

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



June-July 2005

ABC/NE Date Data

AB Women's Ministries Conference, Camp Merrill, June 3-5.

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 for details

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Prepare to move "Out of the Boat" At This Year's Family Reunion

Every year, American Baptists from across Nebraska gather for an annual time of worship, Bible study, learning, sharing, and fellowship. It's called the Family Reunion and this year it will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney Sept 9-11. The theme is: "Out of the Boat" and is based on Mathew 14:22-36.

Two outstanding speakers will be featured at the reunion. Dr. Jeff Johnson is one of the most energetic leaders in the church today as he teaches more effective methods of outreach. He is National Coordinator for ABC's NET: New Churches, Evangelism, and Transformation. His presentations will be valuable to large and small churches, rural and urban. He will encourage Nebraska Baptists to step "out of the boat" in response to Christ's call to spread the gospel.



Rev. Lisa Harris, Executive Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, will bring mission alive as she shares the work of the ABC Christian Center closest to Nebraska. Rev. Harris began her ministry at Bethel this spring and is already making a difference. She will help Nebraska Baptists to step "out of the boat" in response to Christ's call to ministry with the least, the lonely and the locked-out.

Plan now to attend. It will be a special time of learning, fellowship, celebration and worship. There will be a youth event at Camp Comeca and children's programming at First Baptist of Kearney.

Bob Roberts Returning To Nebraska For August ABMen's Event



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.

ABC in Alaska . . . Being Light in "The Land of the Midnight Sun"

For ten days in April twenty-four American Baptists from Nebraska had the opportunity to see their *America For Christ* dollars at work at several major mission sites throughout Alaska. As part of a larger group which included fourteen from ABC Central Region, they visited Anchorage, Fairbanks, North Pole, Kodiak, and Cordova.

Camp Woody on Woody Island, Kodiak Baptist Mission on Kodiak Island, Cordova Christian Center in Cordova and the Alaska Children's Services in Anchorage all receive extensive attention from the group, which wanted to understand the challenges and joys of ministering in such unNebraska-like settings. They were reminded of the existing Nebraska connections to Alaska when they were greeted at the Kodiak airport by Kelli Wellensiek of Gibbon Baptist and regaled with stories about the summer ministry experiences of Larissa Marine of Benson Baptist and Steven Foreman of First, Fremont.

Dr. Alonzo Patterson, Coordinator of Alaska Ministry for National Ministries and Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Anchorage, arranged for the group to interview the pastors of Alaska and to attend several churches in Fairbanks and the Far North District Assembly (like an association meeting) in North Pole. Tour Hosts Kathy Brown and Steve Bills, Ministers of Mission Support in Central Region and Nebraska, were invited to preach at Mt. Pleasant and Corinthian Baptist Churches in Fairbanks.

Alaska is still an important mission field for American Baptists, according to Dr. Patterson. He describes Alaska as the "land of opportunity" for evangelism. But there are some unique challenges to be faced. "Our winter weather and the long distances between some towns can make communication and fellowship among churches difficult," says Patterson. "Some of our congregations are in remote locations not even accessible by roads."

Pastor Paul Marine of Benson Baptist will be in Alaska this month as a part of his sabbatical, and Steven Foreman is raising money to purchase vans for use in Kodiak. He will be returning to Kodiak with the vans this this summer for another term as a Volunteer in Mission. Kelli Wellensiek will travel to Kearney to graduate from UNK this May before returning to Alaska on a permanent basis.

Those who traveled with this group are available to speak and share their experiences with your church or small group. To schedule a visit from one of them, contact Rev. Steve Bills at the Region Office. For more information on ABC churches and ministries in Alaska, visit www.Shiloh2000.net.



Pastor Leland Foreman (FBC Fremont) braces against the cold with his wife, Jean, at Fort Abercrombie on Kodiak Island.

