float in the annual "City of Lights" Parade on Nov 17. The annual all-church Thanksgiving Dinner was held Nov 20.

**TEKAMAH FBC:** An offering was received for the "Angel Tree" project, which is sponsored by the ABWM. Angel Tree is the program that purchases gifts for children of prisoners. FBC joined with other churches at the annual community Thanksgiving Service, which was held this year at the Presbyterian Church, and was followed by a soup and pie supper. A potluck dinner was held on Nov 27, followed by a Christmas sing-along and decorating the church for the Christmas season.

**TECUMSEH FBC:** The Church Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Nov 20, provided by the Deacon Board, followed by the "Hanging of the Greens." FBC participated in the Community Thanksgiving service on Nov 23.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

**ALLIANCE FBC:** Alyssia Benda

**CHADRON FBC:** Shirley Tillotson

**CHAPMAN FBC:** Todd Brondel and Alana Cloran

**LINCOLN SECOND BC:** Judy & Mahlon Dickey

**MCCOOK FBC:** Claudie Patterson, Rev.

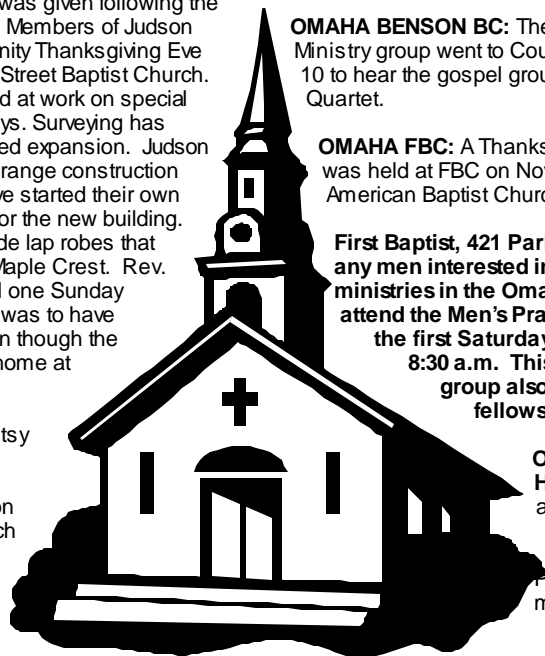
Stanley and Evalyn Upchurch

**OMAHA MIRACLE HILLS:** Phyllis Schaffer, Ida

Mary Leistner, Sherman & Marilyn Bollinger

**OMAHA SUNSET HILLS:** Earl and Sally Stoakes.

**TEKAMAH FBC:** Marcia Johnson, Scott and Amy Schroeder





## ABC Nebraska Evangelism Department Launches Email Newsletter

The Evangelism Department decided at their fall meeting to launch two email-based newsletters by January. The **Ideas Newsletter** will feature stories of effective ministries employed by churches around Nebraska and across the country. The **Prayer Newsletter** will share prayer requests about upcoming outreach efforts among our churches. Send your email addresses to [area.minister.ne@charter.net](mailto:area.minister.ne@charter.net) to subscribe to either or both newsletters.

The department also reminds our churches that Rev. Steve Bills is a member of the ABC/USA National Ministries Evangelism Team, and as a trained Evangelism Associate is available to provide training to local congregations desiring to discover what evangelism styles are best suited to their personalities. Call or email Steve at the Region Office to discuss the training for your church.

### TRIVIA ANSWERS (from page 4)

1. (d.) Steve Bills
2. (b.) Charlie Gregory
3. (b.) Norm Williston
4. (a.) John Danner
5. Trick Question—they all are married to Linds.

### ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister.....	Susan Gillies
Area Minister.....	Dave Lundholm
Minister of Mission Support.....	Steve Bills
Director of Camps & Conferences .....	Clarence Reiss
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Church Life Consultant .....	A. J. Wagstaff
Pastor to Pastors (W).....	Paul Kondy
Pastor to Pastors (E).....	Dick Peterson
Youth Ministry Adjunct.....	Jason Workman

### Please note:

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**



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