



# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



August 2005

**ABC/NE Date Data**

ABMen's Retreat, Camp Merrill,  
Aug. 12-13.

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

ABC Emergency Services Center,  
Sturgis, SD, August 6-13. See  
[www.SturgisAid.com](http://www.SturgisAid.com) for details

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## Both New Features & Familiar Ones Will Make the 2005 Family Reunion Special

Exciting plans are underway to make the annual convention of Nebraska Baptists a very special event. The Family Reunion will be held Sept. 9-11 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney. Registration materials are available in local church offices or call (toll free) 1-877-244-7339.

**NEW FEATURE -- CONVENTION CHOIR --** This year anyone interested may join the convention choir. Rehearsals will be Friday evening and Saturday afternoon for performances at the Banquet Saturday night and in worship Sunday morning. Paul Marine will direct the choir.

**FAMILIAR FEATURE -- GREAT SPEAKERS --** The convention always features great speakers and this year is no exception. Dr. Jeff Johnson is one of the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable leaders in the area of evangelism and outreach. Rev. Lisa Harris is the gifted new director of Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City.

**NEW FEATURE -- COMMUNION SERVICE ON FRIDAY NIGHT --** The opening worship service of the convention will conclude with a special communion service.

**FAMILIAR FEATURE -- LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES --** Workshops will be held both Saturday morning and afternoon and will include talk-back sessions with our speakers, prayer walks, sessions on new life for your Sunday School, sessions on evangelism, and sessions on ways to make a difference in promotion and use of Camp Merrill.

Whether you will be a "new feature" at the convention or a "familiar feature," you will be welcome! The convention begins with the evening meal on Friday, Sept 9 and concludes following worship on Sunday.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Grants Make a Difference to ABC/NE

Two ministries close to the heart of ABC/NE have recently received grants from ABC's One Great Hour of Sharing. The first grant was made to Benson Baptist Church in Omaha in support of their food pantry program. For three years the church has made food available to families in need on the last Saturday of each month. The church has been reaching an average of 150 families, mostly from neighborhoods around the church building. On receiving the grant, Lillian Richards, coordinator of the food pantry for Benson Baptist reported she is "overwhelmed! This gift from One Great Hour of Sharing will help us so much. It is a Godsend. We have relied on the congregation to supply the money and the demand is growing."

The second grant was made to support the ABC Emergency Service Center at the Sturgis Bike Rally. The cooperative ministry of ABC/NE and ABC of the Dakotas is in its fifth year. Headquartered in the First Baptist Church of the Northern Hills in Deadwood, SD, the center offers emergency services to bikers who are stranded, abandoned, injured, have equipment break downs or have other kinds of problems far from home. The ministry is done in cooperation with state and local law enforcement and area hospitals.

[Note: The grant does not support the "cup of cold water" ministry that ABC/NE offers to bikers traveling to the Black Hills. This year this ministry will be located in Chadron. Contributions are welcome to buy the bottled water.]

One Great Hour of Sharing general funds are used to support various kinds of emergency needs.



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

### YOU ARE INVITED !

There are good reasons to register for the ABC/NE Convention/Family Reunion. It is great fun. The fellowship is terrific. There are great opportunities for inspiration and education. It is a wonderful time for Christian folk who are part of the ABC family to join together for praise and the rich blessings of Christian community. It's also a great opportunity to make new friends. This is a wonderful weekend – and you deserve to experience it.

Some of you who read these words will immediately dismiss them. You went to one convention and didn't like something about it. Or you've never been to a convention and don't really have a reason. Others of you would like to attend but can't because of health or financial reasons. I encourage those of you who are able to attend, to do so. And for those of you who simply can't attend, I ask you to support this event with prayer. Why? Because God uses this kind of gathering-together to touch hearts and lives. Perhaps you could encourage folks in your church to attend.

