

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

Dec/Jan 2002/2003



ABC/NE Date Data

ABC/NE BOARD
Feb. 22, 2003

ABC/NE Dept & Exec Comm.
May 17, 2003

Family Reunions (annual conventions)
Sept. 26-28, 2003 - North Platte
Sept. 17-19, 2004 - Kearney
Sept. 9-11, 2005 - Kearney

Senior High Retreat
April 4-6, 2003
ABW Ministries Conference
June 6-8, 2003
AB Men's Conference
August 15-16, 2003

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NEW E-Mail Addresses:

RegionOffice@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com
sgillies@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com
Messenger@
ABCofNE.omhcoxmail.com

A Heart for Ministry in The Heartland

**American Baptist Churches
of Nebraska**

6404 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104-4079

Phone 402-556-4730
Fax 402-556-1910



A Savior Has Been Born to You;
He is Christ the Lord.



“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ which means, ‘God with us.’” Matt. 1:22-23

May the peace and joy of Immanuel bless you
and your family this Christmas,

The ABC of Nebraska Staff

From the Executive Minister..... Susan Gillies

Back to Basics

When we would like our church to grow spiritually, we need to get back to basics. That means loving the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds and spirits and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Someone told me recently that he had discovered daily prayer (at age 48). By spending time intentionally praying and reading the Bible every day, this person was finding new depth and meaning in his life. Putting God first is having a wonderful result. What does it mean for you to love the Lord with all your heart, mind and spirit?

I had a conversation today with a man who is being laid off his job. He described this as a time of strengthened faith for him. It is his church that has made the difference between this being a horrible event and it being instead a challenging time of growing faith. The members of his church are praying for him and they are very directly seeking to

be of support and assistance. He has a job interview scheduled because a church member thought his gifts would match a job she knew about. She made the contact and referred him. Getting back to basics means thinking about the ways you can demonstrate your love for your neighbors.

In the sixth chapter of Proverbs we read: "There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil, a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family." I share this scripture because of the seventh item. It has become too easy for people to sow discord in the family of the church. It's not OK. If you find yourself being negative much of the time, you need to ask God to empower you to change.

Our opportunity as individuals and as congregations is to pray and study God's word daily and then to become encouragers of everyone we encounter. This is a clear path to spiritual vitality.



Come to Camp Merrill to Start the New Year!

On page three you will find a schedule for a time of prayer to begin the new year. The ABC/NE staff will pray specifically for individual churches at the times listed on the schedules. Churches are encouraged to send specific prayer

requests to the Omaha office or to Camp Merrill. Churches, Sunday School classes, women's and men's groups are invited to pray, where they are, at the same time that prayers are happening at camp. Individuals and

groups are welcome to join those who are praying at camp. Make plans now to attend a portion of the vigil. Check costs and deadline at the bottom of page three.

GRATITUDE FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS

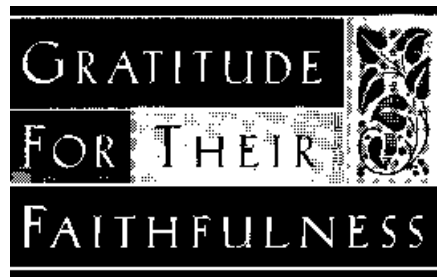
Don Gaines

One of the rich experiences Region staff had this year was the "From The Roots" Caravan. As we visited each church in the State we heard fascinating and challenging stories of the founding and early history of the churches. Almost all of these stories included the names of ministers who shared the faith and vision of a small group of laypersons and gave leadership in forming a church. From these small beginnings has followed a long procession of pastors who have helped the churches bear witness to God's love and redeeming power. Many of the names of these servant leaders have been forgotten, but a host of people whose lives have been transformed by Jesus Christ bear witness to their faithfulness.

You do remember those pastors whose presence, teaching and preaching have impacted your lives. It is likely that the names of some of our home and foreign missionaries are household words to you. And you have deep feelings of gratitude for these men and women of God. Through the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) we have an opportunity to express in a tangible way our GRATITUDE FOR THEIR FAITHFULNESS.

To meet immediate emergency and special financial needs, 43% of the offering is made available. The remainder (57%) of the offering is distributed in the form of Thank You checks to over 3,000 retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses.

