

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



May 2005

ABC/NE Date Data

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

Clergy Seminar, CMM, May 2-4.

ABC Emergency Services Center,
Sturgis, SD, August 6-13. See
www.SturgisAid.com for details

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Dedication on Memorial Day for Camp Merrill Conference Center



The Conference Center addition to Friendship Chapel at Camp Moses Merrill will be dedicated in a service on Memorial Day, May 30, at 2:00pm. The Annual Memorial Day Picnic will be held at noon.

The Conference Center is connected to the chapel and provides bathrooms, a meeting room, a serving kitchen, a small office and a lobby area. Later, a lodge with sleeping rooms will be added to the complex. The entrance to the Conference Center will also serve as the entrance to the lodge.

"The Conference Center will be a blessing to the ministry of Camp Merrill," according to ABC/NE Executive Minister Susan Gillies. "Expanding our year-round conferencing capacity, will enable us to support expanded ministry."

All Nebraska Baptists and friends of Camp Merrill are invited to join in the Memorial Day Service and Conference Center Dedication.

AB Women's Conference Features National Women's President

Lois Chiles, National President of American Baptist Women's Ministries, will be the featured speaker at Women's Conference at Camp Moses Merrill June 3-5, 2005. The theme of the conference is "Having Your Feet Shod With the Gospel of Peace." The theme scripture is Ephesians 6:1-5. [Registration information on page 4.]

The women's conference is a unique opportunity for ABC/NE women to come together for spiritual refreshment, relaxation, study and growth.

The conference will have several special features including a talent night. Women are encouraged to sing, read a poem, whistle or demonstrate hidden talents they'd like to share. Another feature is a time for book reviews. Conferees will have the opportunity to share about a book they've read recently. Women are asked to bring items for a silent auction to raise money for AB Girls. Also bring snacks to share and items for Mission Project/Health Kits.

**ABC/NE Family Reunion will be September 9-11
at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney.
The Reunion features: Great Speakers, Great Learning
Opportunities, Great Music, Great Fellowship.
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**

From the Executive Minister.....Susan Gillies

May is my favorite month of the year, perhaps because it is the month of my birthday. Or it could be because it was in May that the Golden Spike was driven at Promontory Point, Utah, completing the transcontinental railroad. (1869, I think) Or maybe I like May because so many growing things bloom in May.

Birthdays are a symbol of slow, steady change. The railroad being completed across the country caused a dramatic change in American life. And, in terms of growing things, blooming represents the ongoing life cycle — change, change, change.

In contemporary literature about church growth and church vitalization, we read about change. Sociologists and psychologists talk about the inevitability and impact of change. Church leaders are supposed to be talking about change and how to handle it. I've written about change. It seems that everyone is calling on us to recognize the need for change — get over our fear of change — open our arms to change. I'm in favor of all of this.

BUT, it's also true that some things change very little and sometimes that's a good thing. The month of May is always spring. The sun comes up in the east and goes down in the west. And every single time I've visited Estes Park, Colorado,

since I was five years old, Hallet's Peak, Otis Peak and Taylor Peak have been in exactly the same place looking the same way (with more or less snow depending on the season).

The best "no change" of all is that God loves us . . . whether we are kind or rude, whether we are happy or sad, whether we are working hard or feeling lazy; whether we succeed or fail; whether we've got our interpretation of scripture straight or sideways. And following God's example, we love our families whether they make sense or not.

But, then . . . In our church family . . . Is our love steady? Do we love through disagreements? Do we love through different approaches to challenges?

We believe that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Do we strive for that kind of love for each other?

We are called to undergird our life together with steady, unchanging, inspired God-like love. And this kind of love makes it possible for us to get through (and even transform) the rapid-fire change that is all around us. God loves us and will be with us always. That simply doesn't change. And we are challenged to love each other and all God's children.