It is true that the convention costs money. There are few churches large enough to host the convention. Fewer people have an interest in staying in homes of people they don't know well (and fewer are willing to host visitors). For the last seven or eight years, the convention has been held at a convention center. Folks can stay in the convention hotel or in another hotel in the area. (or with family or friends) While we miss the setting of a sanctuary in a local church, there are benefits of being in a hotel setting. Each year, one of our churches serves as the host church. This means they help with registration, ushering, assist with child care costs, and generally do whatever is needed to help everyone feel welcome.

I'd love to see you in Kearney . . . and all the folks you'll bring with you!!

- 2005 – Kearney [Host church: Benson]
- 2006 – Lincoln [Host church: FBC, Lincoln]
- 2007 – North Platte
- 2008 – Kearney (tentative)



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

### What does our budget say about our values, our priorities, and our faith?

*“ There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the mind and the purse. Of these three, it may well be that we moderns find the conversion of the purse the most difficult.”*  
**— Martin Luther**

It's approaching budget time for most of our churches . . . an exercise in prioritizing our congregational values and stretching our corporate faith. As applicable as the above quote from Martin Luther is to our individual lives, it is equally applicable to our collective values, priorities, and faith — and is no more clearly demonstrated than when we gather to determine our church budgets. As individuals we are tempted to hold tightly to the resources we have and to view our own wants and needs too closely as we decide how to expend them. Human nature being what it is, a congregation can be equally guilty of budgeting its resources in ways that do not accurately reflect its stated values and objectives.

Curiously, there are some realities that fly in the face of conventional wisdom as it relates to how congregations demonstrate and achieve their corporate values. For example, a church that wants to grow numerically would be wise to look at the possibility of planting a sister congregation! As counterintuitive as it may seem, churches that send a contingent away to start a new congregation invariably end up larger than they were before they divided. In the same way, churches that always seem to have financial concerns should know that those which commit increasingly larger dollar amounts to mission outside the walls of their own building find that Luke 6:38 invariably applies, *“ Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over . . . For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

Please encourage those who craft the budget for your church to be careful to honor the covenant we have with each other and to reflect your Great Commission values in your mission support. **United Mission** is a key way we work together to accomplish the mission we value as highly as an American Baptist family.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

A Homecoming at Bethel Neighborhood Center  
 14 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
 Saturday, September 17, 2005  
 11:00 am – 4:00 pm (come and go as time allows)

Calling all former “ Bethel Kids” staff, board of directors, volunteers and everyone who has ever been (or wants to become) a part of the Bethel Neighborhood Center ministry!

Renew friendships • Enjoy great food • Learn about existing programs and outreach • Tour the classrooms • See historical photos • Reconnect with the community

Pass this invitation on to anyone you know who might be interested  
 Please contact Mrs. Doris Wiggins or Rev. Lisa R. Harris by  
 September 14, 2005 to respond to this invitation  
 913.371.8218 or [bethel@bethelcenter.org](mailto:bethel@bethelcenter.org)

## August ABMen's Event Features Noted Speaker Bob Roberts

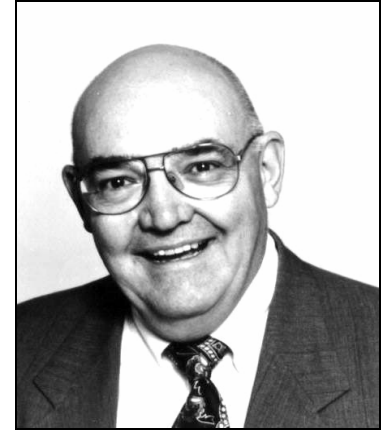
Men in Nebraska have a rare opportunity in August — a relaxing get-away to Camp Moses Merrill and a nationally recognized, Christian, motivational speaker.

ABC leader Bob Roberts made a strong, positive impression on Nebraska Baptists last year at the Region Convention/Family Reunion. As a result, ABMen have invited him to return for a very special weekend for men.

The Men's Conference will be August 12-13 at Camp Moses Merrill. The theme is: "The Cost of Discipleship." All men in ABC/NE churches and their friends are invited. Participants do not have to be members of ABMen.