Most churches receive this offering in December. Whatever the dates in your church, please take advantage of this opportunity to say THANK YOU to those God has used to help build His Kingdom in your life and in our world.



The ABC/NE staff will be engaging in prayer for the churches of the region. Others are invited to participate in person or to support the vigil with prayer. Come and go as you are able.

A New Year's Prayer Vigil

For the ABC Churches of Nebraska

Camp Moses Merrill -- January 2-4, 2003

Thursday, January 2

- 5:00 pm Gathering Prayer
- 5:30 Supper
- 6:30 Silence
- 6:40 Vesper Service
- 7:00 Prayer for Chadron, Alliance, Scottsbluff, Bridgeport, Arthur and North Platte
- 8:00 Break
- 8:15 Prayer for Omaha: First, Parkside, Calvary, Benson, Greater St. John's, and Mt. Nebo
- 9:15 Fellowship

Friday, January 3

- 7:30 Morning Prayers
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Silence
- 9:30 Prayer for Arnold, Ansley, Mason City, Fairhaven, Holdrege and Kearney
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Prayer for Omaha: King Solomon, Judson, Sunset Hills, Shiloh, First Kachin and Miracle Hills
- Noon Lunch & Rest
- 2:00 Prayer for McCook, Holbrook, Wilsonville, Oxford, Superior, Guide Rock and Sumner
- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 Prayer for Bellevue: New Life, Strangers' Rest and Lincoln: First, Second, Belmont, Mt. Hermon
- 4:30 Break
- 5:30 Supper
- 6:30 Silence
- 6:40 Vesper Service
- 7:00 Prayer for Broken Bow, Chapman, Gibbon, Grand Island, Juniata and Hastings
- 8:00 Break
- 8:15 Prayer for Wayne, Riverside, Tekamah, Blair, Valley and Fremont
- 9:15 Fellowship

Saturday, January 4

- 7:30 Morning Prayers
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Silence
- 9:30 Prayer for Norfolk, Palestine, Octavia, Albion, Columbus: First and New Hope
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Prayer for Union, Prairie Union, Tecumseh, Fairbury, Beatrice and York
- 11:45 Reflection
- 12:15 Lunch

Daily Costs: Overnight lodging -- \$15.00 Breakfast -- \$5.00 Lunch -- \$6.00 Supper -- \$7.00
Camp Merrill must receive word of your meal and lodging needs no later than Dec. 30.

Specific Prayer Requests regarding the life of the congregations and their leadership may be sent to the region office or to Camp Merrill prior to the Vigil.

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska 2003 Board

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Vice-President: Rev. Mark Stevens, Omaha Sunset Hills
Secretary: Sharon Evans, FBC Columbus
Treasurer: Ken Sciford, FBC Omaha

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 Perry Layton, Fremont
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 Rev. T.S. Gilliam, Bellevue Strangers Rest
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 Rev. Dan Osborn, Beatrice

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 Blaine Cullinan, Arthur
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 Rod Gangwish, Gibbon
 Charlene Meyen, Omaha First
 Jerry Buss, Lincoln Second

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 Rev. John Dennert, Fremont
 Karen Denton, Beatrice
 Rev. Glendon Epp, Arthur
 Rev. Stan Hendershot, McCook VP Ministers' Council
 Rev. Tom Thompson, Omaha Calvary

Mission Support
 Larry Adams, FBC Columbus
 Karol Cooney, Arthur 2 (2003)
 Mary Davison, Columbus
 Vera Mae Duncan, Superior 1 (2004)
 Dr. Charles Gregory, Broken Bow 1 (2003)
 Denise Nutter, North Platte 1 (2004)

Talk About Planning Ahead !!

Omahaland Churches SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, July 20, 2003, at First Baptist of Tekamah at 2:00 to 4:00 pm for an afternoon of music by our 20 churches. Everyone Come for a great time of praising God through music! We would like to have one special musical number from each Church! Following this we'll have an ice cream social. You will receive more info closer to the date.