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

Chadron to Host Sturgis Ministry Enroute Aid Station

Preparations are underway again for this summer's ABC Emergency Services Center ministry in Deadwood, SD. The ABC ESC is a joint mission project of the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and the Dakotas that ministers to participants in the annual motorcycle rallies in Sturgis and the Black Hills.



Pastor Irv Jennings (FBC Arnold) prepares for the ride home after a rewarding few days in Sturgis.

Last year several Nebraska pastors used the Sturgis ministry as a short-term mission trip experience for themselves and members of their congregations.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this summer should contact the Region Office or visit the www.SturgisAid.com web site for information and application materials.

In addition to the nine-day on-site ministry (Aug 6-14) in Deadwood, the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska have added a one-day outreach (Sat, Aug 6) to those traveling through the state to the Black Hills.

Last year Sandy Denton brought the youth group from First Baptist, Lincoln to Arthur and Hyannis to distribute free water, sunscreen and lip balm to bikers making their way northward. Hoping to increase the traffic volume they see, this year, they will be setting up in Chadron. Pastor Rick Wheatley and the folks at First Baptist, Chadron, will be hosting the youth and providing them with meals and lodging during their stay. The youth will be coming up to the Black Hills after worship on Sunday morning and distributing the remainder of their water supply in and around Deadwood on Monday before returning to Lincoln on Tuesday morning.

Due to the anticipated increase in the number of bikers served, the Evangelism Department is establishing a **"Cup of Cold Water in Jesus' Name"** fund at the Region office for churches, Sunday School classes, groups and individuals desiring to help support this year's ministries. Checks should be made payable to ABC Nebraska with "Cold Water" in the memo line.

From the Executive Minister.....Susan Gillies

It's Our Ministry

Someone asked me recently why ABC/NE is continuing to develop Camp Moses Merrill when other regions are closing camps. I think the answer is really important to our understanding of our ministry and mission in Nebraska.

The person was speaking from a position of knowledge. Many ABC regions, and other denominations as well, are getting out of the camping business. The insurance rates have skyrocketed, liability is a serious problem, recruiting volunteers is time consuming and often difficult, camps always need maintenance, background checks have to be done on adults working with children, etc.

If we looked at Camp Merrill just as a business, we'd probably question its on-going viability. But we don't. We look at Camp Merrill as ministry. [And the more we focus on the ministry, the healthier it is getting as a business!]

SUSAN'S TOP TEN:

Here are my top reasons for pouring so much energy into Camp:

1. Most folks make their faith commitments by age 14. Camp Merrill is a special place where children can focus on their faith away from the demands of everyday life.
2. Camp Merrill has been the primary cooperative discipleship development tool of the ABC/NE since the mid 1940s. This is called a proven track record.
3. Camp Merrill is an important way American Baptists across Nebraska invest in the development of Christian leaders.
4. Camp Merrill provides a special place for church retreats, pastor Sabbath retreats, and couple and family retreats.
5. Camp Merrill has tremendous potential to serve as a year-round conference center.
6. Camp Merrill combines training in Christian discipleship, physical activity, living in community, worshipping, personal accountability, Christian fun and encouragement.
7. Camp Merrill is a place for renewal – individual, ABWomen's Ministry, ABMen, churches, youth, children.
8. Camp provides a place to slow down and focus. Our children and youth learn how to develop dedication and commitment skills.
9. Camp Merrill provides "sacred ground" for adults, youth and children to connect with our creator God and learn appropriate stewardship of creation.
10. Camp Merrill is a place that helps us connect with who we are as Christians, as American Baptists, as Nebraska Baptists — learning our ministry and mission history and heritage.

And because this is my list I'm sharing, Camp Merrill is worth the energy because of those who have gone before, setting the example. Names like Endicott, Larsen, Gillies, Gilpin, Howard, Larsen, Nash, Precht and so many others.