Dr. Roberts has served as a pastor, as an executive minister, and as director of World Mission Support for ABC-USA. He was also the Interim General Secretary of the denomination prior to the calling of Dr. Roy Medley. His commitment to Christ, his energy and his knowledge of scripture make him a popular conference leader.

The registration is \$65 for the weekend, \$40 for Saturday only.



## New Jersey Visitors Experience Nebraska

After last year's Family Reunion, speaker Rev. Bernadette Glover-Williams returned home to New Jersey telling folks about Nebraska. Three young adult members of her church decided they would like to learn more about ministry in Nebraska. On July 8 Rev. Joy Singleton, Danielle Brown, and LaToya Cromwell arrived and were taken by Mission Support Minister Steve Bils to Camp Merrill so they could observe Primary Camp. Camp Director Clarence Reiss and his staff welcomed the guests and gave them the first horse rides of their lives, showed them the camp facilities. The women especially enjoyed a campfire with the campers. On Sunday, they worshiped at King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church in Omaha where they were joined by Rev. Charlene Morris-Quarells who hosted the trio for the rest of the trip.

Area Minister Dave Lundholm gave the women an extensive tour of the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island on Monday. Tuesday they went on to Arthur to learn about ministry in that very unique setting. After a night with church families, the group went on to Ft. Robinson, Agate Fossil Beds, and Scottsbluff. First Baptist, Scottsbluff, hosted the group for two nights. Finally the group returned to Omaha on Friday for a debriefing session with the Executive Minister before flying home on Saturday.

Now, who would like to go to New Jersey next year to see the ministry of the home church of our guests?

## Two Pastors Ordained In Services This Summer

Two ABC/NE pastors reached a significant goal this summer. Rev. Pat Moore, Chapman, was ordained in services held June 19. Dr. Paul Welter was the speaker.

ABC/NE Vice-President Darren Stroh, who pastors First Baptist in Bridgeport, will be ordained August 28.

Martha Sorenson, Chair of the ABC/NE Department of Professional Ministry said, "We were very impressed with the quality of these two men. They both have excellent skills in pastoring and nurturing their congregations. In their examination before our department they both showed competence and vision in ministry."

Both pastors will be recognized at the Family Reunion in September along with pastors new to Nebraska.

## Enroute Aid Station to offer "Cups of Cold Water" in Jesus' name

The Chadron Express Lube, located at the corner of US385 and West 8th Street just a few blocks south of US20 in Chadron will be the site of this year's Enroute Aid Station. Owner Craig Price has graciously made his parking lot available to us and it is there that the youth group from FBC Lincoln will again be distributing cold water, lip balm, sunscreen, and good cheer to the thousands of bikers traveling through the area on Saturday, August 6 on their way to the Black Hills for the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

In Deadwood, the ABC Emergency Services Center will be serving their fifth rally as a joint ministry of the ABC of Nebraska and the ABC of the Dakotas from August 6-14. Men and women from around the two regions have been submitting their registrations to serve, but there is still room on the staff for folks who desire to take advantage of this ministry opportunity. See [www.SturgisAid.com/volunteer](http://www.SturgisAid.com/volunteer) for more information.

Donations for the water can be sent to the Region Office designated "Cup of Cold Water."

## American Baptist Women of Nebraska Plan Fall 2005 Retreat

Plans are underway for the Fall Retreat for AB Women, October 7-9, at Camp Moses Merrill. The theme for this year's event is "Things Fall People Fall!" The scripture is Psalm 37:24.

Rev. Renae Odell will be the keynote speaker. Rev. Charlene Morris-Quarells will lead the Bible study. Break-out sessions will cover a wide range of activities and subjects including: crafts, a discussion of health issues, hay rides, a spa cabin, a book fair, and praise music.

The registration fee for the retreat is \$80 if the \$10 deposit is received by Sept 15. For more information, contact Becky Clinger 308-234-4266, Renae Odell 402-464-8398 or Charlene Quarells 402-438-4534. Registration forms may be obtained from the region office, or just send the deposit with name, address, phone information to Becky Clinger, 1202 E. 33rd Dr., Kearney, NE 68847.