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

Effective Evangelism Through Intentional Clarity

I have been in vocational ministry for the past twenty-five years. In that time I have taught evangelism at two different colleges, worked as the executive director of a parachurch ministry that focused on evangelism, served as a Minister of Outreach, chaired the ABC/NE Department of Evangelism, and currently serve as the Evangelism Associate for Nebraska and the Dakotas on the ABC National Ministries Evangelism Team.

A good working definition of evangelism that I like to use is "communicating the truth of the gospel effectively." The operative word here being "communicating." Too often I see folks with a keen grasp of the doctrine of salvation unable to communicate the gospel clearly. In 1 Corinthians 14:8,9 the Apostle Paul touches on this theme of clarity when he says, "For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air." Even after he had been preaching the gospel for over twenty years, he still asked the church at Colosse to pray for clarity in his presentation of the gospel in Colossians 4:4, "Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

Communicating the gospel with clarity is something that we should never take for granted. It takes intentionality and effort to communicate spiritual truth to the unchurched. In Ephesians 2:8,9 Paul explains to the Ephesian believers that it is "by grace that you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Salvation is the gift of God (not a reward) that we receive by faith alone, apart from any good works on our part.

The penalty for the sin which separated us from God and condemned us to eternity apart from Him was completely paid by our substitute, Jesus. Having paid the fine imposed by the judge, Jesus makes the sole condition of obtaining the pardon abundantly clear in John 3:18, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed."

We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone. This is where we sometimes see the ambiguity creep into the typical presentation of the gospel. Jesus tells us that "he who believes in Me has everlasting life." (John 6:47). Yet sometimes we see invitations to respond to the gospel using words like, "let Jesus into your heart" or "give your heart to Christ." How does that communicate clearly that all we can do to receive eternal life is to believe, or trust, Christ for it? It doesn't, especially not to the unchurched; not to those untutored in the language of the church. I have heard otherwise clear presentations of the gospel conclude with an invitation to "accept Christ" or "come to Christ" but with no explanation of *how you do that* — by believing.

Paul's example of emphasizing "not of works" is instructive to us who want to be clear. We must work to avoid leaving the impression that we contribute in any way to our salvation by our works.

Please pray for me, as I pray for you, that "we may proclaim it clearly, as we should!"

Tomorrow's Harvest Moves to Next Stage

The local church renewal process known as Tomorrow's Harvest helps churches become more disciplined spiritually as they seek the renewal of their ministry. For the last three years, four ABC/NE churches have participated in the process with two Iowa churches, one Minnesota church and three South Dakota churches. Pastor Joan Stewart, Parkside, Omaha, said: "We don't see ourselves the way God sees us. As Dick Sutton reminded us, God called Gideon 'mighty warrior,' while Gideon only saw himself and his people as being oppressed by the Midianites (Judges 6). We might be involved in a new thing prompted by God and not recognize it. We need to pray for more awareness of his work in our midst and be willing to respond"

"We feel that Tomorrow's Harvest has been a catalyst for the renewal that has taken place in our church."
— Pastor Gary Winget, Holdrege

The final regular gathering of the group of churches was held April 1-2 at Camp Moses Merrill. Dr. Richard Sutton, who had initiated the process, returned to lead worship for the final weekend. He directed small church ministries for ABC's National Ministries until his retirement two years ago. Dr. Harry Riggs, Congregational Transformation specialist, was also present. He has led the group since Sutton's retirement.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Churches that have been a part of Tomorrow's Harvest will continue the renewal strategies they have learned. In six months there will be a conference call to see how things are going.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHURCH?

The invitation is open for other ABC/NE churches to participate in a new cluster of churches. The commitment is for three years. Contact ABC/NE if your church is interested.

HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH VOW THE VOW ?

The Verse of the Week challenge is well underway with Nebraska Baptists memorizing scripture. The procedure is to memorize the verse of the week and recite it to a friend who serves as your accountability partner. Once you have completed the month (or two month) form, return it to the office. Those who do well will be honored at the Family Reunion in September.

What If You Haven't Started Yet?