A QUESTION OF STEWARDSHIP

The person I referred to in the first sentence of this article was Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, Executive Director of ABC's National Ministries. After his visit to Camp Merrill in April, he wrote these words to his staff at Valley Forge: "It was exciting to me to drive the 60 miles from the airport with Executive Minister Susan Gillies to Camp Moses Merrill and learn more about the tremendous camping ministry there. While many ABC regions are in the process of selling their camps and conference centers because they are no longer able to reach out to youth or because they are threatened by financial liability issues, ABC Nebraska . . . understands that the most opportune moment we have to make an impression on folks is often during their teenage years and that the greatest liability to the church is a question of stewardship and not of law. ABC Nebraska . . . understands that."

Another recent visitor – a person who leads seminars around the country – asked me how much deficit Camp Merrill runs each year. I answered that in 2004 we had no deficit. He was stunned. It was counter to his assumptions about camping ministry. I assured him our people understand the possibilities of this ministry and support it.

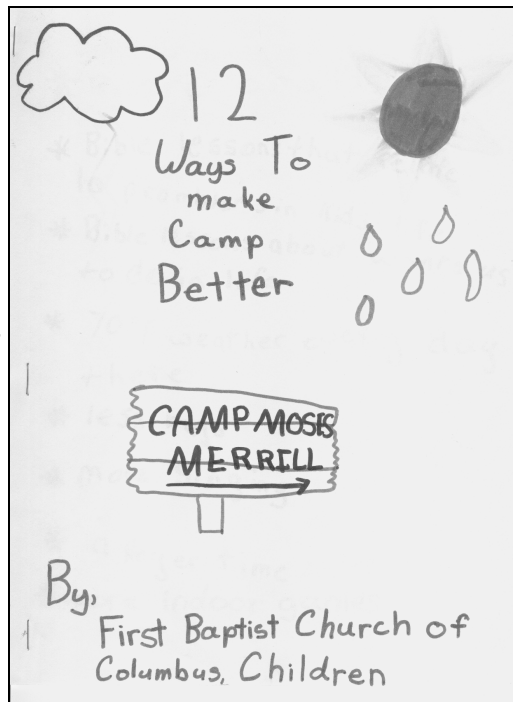
We all know that it is not easy to maintain the ministry of Camp Merrill. Clarence Reiss, our camp director and his wife, Trudy, are giving their lives to this ministry and it takes a huge toll on them. We need a second couple on staff but can't yet afford it. The infrastructure of camp is over 30 years old and needs attention. And in the midst of this, we are building new facilities. Why? Because these buildings will help fund the current ministry and open a multitude of opportunities for new ministry. It's called, being faithful.

THE CHILDREN'S GIFT

In the inset on this page, you see the cover of a booklet prepared for Clarence Reiss by the children of First Baptist, Columbus. At his invitation, they worked on ideas for improving camp. The suggestions range from "more crafts" to "Bible lessons about what God wants us to do in life" to "70 degree weather every day." These children recognize that they are partners in this ministry. The experiences they have at camp will impact their faith experience and practice for the rest of their lives.

YOU ARE A PART OF THIS

You've heard the expression, "To whom much is given, much is expected." ABC/NE has been given much as stewards of this ministry to children, youth and adults at Camp Moses Merrill. Much is expected of us in the way we make use of this camp and camping program for God's glory. Whether you are able to travel to Camp Merrill or not, you are part of this ministry. I thank you for all you've done and all you will do.



A Vow the Vow Testimonial . . .

From *Georgian Kamrath Cordes*

"I discovered the insert for VOW beginning in March. I thought that is a good thing for me to do — so I began and I have mastered all of those. I discovered May's in the Messenger so I am proceeding. Good exercise all week for my mind. I must keep 'young'."



Ed. Note: Georgian Kamrath Cordes is known and loved by many Nebraska Baptists. Her husband Dale Kamrath served churches and the ABC/NE on staff. Her letter was written on May 4, her 90th birthday. She is an inspiration as she challenges the rest of us to take the VOW.