New Magazine for Women

The premier issue of *Vital Woman Magazine* has reached subscribers to the former ABW Ministries magazine *On The Way*. The new magazine is a journal of faith that connects American Baptist women to each other, to their lives and to the ministries they perform. Subscriptions are available at 1-800-4-JUDSON.

ABC Gift Ideas

Check the Judson Press Catalogue or website www.judsonpress.com/catalogue/ for unique gift ideas. The catalogue lists gift books and other items. There are also gift possibilities listed in the new *Vital Woman Magazine*. There are charms, shirts, tote bags and other items appropriate for women and ABGirls on your Christmas list. Another gift idea is to give a gift to Camp Moses Merrill in honor of someone you appreciate.



Christmas Greetings from the ABW Ministries President

*The holidays are upon us, and as I consider my words to you at this time of year, I remember that things are always better when the Lord is included. Every time I ask the Lord to be a part of my day, I find myself in a happy mood, and the day goes so much better. As we near the day we celebrate the birth of Christ, have you made sure you've included the Lord in your activities? Have you asked Him to be a part of your family gathering? Have you asked Him to dine with you? Many of us may never have thought to actually ask the Lord to celebrate with us—we just take it for granted that He is always there. This year, why not start a tradition? Why not ask the Lord to be a part of your celebrations? Ask him to be part of your day, to sit down with you, to dine with you. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Maybe things go better with coke, but they **always** go better with the Lord. As we await the Lord's coming Happy Holidays.*

—Dora Redwine, President, ABW Ministries of Nebraska



Camp Moses Merrill News

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Clarence Reiss, Director (402) 666-5639

E-mail: campmerrill@nntc.net

Website: www.campmerrill.com

“What do you do in the off season or winter time?”

Yes, this is THE most frequently asked question at this time of year. This is not a difficult question for us to answer because the list goes on ...

For the Director of Camping:

- Organize and encourage Volunteer work groups and individuals
- Continuing Education at American Baptist Conference in Green Lake, WI
- Contact American Baptist Churches, Pastors, adults and youth across Nebraska to encourage use of Camp Moses Merrill
- Build relationships and contacts with other non-profit groups to determine if we can host and facilitate some of their events
- Set goals and objectives for the next camping season
- Work with the Executive Staff and Board of Directors in projects and decisions for the Region
- Find top of desk under papers and articles that have accumulated over the summer
- Correspondence in the form of letters, phone calls, brochure mailings, and personal visits
- Many, many thank you acknowledgements to be written and said in person
- Honey-Do projects at the house that have waited for some time

For the Assistant Director:

- Host fall, winter, and spring attendees
- Road maintaining and snow removal
- Continuing Education at Christian Camping International Convention in Vancouver, Canada
- Fix everything that got broke over the summer
- Repair and maintain the buildings and grounds
- Keep critters out of the buildings
- Work with volunteers to tackle various work projects that need to be done
- Repair and design machinery to be ready for the summer season
- Winterize the swimming pool and various buildings
- Work with committee to set material, dates, and coordinators for the next camping season
- Develop training and assist coordinators in their preparation for the upcoming camps
- Keep the computers and software in the office running and updated
- Fix-it projects on the house and car that have waited all summer

For everyone at Camp Moses Merrill it is important to set some personal time for R & R and self reflection with the Lord to be prepared for the new upcoming season. Before you know it, it is time to find and start hiring the summer staff again!!!!



The Weather Outside is Frightful... by Dave Lundholm

The long-range weather forecasts I've heard are predicting a harder, colder and wetter winter than we have had in several years. So far this year's experience agrees with that prediction. There have been several snows before the end of October.

Let's be prepared for winter. Does your church have a procedure to cancel services in the case of bad weather? Who initiates the procedure? How is the congregation notified? If the announcement is made on a radio station, does the congregation know where to tune in for cancellation information?



I'd urge church leaders to review their cancellation policy, and remind the con-

gregation (through announcements or newsletters) how the process works.

I'd also urge pastors to develop a worship service for families to use at home in case of a cancellation. The service could include things like pre-written prayers, words to hymns or songs, taking up an offering, suggested Scripture readings (perhaps even a written meditation by the pastor). These home worship services could be distributed as a packet to members of the congregation ahead of time. Then if the need to cancel came the congregation could still worship together (although in their separate homes).