It's never too late. Just start with the May verses and go from here. If you only memorize two verses for the month, send the form in anyway with a check mark next to the verses you memorized.

Don't worry if you memorized verses in January and then missed Feb. Just pick up at any point and continue.

Memorizing one verse a month is great. Two is terrific. Three is extraordinary-traordinary. Four or more is stupendous.



Vow the VOW! May 2005

May 1 1 Peter 3:15*

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.

May 8 Matt 5:6*

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

May 15 Psalm 104:33^S

I will sing to the LORD all my life; as long as I live I will sing praises to my God.

May 22 Psalm 8:9*

O LORD, our LORD, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

May 29 Romans 3:28*

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

*New King James Version ^SToday's English 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

Thailand Tour for American Baptists

Nebraska's Amy Baer, is inviting Nebraska Baptists to join a Discovery Team trip to Thailand June 18-July 2, 2005. The tour will visit schools and churches of ABC mission partners; build relationships with Thai children and youth by helping them practice English skills; and provide VBS-type ministry.

Amy Baer is a member of First Baptist Church of Chadron and currently a student at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. Amy writes: "One goal of this Discovery Team is to become acquainted with different cultures within Thailand. Another goal is to meet local young people and to build relationships with them through leading English language activities at schools and other locations. The team will be exposed to both urban and rural life and the challenges each brings to the people living there. **We will also attempt to visit with young people and their families in Phuket where the recent Tsunami hit.** The various exposures throughout Thailand will provide the opportunity for the team to meet a number of students as well as ABC missionaries, ministries and Christian leaders. There will be opportunities for shopping and sightseeing at various times throughout the trip."

Ten persons are needed to make up the team. The cost per person is \$1050 plus airfare.

For more information contact Amy at ambaer@sbcglobal.net or call her at (913) 909-3209. Additional information may be found at www.abc-usa.org [Click on International Ministries, then on Discovery Teams and scroll down to Thailand.]

Christian Grandparenting Can Refresh Churches

Churches are beginning to discover the power of Christian Grandparenting and Great-Grandparenting.

Grandparenting, at its best, is all about affirmation and encouragement. When people are affirmed and encouraged they feel better and are more productive. Think of what could happen in a church if the persons the age of grandparents began a vigorous program of affirming and encouraging younger folks for the purpose of building stronger Christians.

Ideas that are being developed:

1. Have an "adopt-a-grandparent" program. Anyone without a grandparent in the community can adopt one.
2. Study groups of grand-parent or great-grandparent age persons meet to develop skills at affirmation and encouragement.
3. Inter-generational activities that include story-telling, table games, talent shows.
4. Set up prayer partnerships between a young person (age 6-14) and an older person (age 65-80 for example). At church each Sunday they can give their partner a prayer request for the week ahead.

Share your ideas for Christian Grandparenting with THE MESSENGER. Send to 6404 Maple St., Omaha, NE 689104.

UPDATE:

Churches Helping Churches

The ABC/NE Churches Helping Churches Initiative is beginning to take form with data gathering being done by staff on the NEW LIFE CARAVAN. As suspected, it is not unusual to find evidence of ABC/NE churches supporting each other currently. The Caravan is brainstorming with congregations about new ways to expand the relationships among churches. Many ideas are being generated.

In the first Caravan journey in March, congregations suggested ideas as wide apart as having lay teams travel to another church to share faith stories, to having one church help another get rid of pigeons! There were many great ideas between the two!

"Children to Children" Bible School Projects

As planning is underway for Bible School, churches are invited to consider projects that can connect children in ABC/NE churches to the wider mission.

"Children to Children" Mission Projects help children in VBS connect with the needs of other children. At the same time, they can learn about American Baptist mission.

Consider a project to assist Greater St. John Missionary Baptist in Omaha to have a neighborhood VBS. Or, assist an ABC Christian Center serving children in need, such as Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City www.bethelcenter.org; Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma, or Kodiak Baptist Mission. For more information, contact Steve Bills in the ABC/NE office or Victoria Goff at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2073, or vgoff@abc-usa.org.