## ABC/NE Trivia (answers on page 8)

1. A new specialty camp was offered at Camp Merrill this summer. Which was it?  
a. Volleyball, b. Horse, c. Computer, d. Preaching
2. How many amphitheatres are there at Camp Merrill?  
a. One, b. Two, c. Three, d. Four
3. How much of a contribution would your church or association have to make to fund a room in the new lodge at Camp Merrill? (and name it)  
a. \$10,000, b. \$15,000, c. \$20,000, d. \$25,000
4. Which ABC/NE church recently opened a new addition with a youth room, offices and a conference room?  
a. Kearney, b. Benson, c. North Platte, d. Beatrice
5. Which ABC/NE church is hosting Central Seminary classes?  
a. Kearney, b. Benson, c. North Platte, d. Beatrice

## Vow the VOW! August 2005

- ✍ Aug 7 **Matthew 14:29\***  
Jesus said, "Come."  
And Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus.
- ✍ Aug 14 **Psalms 133:1\***  
It is good and pleasant when God's people live together in peace!
- ✍ Aug 21 **Romans 12:2a†**  
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- ✍ Aug 28 **Exodus 3:5† (at the burning bush)**  
"Do not come any closer," God said.  
"Take off your sandals,  
for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

\*New King James Version †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 of Nebraska, 6404 Maple Street, Omaha, NE 68104  
Fax (402) 556-1910

## Effective Outreach Seminar coming to Nebraska

The 4 Laws of Effective Outreach Seminar, an exciting one-day event for pastors and outreach leaders, will be held in Lincoln at First Baptist Church on Saturday, Oct 22.

The brochure reads in part, "*The nation's leading one day seminar on Outreach is fast-paced, practical and focused on the core principles of effective outreach in any size church. Discover the innovative strategies that are empowering thousands of churches to effectively reach out to their communities.*"

Reserve this date on your calendar and look for more details at the Region Convention and in future issues of The Messenger.

## AB Men of Nebraska Disaster Relief Trainer In Action

Although not fully equipped, on May 25 this year men from the churches of Arnold, McCook and Grand Island were called to help in the cleanup after the flood at Grand Island. If you would like to be a part of the Disaster Relief Team, please fill out the following form:

YES! I WANT TO VOLUNTEER MY SERVICES AFTER A DISASTER:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MY SKILLS ARE: \_\_\_\_\_ Carpentry, \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical, \_\_\_\_\_ Plumbing, \_\_\_\_\_ Tree Trimming, \_\_\_\_\_ General Labor  
\_\_\_\_\_ Heavy Equipment, \_\_\_\_\_ Chain Saw, \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Explain)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WHEN YOU ARE AVAILABLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Bud Keenportz, 805 West 12th, McCook, NE 69001



*From the Area Minister ..... Dave Lundholm*

## **An Opportunity for Laity to Take a Look At the Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches (part 4)**

Affirmations 2 and 3 read as follows:

*"I will respect and recognize the variety of calls to ministry among my American Baptist colleagues, and other Christians."*

*"I will seek to support all colleagues in ministry by building constructive relationships wherever I serve, both with the staff where I work and with colleagues in neighboring churches."*

Basically these affirmations say that American Baptist clergy will work together cooperatively.

Pastors are called to churches of different sizes, with different local traditions, with different needs and different opportunities. One pastor I met recently is a pastor to young adults (ages 18-35) who spends most of her ministerial time on the Internet ministering to her charges via the web and e-mail. Another very effective pastor I knew spent most of his time in the coffee shop of the small community he pastored. He used this time for evangelism, community ministry and even spontaneous counseling. Since neither of these approaches to ministry would seem to fit with the "traditional" approach to ministry, one might be tempted to say approaches to ministry like these aren't "really" ministry. God however calls clergy to unique ministries. We all do things a little differently. It is important for us to be in the center of God's will for our ministry, and respectful of those doing things differently because they are in the center of God's will in their ministry.