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

February Deadlines

January 3, 2003 - Print Copy

January 8, 2003 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor

Darlene RIMPLEY

Rt. 1 Box 74 A

Arnold, NE 69120

E-Editor

area.minister.ne@charter.net

Subject: Messenger

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: A baked steak dinner, craft and bake sale was held on Oct. 26. "Forgiven" was in concert at Sunset Hills on Nov. 17. The advent worship theme is "From Humbug to Hallelujah!" with calendars to coincide with the daily devotions and weekend ceremonies. A catered dinner was held on Nov. 24 to welcome new members into the fellowship. The Sunday Night Live youth have a special holiday project that will benefit American Baptist Children's Services. The youth will provide baby sitting from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, so parents can shop for Christmas or run errands during the busy holiday season. Money raised will go to Baptist Children's Services Emergency Shelter in Philadelphia. On Dec. 15, the Sonshine Troupe's "Cool Christmas Carols" musical program will be at 7 pm. The SNL youth plan a live nativity outdoors at the same time. The theme, "From Humbug to Hallelujah," will be incorporated into Sunday, Dec. 15, worship services. Maggie Justine was born Oct. 7 to Justin and Tracey Nickell.

COLUMBUS, FBC: The Youth Group is selling 2003 Christian calendars to raise funds for their activities. The congregation is asked to donate Christmas ornaments with a Christian theme to be used in decorating the church. A Pastor Appreciation Dinner was held on Nov. 10, followed by a report on the "Church Renewal" meeting.

OMAHA, JUDSON BC: October was an exciting month for Judson. We celebrated 115 years of service with a special service that included a power point presentation of our history. Several former members came back to visit and reminisce. November will be equally exciting with a White Cross dedication ceremony, a visit from the Gideon's, and celebrations for Pastor Appreciation. The AWANA program continues to grow. The people of Judson sent a gift of 17 pounds of Health and School Kits to Church World Service. We plan to participate in a community Thanksgiving Eve Service with other churches in the La Vista area.

CHAPMAN, FBC: A new Bible Study started this past month and the participants are enjoying rotating to each other's homes on Sunday afternoons. Four ladies traveled to Kearney for the Fall ABW Association Rally. About a dozen youth had fun at the Halloween alternative, Chaos, at the Cairo FBC. Nov. 6th was the Fall Soup Supper that drew from the community and beyond. They gathered at the church for soup and pie of every kind. On Nov. 10th, the new parsonage will be dedicated with a short service, an open house and (of course) a wonderful potluck dinner!

FAIRBURY, FBC: The annual Thanksgiving dinner was held on November 24. Bob and Evelyn Jackson recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

HASTINGS, FBC: A prayer vigil for the Church began this month. Prayer time is 7pm Sunday evenings. Eight members of the church attended the Southern Union Association meeting in Wilsonville. Brad Koehn shared his experience at the Saturday AM Men's breakfast at the Promise Keepers Conference. ABWM dedicated the White Cross gifts at a recent meeting. There were two talented "Actresses" doing a skit titled "How Too." They also hosted the Worship Service on October 13. The Wednesday Bible Study group will begin a 12 week study on the Prayer of Jabez. There were two major changes made to the By-Laws to make conducting the business of the church much easier.

ALLIANCE, FBC: The ABY held a church lock-in on October 12. Following Cosmic Bowling, the young people returned to the church for a night of food, fun, fellowship, study, prayer and no sleep. They provided special music during morning worship. Long time resident and church member, Beulah Driml, passed away on October 16. A memorial service was held at the church on Monday, October 21. On October 27, the ABY held a Christian celebration Halloween party.

MCCOOK, FBC: The ABW observed the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer on Nov. 4 at an evening service. A covered dish Thanksgiving dinner was held on Nov. 24, in conjunction with Invite-A-Friend Sunday.