Women's Conference Registration Information

If you would like to attend the Jun 3-5 conference, a non-refundable deposit of \$10 is due by May 25. There is a late fee of \$5.00.

Conference Costs:

Friday only (1 meal) . . . \$10

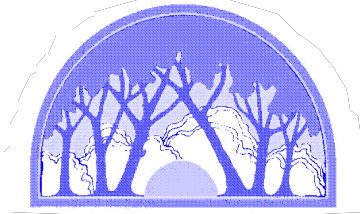
Fri. night and Sat. (1 night, 4 meals . . . \$50

Saturday only (3 meals) . . . \$40

Sat. all day and Sunday (1 night, 4 meals) . . . \$50

Total conference 2 nights, 5 meals \$70

Send deposit or full amount to Vera Duncan, 715 N. Cen-



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

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND-YOU GOTTA COME!!

Camp Moses Merrill is the place to be for Memorial Day Weekend. Several housing options are available: bring your R.V., pitch a tent, camp out under the stars or rent a cabin. To start off the weekend **Family Camp I** participants will be gathering on Friday evening, May 27th. **Family Camp** provides a place for families to spend quality time together and also fellowship with other families. Structured activities are available plus plenty of free time to swim, hike or relax. Sunday morning **Worship Services** will be held in the Chapel; what a lovely place to worship our God, the Creator! To show our appreciation for your support we will again be serving hamburgers and hot dogs to all our friends at the **Annual Picnic**, Monday, May 30. We hope you can come. The cook-out will be followed with the **Dedication of the Conference Center**. You must come and see the conference center. What a wonderful facility to hold small group retreats; close cabin access, meals can be catered by the kitchen staff and inside restrooms (yea!), We encourage Churches, Families and Christian Organizations to take advantage of this facility and put it to use. For more information concerning reservations call the ABC/NE Office in Omaha or Camp Moses Merrill. See you at Camp. **NEEDED:** Volunteers to help with ground preparation and landscaping around the Conference Center and to insulate the basement walls.



2005 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

May 27-30	Family camp I
May 30	Memorial Day Picnic
May 30-June 3	Project Camp
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

We ask you to be in prayer for all who come to camp, for the Campers as they participate, for the Leaders as they guide the Campers in their spiritual walk. Thank You!

MAKE CAMP RESERVATIONS EARLY AND RECEIVE A DISCOUNT!

MARCH GIFTS

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

Those individuals and churches that support Camp financially on a monthly basis!

Stan and Nola Oberhelman-Monetary Gifts in honor of Helen Redman's 90th birthday, and in honor of the Garrett's 50th Anniversary. **Ted Minarick (Bluff Sand & gravel)**-Sand/Salt Spreader Trailer.

Monetary Gifts: **Rev. Don Gaines** for Chain Saw, **Second Baptist Church, Lincoln**, and **Sunset Hills Baptist Church**.

Kevin Holloway-Video Adaptor **Bob Fairchild (NE Wesleyan)**-Computer Monitor

Stacy and Lane Soukup-Stainless Steel Mesh Hardware **Mark Raasch**-Fill-in speaker for camp promotion

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 2)

The second paragraph of the covenant reads as follows: " *In affirmation of this commitment, I will abide by the Code of Ethics of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches and I will faithfully support its purposes and ideals. As further affirmation of my commitment, I covenant with my colleagues in ministry that we will hold one another accountable for fulfillment of all the public actions set forth in our Code of Ethics.*"

The paragraph begins by affirming that the minister intends to be faithful to follow the twelve affirmations in the paragraphs that follow. What is indicated here is not a wooden compliance with the affirmations, but an approach that is thoughtful and adaptive, looking to the purposes behind the affirmations and supportive of the goals of the affirmations. (This will be easier to understand in future columns when we look at the affirmations themselves.)