ABC/NE TRIVIA — "INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT"

- Which of the following is not an ABC college?
a. Ottawa; b. Sioux Falls; c. Linfield; d. Grinnell
- Which of the following is not an ABC seminary?
a. Southern; b. Central; c. Eastern; d. Northern
- Which of the following is not ABC affiliated?
a. Murrow Indian Children's Home; b. Indian Creek Retirement Center; c. Maple Crest Care Center; d. Rainbow Acres
- Which of the following historic African-American institutions are not ABC related?
a. Morehouse School of Religion; b. Shaw University; c. Florida Memorial College; d. Howard Univ.
- These AB Homes [Elm Crest, Elsie Mason Manor, Northcrest, Salsbury] are all located in one state, bordering NE. Which state is it?
a. South Dakota; b. Iowa; c. Kansas; d. Wyoming

Answers on Page 8

Vow the VOW! June — July 2005

- June 5 Romans 4:21***
And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
- June 12 Psalm 116:15†**
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
- June 19 Psalm 86:7§**
In the day of my trouble I will call on you, for you will answer me.
-  **June 26 Romans 6:23***
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- July 3 Matthew 11:28†**
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- July 10 Psalm 119:105§**
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- July 17 Romans 8:18†**
I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
-  **July 24 Romans 8:37***
Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- July 31 Psalm 17:5***
Uphold my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip.

*New King James Version †New International Version §New Revised Standard 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:
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Summer Vacation ??

Most folks think of summer as the perfect time for vacations. The dictionary describes vacations as intervals of time devoted to rest or relaxation from work or study.

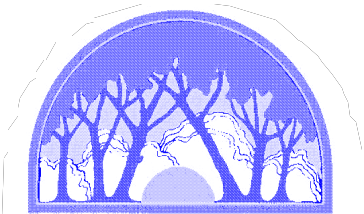
Obviously THE MESSENGER believes in vacations and takes two each year. There is no MESSENGER in July or January.

Plan some time for a vacation this summer whether or not you can go on a trip.

LOW COST VACATION IDEAS:

- A reading day or two. Set aside a day (even a Saturday) for leisure reading. Don't feel guilty — it can be renewal time.
- A day in the park. Plan two meals and fun activities for you and your family or you and a friend. Have devotions, a meal, storytelling, two activities, and another meal.
- Museum visits. Have you been to area museums recently?
- Exploring. Learn about local history and spend a day exploring historic sites.





Camp Moses Merrill News

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 Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639
 E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net
 Website: www.campmerrill.com

INTERESTED IN MAKING A GOOD INVESTMENT?

Volunteers are an important part of life here at Camp, without them some things would not get done. Some ongoing tasks for volunteers are: **Musk Thistle Control, cutting firewood, trimming horse and walking trails or watering flowers.** If you would like to come and work for a day or even half a day that would be great. Another big need that you can help meet from your home is to be in prayer: **pray for Summer Staffers as they develop work skills, pray for energy and leadership skills for Coordinators, Cabin Leaders and Jr. Leaders, pray for safety for all, and most importantly pray that decisions for Christ will be made among our campers.** Our Region Accountant, **Jerry Buss**, is living at camp this summer and assisting with registration and hosting the R.V. Park. **Thanks Jerry!** So, would you like to invest some of your valuable time at camp this summer? Just call us and let us know what you can do and when you can do it.



**BOY SCOUT
 LUCAS STEELE
 of Benson Baptist,
 Omaha,
 develops Tapoothka
 Campfire Site**

The view is fabulous! The seats are benches, no more sitting on the damp ground. Everyone can see the speaker, the campfire, and the setting sun. Worshipping around a camp fire is one of the most inspiring times at camp, and I predict that this will be the favorite campfire site. Thank you, Luke Steel for developing Tapoothka as a project to earn your Eagle Badge Award Good Luck, Luke and God Bless.