Pastors need each other. It is not good for people to be alone. It's important for pastors to get together from time to time. The York association pastors (Columbus, Norfolk, Albion, Palestine) have gotten together for a clergy and spouse gathering for the last fourteen years. Pastors in Omaha gather regularly. The ministers' council has sponsored clergy groups in Nebraska over the last several years. These constructive relationships provide a chance for pastors to "talk shop." The possibility of sage advice and pooled wisdom in the face of issues that faced alone would be overwhelming. They even provide the opportunity to "vent" in a supportive and understanding community.

In the training I've taken in support of my staffing of the Department of Professional Ministry, I've discovered that the pastors most likely to engage in misconduct are the ones that are all alone.

American Baptist Ministers are all in ministry together. It is absolutely vital that we work together cooperatively and that the laity understand and support this cooperation.



## **LOCAL CHURCH NEWS**

by Darlene Rimpley

**September Deadlines**  
**August 9, 2005 - Print Copy**  
**August 12, 2005 - 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:** 19 Church members delivered Meals on Wheels in June. New Carpet was installed in both the sanctuary and cry room. In May we recognized and presented gifts to 8th grade and senior graduates, the annual student piano student recital was held at the church, the ABY held its final meeting for the season (special events will be held each month during the summer). In April, The Teacher's and Christian Education Workers Annual Appreciation Dinner was held. All were recognized with a gift of appreciation. Also in April, Larry Holub and Karl Panwitz provided a program of guitar and violin music, five attended the NW Association meeting in Chadron with Missionary Ed Noyes.

**ARNOLD FBC:** A Wilderness Camp was held June 23-25 at a ranch near Arnold for the entire church family, with camping out, trail rides, black powder shoot, etc. being highlights of the camp. Ruth Circle held a potato bar at a downtown location for the BRAN riders on June 7. An outdoor worship service was held on July 3 at the Rockwell farm. The red tape has been completed and erection on the new church building will start

soon. Mae Jennings and a friend, who are going on a tour of England with the University of Sioux Falls choir, held a dessert bar fundraiser at the church on July 17. Pastor Irv and Melody attended the Biennial Convention in Denver.

**ARTHUR BC:** The ladies of the church served an early morning breakfast on June 7th for Bike Riders Across Nebraska. No count on bikers but 25 dozen scrambled eggs with ham, hash browns, muffins and drinks left town on two wheels. Bible school was held June 20-24 with approximately 55 students and 20 helpers. All ended on Friday with a program and a picnic in the park. The pastors Keene took a week off and the Gideons filled the pulpit on July 10.

**BEATRICE FBC:** Volunteers are doing the lawn care of the church for the summer. Pastor Dan held chapel at Paddock Kensington Assisted Living and Carsten's Gardens on June 3.

**BROKEN BOW FBC:** The AB Men have a breakfast meeting at the City Cafe on the first Wednesdays of the month.

**CHADRON FBC:** Vacation Bible School was held June 22-24, with the theme "Solar Express." The VBS offering went to the One Great Hour of Sharing. A former pastor, Rev. Stanley Malmgren, passed away on May 10 in North Dakota. Pastor Rick and Linda attended the Biennial Convention in Denver.

**CHAPMAN FBC:** Chapman celebrated the Ordination of our pastor, Pat Moore, in a very meaningful service on June 19. Dr. Paul Welter gave the message, and Pat's father, the Rev. Bill Moore, gave the prayer as ordained pastors gathered around to lay hands on Pastor Pat to commission him into the ministry. There was a reception following the service. Some of the other highlights of the month include: 1) Day Camp one day a week for 6 weeks, 2) A few members helped at Project Camp at Camp Merrill 3) We had women at Women's Conference at Camp Merrill and men at Promise Keepers 4) On Women's Sunday Lora Rice gave the message and Emily Ogden did the music. 5) The Oberhelman's and the Moore's attended the Biennial in Denver. Pastor Pat attended the



Small Church Ministries Pre-Biennial conference.