The paragraph goes on to talk about accountability. Pastors are mutually accountable. There is no such thing as a "lone ranger." Given our strong belief in local church autonomy, we could expect to hear, "I am the pastor here. It's none of their (other regional pastors) business what I do." But in fact it is our business what our colleagues do. What happens in one church effects us all. What happened in the past effects us now. What happens in the present affects the future.

So we take a thoughtful and adaptive approach to the affirmations of the covenant and we are called to hold each other accountable.

Next time we will look at the first affirmation.

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

June Deadlines

May 9, 2005 - Print Copy

May 13, 2005 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor

Darlene RIMPLEY

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E-Editor

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Subject: Messenger

ARNOLD FBC: The Custer Association Meeting was held at FBC on April 17. Pastor Irv, Matt Coleman and Alasha Jennings told of their trip to Ghana, West Africa. A baby shower was held for the Women's Resource Center in North Platte, and baby bottles were filled with change to go to the same mission. The church united with the community in a "Celebration of Prayer and the Power of God" on April 24. The afternoon was comprised of workshops, times of prayer, and was followed by a supper.

BROKEN BOW FBC: A committee has been formed to begin the search for a new pastor. A gift of 35 packets of garden seeds was mailed to Mike Mann at his mission in Thailand.

CHADRON FBC: Rev. Richard Wheatley attended the Men's Retreat in Arnold Apr 9-10, where he told of the mission of the Foundation of Africa Missions. The Northwestern Association meeting was held at FBC on April 30, with Ed Noyes, and ABC missionary in the Congo as the main speaker. Family Game Night was held on April 23.

COLUMBUS FBC: The York Association Meeting was held at FBC on April 3. A

fundraiser for 200 new hymnals has begun. Care packages to the college students and military personnel were sent. Members helped deliver Meals on Wheels April 4th and 8th.

FAIRBURY FBC: "The Table Treasures" Dinner was held on April 25 for the church women and heir guests, with the theme "Remember When?" A group of the church family took a "Camp Moses Merrill Excursion" on May 1. Youth Director Jessica attended the youth specialties conference, The Core, in Omaha on April 2. A breakfast was held on the morning after the Prom for the prom goers and their dates.

FREMONT FBC: The older van was donated to the Sudanese Baptist Church in Omaha. Nine persons spent from April 12-22 at Alaskan mission stations. A 30 Hour Famine was observed April 29-30. "Hats Off to Ladies" was the theme of the All Daughters Brunch on April 9, with speaker Marti Bloes. Several of the youth are doing yard work, car washing, or other jobs to earn money for the youth work. The FBC youth sent \$300 to the Thailand Lahu Baptist Convention to help pay the tuition of four students at the Lahu bible Institute. At the present time the youth are raising money to help purchase the van that

Stephen Foreman is will take to Kodiak Baptist Mission, and the youth are sponsoring a child through the Compassion International.

GIBBON BAPTIST CHURCH: A Gibbon BC/Ruth Ice scholarship is being awarded to graduating seniors who have been active in the FBC life and activities. The AWANA Fun Finale was held on April 27.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: The Installation service for Dr. Charles Gregory was held April 17. Sew-ins continue to be held every Tuesday morning. The Grand Island Association ABW meeting was held at FBC on April 4.

HOLDREGE FBC: Pastor Jim and Anne McVicar, who pastored at FBC formerly and has taken a medical retirement, were honored at a reception at FBC on April 3. The ABWM served the Holdrege Memorial Homes Birthday party on April 1. The Kick-off for the 125th Anniversary celebration of FBC potluck and bazaar was held April 24.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: The Southern Union Association Meeting was held at JCC on April 3with Clarence Reiss reporting on Camp Moses Merrill events. A Women's Birthday Party was held April 6,

with "scrap booking" being the main event of the evening. The Dorcas and Ruth Circles toured the Crossroads Center facility at Hastings on April 13.