LINCOLN, SECOND BC: A memorial service for Rev. Earl Byleen, a former pastor of Second Baptist, was held on Oct. 12. Young Family Ministries is presenting a video series, "Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours," on Sunday evenings. SBC hosted a memorial concert by the Rap Family on Oct. 16, the two-year anniversary of the disappearance of Gina Bos, the Raps' daughter. At the SAM luncheon on Nov. 8, Officer Tim Abele from Community Services discussed "meth", a growing community concern. Seniors took a 3-day trip to Branson, MO on Nov. 12, and a trip on Dec. 12 to see the "Bill Gaither Holiday Revue" in Omaha. Other holiday events: ABWM Christmas Tea on Dec. 8; Christmas Cantata on Dec. 11 & 15; Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 22; Caroling on Dec. 23; and Christmas Eve Worship Service on Dec. 24.

SCOTTSBLUFF, FBC: Pastor Bret and Lori Rickard have moved to Chugwater, WY, where they will pastor the Chugwater Valley Church. A search committee has been formed to find a pastor. A potluck Thanksgiving Dinner was held Nov. 24, with the deaconesses preparing the turkeys, mashed potatoes and gravy. FBC took part in the city's annual Christmas parade on Nov. 21, having a float with the nativity scene. A living nativity will be held during the month of December.

OMAHA, FBC: The Rebecca-Ruth Circle filled 16 shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Ministry. The Hanging of the Greens will be held Dec. 1, followed by carol singing and fellowship. The children, kindergarten through sixth grade, will be presenting a short skit and song at each Sunday morning worship service during Advent. FBC prepared and served a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 23.

NORFOLK, FBC: An AWANA Grand Prix was held on Nov. 23 at FBC. The Wayne FBC hosted the Norfolk FBC at a bowling party in Norfolk on Nov. 10. A tubing tobogganing day at Mahoney State Park was planned (depending on weather) by the Youth Group.



Local Church News

OMAHA, PARKSIDE BC: The Omahaland Baptist Men met at PBC for a breakfast on Nov. 9. Pastor Gam Lahpai of First Kachin Baptist Church of Myanmar told about his mission work on Nov. 3. The people gathered to decorate the church for the advent season on Nov. 30, at which time they enjoyed brunch. Parkside people rang bells for the Salvation Army on Nov. 23.

OMAHA, BENSON BC: Benson was the receiving point for over 15,000 Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes from Nov. 18-25. They also prepared boxes for the project. Bob Brock, who represents the Voice of the Martyrs in Midwest United States, was at the church on Nov. 3 to share about the work of the organization. Benson Baptist joined with Benson Presbyterian and Immanuel Lutheran Church in a community Thanksgiving service on Nov. 27. Items were collected for the church food pantry during November. The Thanksgiving Offering will go to the food pantry. The Youth held a lock-in on Nov. 15-16, with youth from other churches joining them.

BEATRICE, FBC: FBC took part in the Community food drive. Preceding the quarterly business meeting The Youth had a soup, sandwich, and dessert fundraiser on Nov. 10, Invite-a-Friend Sunday, followed by a dinner, was held on Nov. 24. Church people serve in the Beatrice Community Hospital gift shop the first Thursday of every month. The Beatrice FBC ladies joined with the Tecumseh FBC ladies at the Tecumseh church for the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

HOLDREGE, FBC: The FBC youth helped sponsor the Rebecca St. James concert on Nov. 11 at the local high school. An All-Church Fun Night was held on Nov. 24 at the City Auditorium.

GRAND ISLAND, FBC: A "Thanks For Giving Dinner" was held on Nov. 17. The Faith Hope Charity and Rebecca Circles are bringing canned goods to each meeting to donate to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. FBC took part in the World Community Day on Nov. 1, which met at Faith United Methodist Church uniting women of all faiths in worship.

GIBBON, FBC: Frances Kunce, wife of former pastor, Rev. Jim Kunce, passed away recently in Sigourney, IA. FBC participated in the Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 24, which was held at the Gibbon School.

ARNOLD, FBC: The annual Harvest Supper was held on Nov. 3, at which time the White Cross items were displayed. Items and money donations were gathered for the local food pantry. FBC joined with other community churches for the Thanksgiving Service at the Church of the Nazarene on Nov. 24.

FREMONT, FBC: Installation services were held for Pastor Leland Foreman and Jean, who were called from being the Associate Pastor to Senior Pastor. Ray Johnson observed his 90th birthday with an open house at the church on Nov. 30. The annual Thanksgiving Stewardship Dinner was held on Nov. 20.