**COLUMBUS FBC:** Fathers were honored on June 19 with a gift of a pen. FBC Women took part in the Women of Faith Conference videos presentation on June 5. Vacation Bible School was held June 13-17, with the mission project being a collection for the Children in South Africa who suffer with HIV/AIDS. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels June 20-24. The York Association picnic was held at Columbus Pioneer Park on July 20. A fax machine was recently donated to the church. Pastor Larry Adams attended the Biennial in Denver.

**FAIRBURY FBC:** Lee and Peggy Coatman celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary June 2, and Wayne and Joan Johnson their 51<sup>st</sup> on June 1. June 5 was "Hawaiian Shirt Day" at church, followed by a Hawaiian dinner and slave auction, sponsored by the youth group, with proceeds going to their summer mission projects. The annual "Homecoming" was held July 3, beginning with coffee and rolls, worship service, and a fried chicken dinner. VBS was held July 25-29, with the theme, "Circle G Ranch, Where God Is at the Center, and the Love Never Ends". Some of the church family spent July 10-17 in Mission, SD, where they helped Habitat for Humanity on a home on the Rosebud Reservation.

**FREMONT FBC:** Vacation Bible School was held June 12-16 in evening sessions, with "Kingdom of the Son" the theme. Stephen Foreman arrived at Kodiak Mission in Alaska, where he will serve a mission term until August 19. Stephen's special project of raising the funds for a 7-passenger van for Kodak was accomplished. Twenty men attended Promise Keepers in Omaha June 3-4. Cindy Lopez, a senior at Midland College, did some intern work with youth pastor Eric Purcell. July events included a "Dennert/Stevenson" concert, an outing to an Omaha Royals game, an ABW bake sale in Barnard Park. The youth group helped at Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City.

**GIBBON BC:** Mary Boyd celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in May. Kelli Wellensiek is volunteering this summer at Kodiak Mission, and hopes to join the staff there this fall. In June, Sunday School Promotion was held, Children's Day was observed with the beginning of the "Serengeti Trek", which will continue through the Sunday school hours for the summer. A Church workday was held and Jeanie Engel traveled to Mexico on a mission trip. Donations of clothing and shoes for the Compassion Ministries have been collected. There were 576 ice cream cones served (free of charge!) at the Fourth of July parade, along with 140 cups of ice water. A freezer was recently donated to the church.

**GRAND ISLAND FBC:** The ABWM group supplied table decorations for the Salvation Army suppers in June. Jack and Roma White celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Four FBC men worked with AB Men Disaster Relief following the recent floods in Grand Island. Vacation Bible School was held in July. Jack and Roma White recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Guest speakers in July included Paul Kondy, Dale Pracht, and Susan Gillies.

**HASTINGS FBC:** Graduates were honored at a luncheon May 29. Tiffany Lawrence was recognized as an "Outstanding Young Church

Woman" at the May Friendship Day. Damage to the church from the severe hailstorm in Hastings was minimal, with three broken windows, and some needed repainting the extent of the damage. An "Old Fashioned Tea" was held by the ABWM in May. Decorations were tea sets belonging to the women. The skit was outstanding, and there was an excellent turnout.

**HOLDREGE FBC:** VBS was held in June, with the theme "Serengeti Trek." The mission project was collecting items for the Holdrege Area Health and Human Services. Beth Spencer is spending ten weeks in Argentina with a mission team. The Youth Mission trip to Denver was June 2-7. The *Healing Waters* ministry was held in July as was The Kids For Christ, which is a Holdrege area children's ministry (including FBC). A group went to "Project Serve" at the "I Believe in Me Ranch" (a home for troubled and needy children and youth. Worship was held at North Park on July 17, followed by a picnic potluck. Computer labs are being held during the summer. A group of the youth attended the Sonshine Festival at Willmar, MN in July.

**JUNIATA COMM C:** "Circus Spectacular" was the theme for Vacation Bible School, June 13-17 in a joint VBS with the Methodist Church. Children were honored on June 12. The Juniata March for Jesus was held on June 12, with JCC taking part.