LAVISTA, JUDSON BC: Palm crosses were given to those attending Palm Sunday Worship Services. 21 Easter Baskets were filled with goodies and delivered to our shut-ins. Easter morning our record breaking assembly was treated to the over 100 year traditional Easter garden, with plants given in honor and memory of loved ones. Our Easter offering will go to help send youth and adults to camp this summer. Before the Easter services ended, everyone went outside and formed a prayer circle to ask God to lead and direct us in our endeavor to expand our building. Five members went to Maple Crest to help with the bingo games and to give out prizes. The Missions Groups put on a skit in March stressing the importance of Baptist Missions and giving to the America for Christ offering. Gingersnaps the Clown visited the Judson women at their Spring Fling. In April storage shed is being built on our property. Plans have been put in progress for VBS. The theme this year is "Serengeti Trek."

LINCOLN FBC: Pastor Donald Gaines has submitted his resignation as interim pastor of FBC, effective April 30. He will move to Wichita, Kansas in July. The annual mother/daughter friends' brunch was held on April 16, with Rev. Renae Odell as the speaker. The youth have been busy: they traveled to Council Bluffs to see Casting Crowns, Chris Tomlin, and Steven Curtis Chapman in late March, had a paint day on April 9, and held an overnighter at the sponsor's homes on April 23-24. A video projection system has been installed. April 9 was Family Movie Night, A "Fishing Show" was held on April 16, at which time the men viewed a film on how to Fillet a Pike, and made plans for a fishing trip in June. FBC family participated in the City Wide Servanthood Day on April 23.

MCCOOK FBC: Church members attended a Children's Ministry Workshop at the E-Free Church on April 23. A potluck dinner was held on April 17, which is the 113th anniversary of FBC.

NORFOLK FBC: The church will be paying 50% of a camper's fee this year. A Ministry Fair was held on April 10, followed by a finger food lunch. The ABW group visited at the Meadows and served cookies and coffee on April 14. A Celebration Sunday was held on April 24, which ended the "40 Days of Community".

NORTH PLATTE FBC: The Ladies' Night Out was a "Spring Fling" on April 29.

OMAHA BENSON BAPTIST: Game Night was held on April 17, when "Name That Tune" was played (their own version). A Prayer Pal Party was held on April 25, when the women's prayer pals were revealed. A 54-

year member of BBC, Mable Andrews, passed away March 12. Pastor Paul Marine will be taking a six-week sabbatical beginning May 2. He will include travel to the AB Mission at Kodiak, Alaska as part of his time off. The youth participated in "Project Serve" on March 19, which was a neighborhood ministry.

OMAHA FBC: A "paper-recycling project" has begun at FBC, where any programs, bulletins, etc. that the church might be throwing away will be collected and recycled. A Lay Appreciation Sunday Celebration was held on April 17, honoring the many members of the congregation who serve and minister. A Ladies Night Out Salad Supper was held on April 29. Members of FBC volunteer at the Tip Top Thrift Store, whose proceeds go to The Uta Halee Girls Home, which is help for troubled girls and their families.

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: The Omahaland ABWM quarterly meeting was held at Maple Crest Center on April 9, where Kip Michelson presented a program of oratory and music, BINGO was played, and Welcome Bags were given to the residents.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: A Christian Education Appreciation Day was held on April 24 where Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders were honored during the morning worship service and at a dinner following. Wednesday night soup suppers were held during April.

TEKAMAH FBC: The church will pay 75% of a camper's fee to Camp Moses Merrill for those associated with the church. A low interest loan is available for seniors and college students.

SUPERIOR FBC: The church celebrated its 125th anniversary with special events April 16-17.

TECUMSEH FBC: Special Missions Sunday was held April 10, where slides were shown on a mission trip to Jamaica and a film on an Alaska camp. Pastor Hugh attended a rural pastor's convention in Illinois from April 18-20. An International potluck dinner was held on April 3.