LINCOLN, FBC: A new leadership structure is being put into place, with the Church Life Council (deacons and deaconesses) and The Ministry Partner Teams (many people involved in the ministry of the Gospel.) A "Birthday Party for the Whole Family" was held on Nov. 10, with an evening meal and a time of fun. The Middle and High School spent a weekend at Timberlake Ranch Camp, where they worked on teambuilding exercises and learned of their various gifts. Pastor Lee accepted the "WMO Veggie Challenge", and accordingly the amount of giving would do various meals with veggies.

SUPERIOR, FBC: The "4th and Mill" men's quartet was in concert at FBC on Oct. 20. The "Power Team" was at FBC recently, and Guide Rock FBC helped feed and house them.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: An anonymous donor is matching all gifts under \$500 to the elevator fund. Nov. 24 was "Blanket Sunday", where monies were given to purchase blankets to send to missions. The Joint Thanksgiving service with the Methodist church was held at JCC on Nov. 27. The Prism Weight Loss Program is meeting at JCC weekly. Janet Walker Wamsley, daughter of former pastor, Jim and Elaine Walker, was recently killed in a car accident.

TECUMSEH, FBC: A Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Nov. 24, with friends or neighbors who might be by themselves invited. The AWANA children collected \$116.00 for the Project Angel Tree, which helps provide gifts for the children of prison inmates. The Sunday School classes will be competing for the best decorated room during the Christmas season. A soup supper was enjoyed on Nov. 30, followed by the hanging of the greens. Shoeboxes were filled for the Samaritan's Purse Project. FBC ABW hosted the Beatrice ABW for the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer on Nov.

4. **NORTH PLATTE, FBC:** The annual Stewardship Dinner was held on Nov. 16, with the ABY catering it as a fundraiser. Calvary Baptist and FBC united for ABW Day of Prayer on Nov. 4. Rev. Earl Byleen, former pastor of FBC, passed away on Oct. 3 in Lincoln.

TEKAMAH, FBC: The Fellowship Committee sponsored a table at the CHIC Bazaar on Nov. 16. FBC had a float in the Tekamah Light Parade on Nov. 23. FBC joined in two community events: the annual Community Soup and Pie Supper, and the Community Women's Advent Tryst.

CHADRON, FBC: The Hanging of the Greens was held on Nov. 24, followed by a time of food and fellowship.

NEW MEMBERS:

MCCOOK, FBC: Wally, Rachel, and Courtney Hampton, Bryce and Keldon Osterman

OMAHA, BENSON BAPTIST: Lily Hanson

SUPERIOR, FBC: Shelia Korb and Donald Korb

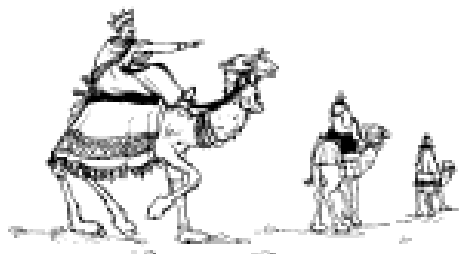
FAIRBURY, FBC: Justin Cook, Julie

Carver
OMAHA, SUNSET HILL: Roger Clark

ABC of Nebraska staff

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 Clarence Reiss
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 Office Staff: Peggy Cannon & Sue Gammel
 Church Life Consultant.....A. J. Wagstaff
 Pastor to Pastors (W)Paul Kondy
 Pastor to Pastors (E)Dick Peterson
 Youth Ministry AdjunctJason Workman



**Sylvia Huskey
Leaving
ABC of Nebraska**

ABC-NE Office manager and Assistant Treasurer, Sylvia Huskey, has resigned to accept another position in the Omaha area. Sylvia has served the ABC of Nebraska for almost eight years.

Sylvia expressed her appreciation to the ABC family for all the help and prayers they have given her over the years. "My prayers will be that this region will grow in numbers and be drawn closer to the Lord."

Executive Minister, Susan Gillies, said, "We have all appreciated Sylvia's deep faith and her commitment to our region. She has always gone beyond the requirements of her job and has given herself fully to her work. We pray God's blessings on her as she takes this new step in her life."



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