**LAVISTA JUDSON:** We joined in the Annual LaVista Days Prayer Walk. A congregational meeting unanimously approved revised church expansion plans. The Youth Group went to Worlds of Fun. Volunteers called on our shut ins. A neighborhood outreach program was started - free babysitting for children in the neighborhood the last Friday of every month. A new club was formed for our senior citizens — the Joy Club, Joy = Just Older Youth! The First Kachin Baptist Church visited our worship service and sang. Judson will be holding a fundraiser for the expansion project on September 24. We are asking members and other talented individuals to donate artwork or craftwork to be auctioned off.

**LINCOLN FBC:** Ethel Hagan celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at an open house on June 4. The FBC choir sang the National Anthem at the Saltdogs Game on May 25. "Teambuilding Day" for all students entering Middle or High School was Held June 11 at Timberlake Ranch Camp. A Sunday school teacher/leader training day was held June 11. The Middle and High School youth celebrated the 4th with a swimming party on the 3rd.

**LINCOLN SBC:** Graduates were honored in June. Seniors traveled to Goehner, NE for an evening dinner theater; the Young Adult/College group had a BBQ; Sr. Hi. Youth participated in a Mission Service Week, assisting with an Outdoors Bible School for 35+ Iraqi and Sudanese children in the A.M. followed by volunteer work for Sr. Adults in the P.M. There was a Families Ministry Supper Club dinner in June. On June 26, Rev. Mark Jacobs preached in worship. He grew up, was baptized and ordained at Second Baptist Church. We had an all church 4th of July celebration with homemade ice cream and fireworks and an All Church Corn Roast/Special Musical Program.

**McCOOK FBC:** Vacation Bible School was held in evening sessions, with the theme "Hang Out With Me in Jerusalem". The ABW held a picnic on May, and had an ice cream social in June. Pastor Stan & Evalyn attended the Biennial in Denver. FBC, along with the Republican Rivers Motorcycle Club, hosted a group of Christian bikers from Texas at a picnic supper on July 7.

**NORTH PLATTE FBC:** April Beth Wiles is the summer youth intern at FBC. She is a junior at Grand Canyon University in Arizona. A dedication of the new building addition to the church was held in May. The graduates were honored on May 22. A "Bring Your Own Utensils Night" was held by the ABY at a lock-in. Brittany Drullinger, who will be going on a tour to England and Wales in January, and a friend, held a dessert and fellowship time on July 31, followed by a concert. VBS was held July 24-28 with the theme "Serengeti Trek".

**NORFOLK FBC:** Under the sponsorship of "The Crafters" items are being collected for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. Ray Stange celebrated his 80th birthday on July 31.

**OMAHA BENSON BC:** The ABW salad luncheon and program was held on June 18 with "Spiritual Clowning" being the theme, and Lois Claussen presenting the program on her clown ministry. Pastor Paul and Anne held an open house at their new home on June 24. The Fellowship Ministry held an open gym night on June 9 with basketball and volleyball. Adam DeFrancesco is on a mission trip to New Zealand, Benson gave a donation of Greater St. John's Baptist Church for repair of their roof. The summer Sunday school youth program is "Jesus For You". Pastor Paul and Anne spent a portion of his sabbatical in Alaska, and visited ABC churches and mission work there.

**OMAHA MIRACLE HILLS BC:** This summer the adults are studying the "Experiencing God" Bible study made popular some years ago. "Holy Land" VBS is being held with prayers of reaching more than 50 children in our neighborhood. New Mover mailings continue to our new neighbors - over 500 gifts and welcome letters sent this year thus far.

**OMAHA PARKSIDE BC:** The Care and Share Circle held a church outing at the Putt-Putt course in June, followed by sundaes. A "bounty table" is at the back of the church throughout the garden season for extra produce, with the donations going to One Great Hour of Sharing offering. A clean-up and repair day was held at the church on June 11. Susie Brann celebrated her 102nd birthday on June 24. Pastor Joan attended the Biennial in Denver.