OXFORD FBC: Good Friday services were held and well attended. Easter Sunrise services were held at our city park, sharing worship with the Methodist Church. Breakfast was served at the Baptist Church following the Sunrise service. Easter services were held at our regular worship time with a large number in attendance. Joy Circle hosted a guest night, inviting women of other churches. Donna Fletcher was our guest speaker. New playground equipment has been installed in the fenced in playground south of the church.



NEW MEMBERS:

FREMONT FBC: Kaity Bonow, Mikala Howard, Miranda Howard, Tammy Tithaler, Rosa Snow
OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: Christina Larsen, Creath Karlen
ALLIANCE FBC: Jeff Rowe, Krystin Rowe, Mallory Rowe, Marcus Rowe, Verna Rebillet, Velma Hallesy
HOLDREGE FBC: Barbara Carpenter, Bekah Kinnaman, Tina Wiese, Daryn Wood
LAVISTA, JUDSON: Peggy Stephens Jim and Kathy Koppenhaver
Robert, Nancy and Tasha Prusia
OMAHA BENSON: Karen Patterson
TECUMSEH FBC: Elijah Lade, Zach Lade, Justin Martin, Olivia Roddy

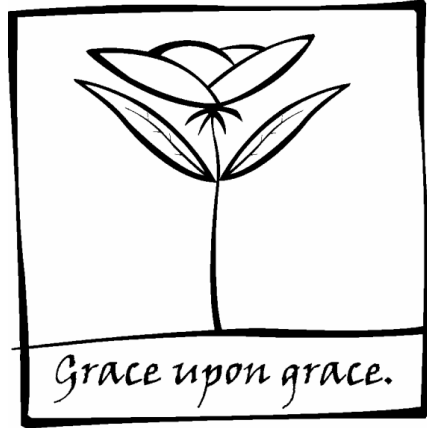
ABC/NE Trivia

1. What significance does "Lone Star" have in ABC/NE history?
A. Name of a mission, B. name of a cabin at Fullerton, C. name of a cabin at Linwood, D. name of a new church plant.
2. When was the Nebraska Baptist State Convention organized?
A. 1857, B. 1867, C. 1877, D. 1887
3. What was the original site of the Baptist College of NE?
A. Gibbon, B. Grand Island, C. Lincoln, D. Omaha
4. Who was Dr. Catherine Mabie?
A. First woman pastor in NE, B. ABC missionary, C. ABC President, D. ABC author
5. The ABC/NE Carpenter Fund provides money for what purpose?
A. Youth retreats, B. pastoral education, C. region convention, D. camp building projects

Note from Pastor Rick Wheatley of Chadron and Glen Dappen of AB-Men: Coming in 2006: Mission Work Trip to Ghana, West Africa, to build school classrooms, January 16-30. Need 15-20 willing workers. More to come later . . .

ON-LINE GIVING

Would your church like to accept tithes, offerings, or donations online? As a service to churches, ABC-USA is developing the capability by which churches can accept online donations from members and friends. ABC needs your help to make sure they offer the most effective and helpful program. Please assist them by filling out a survey available at www.abc-usa.org or passing the link along to local church pastors, treasurers, or trustees.



Trivia Answers

1. b. There was a cabin at Camp Merrill-Fullerton named "Lone Star."
2. b. The Nebraska Baptist State Convention was organized April 30, 1867.
3. a. The site of the Baptist college was Gibbon.
4. b. Dr. Mabie was an ABC missionary who spent nearly 50 years in the Congo. A cabin at Camp Merrill-Fullerton was named for her.
5. b. The Carpenter Fund provides money for pastoral education.

Make plans now to Attend the ABC-USA Biennial Convention

DENVER July 1-3

Registration materials in IN MISSION magazine or online www.abc-usa.org

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

Maple Crest Care Center is looking for Volunteers

willing to be trained to assist or supervise resident activities mornings, afternoons, or evenings during the week or on the weekend. We are also looking for volunteers to donate fabric and time to sew "saddle bags" and lap robes. Samples are available.

Contact: Candy or Diane at (402)-551-2110



Place Label Here

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Fax: 402 556 1910

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