2005 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

- June 3-5 AB Women & Girls
- June 6-10 Specialty Camp
(Horse Care & Riding)
- June 12-18 Junior I Camp
- June 19-25 Mid Hi I Camp
- June 26-July 2 Youth Music & Drama
(Grades 7-12)
- July 8-10 Primary Camp I
- July 10-16 Junior II Camp
- July 17-23 Mid Hi II Camp
- July 24-30 Senior Hi Camp
- July 29-Aug 1 Specialty Camp
(Wilderness)
- July 31-Aug 6 Children's Music & Drama
(Grades 4-6)
- Aug 5-7 Primary II Camp
- Aug 12-13 AB Men
- Sept 2-5 Family Camp II

**MAKE CAMP RESERVATIONS EARLY
 AND RECEIVE A DISCOUNT!**

NEW! NEW! NEW!

We are offering two new exciting specialty camps for 2005. The Horse Care & Riding Camp is for horse lovers. The Wilderness Camp will get to camp out and enjoy nature and the camp's backwoods. Contact the Camp or your Pastor for more information.

APRIL GIFTS

Our heartfelt thanks go to:
 Monetary Gifts given by: **Tekamah ABW Ministries, Dave & Linda Lundholm, Southern Union Association, Southern Union ABW Ministries, Brian & Linda Sadler.**
 Gifts of: Rugs - **Lou Grotelueschen**
 Wagon Hoist - **Dick Schepler**
 Circular Saw - **Don Gaines**
 Weekend Hosting - **Karen & Steve Westerfield**
 Thank you for your generous support
GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

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 3)

The first affirmation reads as follows: " *I will hold in trust the traditions and practices of our American Baptist Churches; I will not accept a position in the American Baptist family unless I am in accord with those traditions and practices; nor will I use my influence to alienate my congregation/constituents or any part thereof from its relationship and support of the denomination. If my convictions change, I will resign my position.*"

American Baptist pastor are known by the following traditions and practices:

- ? American Baptists believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and that the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God that serves as the final written authority for living out the Christian faith.
- ? The local church is the fundamental unit of mission. This means local church autonomy.
- ? American Baptists partake of two ordinances: believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- ? American Baptists believe that the committed individual Christian can and should approach God directly, and that individual gifts of ministry should be shared.
- ? American Baptists take seriously the call to evangelism and missionary work.
- ? American Baptists support religious freedom and respect the expressions of faith of others.
- ? American Baptists acknowledge that God's family extends beyond our local churches, and that God calls us to cooperative ministries.
- ? American Baptists have been called to be Christ's witnesses for justice and wholeness within a broken society.

American Baptists celebrate the racial, cultural, and theological diversity represented within its membership.

Pastors who accept a call to one of our ABC-Nebraska churches can be assumed to be in agreement with these traditions and practices.

Pastors agree not to do anything to influence their people to move away from their participation or support of the ABC-USA or ABC-Nebraska.

And pastors agree to resign their position and leave that congregation if their convictions change.

This affirmation is particularly important at this time in the life of our denomination. There are some in the wider ABC family who would make each church a cookie cutter clone of each other church. Although it may drive us just a little bit nuts at times, we are called to celebrate the racial, cultural, and theological diversity represented within our American Baptist family. Again the covenant and code of ethics issues the invitation to reexamine, realign or remove themselves from their position of leadership.

Our traditions and practices define who we are as American Baptists. They are given to our pastors as a trust. May it be that all our ABC-Nebraska pastors will be found faithful to this component of their calling.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

August Deadlines
July 5, 2005 - Print Copy
July 8, 2005 - E-Mail

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ALLIANCE FBC: The annual Teachers' and Christian Education Workers' Dinner was held April 17 at The Final Approach. Each guest was honored with a special gift. Larry Holub and Karl Panwitz provided guitar and violin music. Five FBC representatives attended the Northwest Association meeting in Chadron. Ed Noyes, missionary to the Congo, was the speaker.