**OMAHA SUNSET HILLS BC:** A farewell reception was held in May for Svetlana Rodinova, church pianist for a number of years. Omahaland ABW Ministries met at Sunset Hills for a family gathering with face painting, balloons and refreshments. VBS was held with the theme "Kingdom of the Son". The Music and Drama Camp at Camp Merrill presented the musical, "The Big Picture" on July 2. Sunset Hills took over caretaker duties for Cabin 9 at Camp Merrill, though the cabin will remain named for Calvary Baptist. Gina Slechta took six youth to Green Lake for a week. Arlene Deerson and Cal and Lila Anson also are helping at Green Lake this

summer. Forgiven will provide the music for the men's conference Aug. 12-13 at Camp Merrill. Former member Evelyn Hinehine died June 23.

**OXFORD FBC:** Our church family had a "non-traditional" Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, June 26, following the worship service. This is our way of "reaching out" and thanking not only our church family for their dedication, for friends that have helped in so many ways and especially to God for His many blessings!

**SCOTTSBLUFF FBC:** A "Spruce Up Hour" was held on July 3, when the children's classes cleaned the church yard, weeded and planted flowers. On July 24, during the Sunday school hour, the kids packed baskets with goodies that the church family had supplied and delivered them to special people in the church. Dorothy Knoll observed her 90th birthday recently.

**TECUMSEH FBC:** Christian Men were honored on June 19 during the worship service. The ABW held a White Cross work day on June 28. VBS was held July 17-21, with the theme "Good News Clues".

**TEKEMAH FBC:** The first Sunday in July and in August was a time of

making Christmas ornaments for the basement tree, with everyone helping. Camp Sunday, a time for reports from Camp Merrill campers, was held on July 14. 5th Sunday Praise Service was held July 31. The Ken Dennert Family presented a musical worship time on July 3. A harvest table is available for extra garden produce or baked goods, with the proceeds going to OGHS. Food Pantry Sunday was July 24.

**NEW MEMBERS:**

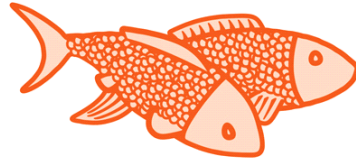
**HOLDREGE FBC:** Shai Christensen and Lynae Urbom

**OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS BC:** Ken and Marian Hightower (transfers from Calvary), Eloise Johnson

**FREMONT FBC:** Lance Griffis and Greg Moorman

**LINCOLN FBC:** Pennie Holthus, Noel Salac

**OMAHA BENSON BC:** Brian Gallagher



**ABC of Nebraska Staff**

Executive Minister.....	Susan Gillies
Area Minister.....	Dave Lundholm
Minister of Mission Support.....	Steve Bils
Director of Camps & Conferences.....	Clarence Reiss
Camp Staff.....	Trudy Reiss, Lou Grotelueschen, Joe Huss, Andrew Kern, Adam Robley, Beverly Pacas, Courtney Hampton, Cynthia Sukut, Danica Hellner, Elizabeth Dietrich, Glynn Brooks, Zachery Moore
Office Manager.....	Sue Gammel
Office Assistant.....	Pat Galloway
Accounting Services.....	Jerry Buss
Volunteer Mission Secretary.....	Judie Heller
Summer Student Volunteer Intern.....	Christy Gammel
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

**Trivia Answers (questions on page 4)**

1. b. Horse Camp was offered for the first time this year at camp.
2. c. There are three amphitheatres at Camp Merrill. The Smith Amphitheatre, the newly designed Tapoothka Campfire area, and the natural amphitheatre near Palmyra Building.
3. b. \$15,000 is the amount needed to fund a room in the new lodge [BUT contributions of all sizes are welcome to help provide this great facility which will serve the camp ministry needs and generate income for camp.]
4. c. North Platte recently opened a new addition.
5. b. Benson is hosting Central Seminary courses.



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