ARNOLD FBC: Eleven senior and 10 eighth grade graduates were presented gifts during the morning worship hour on May 1, which was Graduate Day. A community Baccalaureate Service was held at the United Methodist Church that night, with FBC taking part. The mothers received a gift of a plant from Pastor Irv and Melody, and the elementary children presented a

"Tribute to Mothers" on May 8. Ruth Circle held the annual May Breakfast, which was the 41st time for the event, with the theme, "Friends in the Faith." The senior citizens of the church family were honored at a potluck supper on May 15. Vacation Bible School was held May 23-26, with "Wanted! Boys and Girls After Gods Own Heart" as the theme. A special time during VBS was a visit to a working ranch and a ride in a horse-drawn hayrack. Three quilt tops have been given to Camp Merrill for the new housing unit. Darlene Rimpley, who has been church secretary for 25 years, was honored with a plaque and a rose bush on! April 24.

ARTHUR FBC: The Deacons served the evening meal for the High School graduates and

their families between the grade school track meet and the baccalaureate services at the church on May 4th. The graduates were presented with new Bibles. On Mother's Day the Deacons presented each woman with a flower at the close of the worship service. Besides trying to have a special music number each Sunday, we are now accompanied by pastor Keene on the Sax and his wife, Elaine on the flute for the singing of most congregational hymns.

BEATRICE FBC: The graduates were honored on May 1, followed by a potluck dinner. The "40 Days of Purpose" study is going strong, with as many as two home meetings daily. A Men's Breakfast was held on May 14 at Beatrice Inn. The Capitol Association meeting was held at

FBC on April 24.

BROKEN BOW FBC: Rev. Frank Gillett of Sioux City, Iowa, who was born in Scotland, and his wife, Delores, have arrived to take the role of interim pastor. A fellowship dinner to welcome the Gilletts was held May 22. The parsonage was painted prior to the arrival of the new pastor. A breakfast was held to honor the graduating seniors on May 15. Dorothy Pracht recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Glen and Opal Buchta joined 38 others from Nebraska and Kansas to tour ABC work in Alaska.

COLUMBUS FBC: A 125th Anniversary Special Service was held on May 22. Preceding that a catered anniversary dinner was served. The mothers were honored on Mother's Day, with each receiving a gift. Lydia and Dorcas Circles furnished cookies for the Bloodmobile on two separate days, and Dorcas Circle furnished snacks for Youth For Christ one night.

CHADRON FBC: Senior Bacculaureate was held on May 8 at Chadron High School, with the students doing music and song specials. The National Day of Prayer observance was held at FBC on May 5. The ladies held a salad luncheon on May 19.

FREMONT FBC: Ray and Norma Johnson recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The ABW held a salad luncheon on May 5, with installation of officers and a memorial service following. The tables were set with the a place setting of the attendees' favorite china service. The graduates were honored at a breakfast on May 22. A celebration of Pastor Walt Hickman's 50th anniversary of his ordination was held at an open house on May 15. Mission Sunday was held on May 29, with speakers telling of the mission work in Mexico.

FAIRBURY FBC: An excursion to Camp Merrill was taken May 1. A reception was held to honor the 2005 graduates immediately following worship on May 15. The graduating seniors, along with three sponsors, spent from May 22-25 in Eureka Springs, AR, as a memory making trip. A Memorial Service on honor of the members and friends who passed away in 2004 was held on May 29.

GIBBON BC: Graduates were honored during the worship service on May 15. FBC has volunteered as the Gibbon Public School's evacuation site in case of weather, etc.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: The April meeting of the Faith, Hope, and Charity Circle a demonstration of making very thin bread by stretching it over a round pillow before baking was given. The FBC Men have some exciting events planned, which included Dick Gee giving a PowerPoint presentation on astronomy.

HASTINGS FBC: An elevator, which will take people to all three levels of the church, has been recently installed and is in use. The ABWM donated a new chandelier light fixture for the entry. The church held a yard sale on April 30, with the proceeds going to help with the Senior High Youth Summer Trip.

HOLDREGE FBC: Recipes are being gathered

for a church cookbook in observance of the 125th church anniversary. ABWM held a salad luncheon on May 12. The high school graduates were honored during the May 1 morning worship service, with a banquet honoring them following. Bacculaureate was held on May 8 at the Bethel Lutheran Church.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: The women presented the skit "A Woman's Flight Through Life" during the worship service on Mother's Day. The JCC Actors presented the play, "Mystery at Montley Manor" at May 21 and 22.

LAVISTA JUDSON BC: May started off with the celebration of National Family Week. On May 4 we held an AWANA Fun Fair. National Day of Prayer was observed as well as Friendship Day. Dollars were collected on Mother's Day in honor or memory of mothers that will be used to purchase blankets through Church World Service for families in need. A reception was held for our high school and college graduates. A new slogan has been chosen for our Judson Children's Ministries it is "Be a LIGHTHOUSE for a child." The entire congregation is encouraged to be a LIGHTHOUSE for a child inside and outside of the church. The final architectural plans for our expansion program were presented to the congregation. In June we are looking forward to a visit by members of the First Kachin Baptist Church who will sing during our worship service. An all-church picnic will be held during La Vista Days. Judson will also be participating in the La Vista Days Prayer Walk, with members of several other denominations. The Judson youth are planning a trip to Worlds of Fun. With a very wild theme of Serengeti Trek, plans are underway for our summer VBS program.

LINCOLN FBC: Rev. Don Gaines was honored at a "Third Time's a Charm" Retirement Party on May 1. Pies (Pastor Don's favorite dessert) were a main feature, and a love gift was presented to him. A Capitol Association Men's golf tourney was held on May 14. The Men's Team sponsored a day of fishing for the families and friends of FBC at Wagon Train Lake on May 21. Prizes were given for the fishing contests, and lots of good food was enjoyed. The Middle/High School youth held a family night on May 7 at Chatwells. A youth lock-in was held on May 20.

LINCOLN SBC: In May, ABC Mission trip to Alaska experiences were shared by participant travelers Marilyn Waldron and Michelle Bean, the AB Men honored Mothers with a special Coffee Hour, the Weekly Pre-School Committee began an enrollment recruitment program of Pre-School children for the coming school year; a SAM (Senior Adult Ministries) luncheon was held, followed with entertainment by Mr. Mark Lehl, gospel & country music songwriter and guitarist; PENTECOST was observed with "RED" throughout the Church. Following the Worship Service the C/E Board sponsored a Sandwich Bar/Safety Awareness Workshop. The Rev. John Odell was a guest speaker. The Men's Softball team continued to play tournament games every Tuesday eve; the evening Women's Bible Study completed their study of Beth Moore's book, "When Godly People Do Ungodly Things" followed by an evening out for fellowship and dessert; the newly formed Cru-

saders group (ages 45+) enjoyed a progressive dinner together; the youth held a Bake Auction fundraiser. The Youth Praise team continues to practice and share their music during Sunday worship services periodically; a trip to Kansas City was enjoyed by the Young Family Ministries Group.

McCOOK FBC: The ABW held a salad luncheon on May 3 for men and women, with guest speaker Ward Foley of Norton, KS. Mr. Foley had numerous birth defects and more than 30 corrective surgeries, but has bicycled across the United States and Canada, and accomplished many other feats - all of which he attributes to God's goodness. A potluck dinner was held on May 22 to honor the graduates.

NORTH PLATTE FBC: The ABW North Platte Association held their spring rally at FBC on April 30. Becky Jones has resigned as youth pastor due to a move to Lincoln. To end her term the group had a "blast" at her home on May 1, which included a slide show of their memories and a Senior Salute. The church cookbooks, which were a money-raiser for the youth, are now being distributed. A food drive for the Salvation Army was very successful.

NORFOLK FBC: The Operation Christmas Child project is underway as church family begins to collect items for the shoeboxes. The ABW made 12 health bags for the rescue mission. The Women's Spring Banquet was held on May 12. The men served at the rescue mission on May 26.

OMAHA BENSON BC: A KIDS family picnic was held on May 13. The graduates were honored on May 22 during worship, with a reception following. A baptism service was held at Front Lines (youth group) meeting, when Tiffany asked to be baptized among her close friends that she worshipped with on Tuesday nights. A 50-year member, Robert Thomas, passed away recently. Marjorie Steele celebrated her 80th birthday on May 7.

OMAHA PARKSIDE BC: Money from the Larry Helms Memorial Fund was given to the AB Men of Nebraska to help purchase safety equipment for the disaster trailer. The women and girl's salad luncheon was held on May 7.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS BC: Graduates were honored during worship on May 22. A church Memorial Day Breakfast was held at the House of Pancakes on May 30. Svetlana Rodionova's final service as pianist was May 29. She and her husband, Matt Patton, are moving to Spain. Arlene Deerson has led an adult Sunday school class study on Max Lucado's book, "Next Door Savior." A spring workday April 16 included many projects inside and out. *Forgiven* presented a program May 2 at The Landing in Lincoln, sang the national anthem at the Omaha Royals game May 7 as part of a church event with nearly 40 attending, and will provide music at Camp Merrill on Memorial Day. Interim Pastor Bob Molby has been recovering from an illness and hospitalization. Pastor Emeritus Palmer Swenson is recovering from surgery. Vacation Bible School is set for July 18-23.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

OXFORD FBC: Our adult Sunday school classes are enjoying a class on witnessing to others. We currently have three separate Bible studies. A women's Bible study on Wednesday mornings and on Wednesday evenings we have a Bible study for the men and one for the women.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: Rev. Ed Noyes, missionary to the Congo, was the guest speaker on May 1. "Talent Night" was held May 15. An Outreach Youth Ministry has been started, with Todd and Nancy Rasnic as leaders. The painting, "The Last Supper" has been placed in the fellowship hall in honor of Fred and Lucy Garcia's 40th wedding anniversary. Quilt blocks for the "Marines' Comfort Quilt Project" were signed by parishioners on May 8. Mothers were honored during the worship service on Mother's Day. The Mary Martha Circle is collecting nerf balls and ping-pong balls for the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Graduates were honored on May 22.

TEKEMAH FBC: Senior Recognition was held on May 1. A pastoral search committee has been formed. The summer schedule is Sunday school at 9:00 am and worship at 10:00 am. Block retaining walls will replace the old railroad ties. Food Pantry Sunday was May 22, with paper and non-perishable food items being given to restock the community food pantry. FBC delivered Meals on Wheels May 9-13.

NEW MEMBERS:

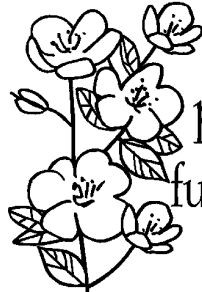
BEATRICE FBC: Ashley Cross

HOLDREGE FBC: Jaron Anderson, Zechariah Ashley, Marvin Ebinger, Mike Majors

OMAHA BENSON BC: Karen Patterson, Renee Tatum, Vern Forbes

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS BC: Christina Larsen, Creath Karlen, Doug & Jean Larsen and Joshua, Charles & Dorothy Hamilton

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: Miriam Brown, Dorothy Lundgren



In your presence
fullness of
joy. Ps 16:11

ABC of Nebraska Staff

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

Trivia Answers:

1. d. Grinnell is not ABC.
2. a. Southern is not ABC.
3. b. Indian Creek is fictitious.
4. d. Howard is not currently ABC.
5. b. The listed facilities are in Iowa.



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