

# the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



**March 2005**

## ABC/NE Date Data

ABC/NE Family Reunion [annual convention] Sept. 9-11, 2005

ABC-NE Personnel Committee  
March 15, 10:00 am

Final TOMORROW' S HARVEST  
weekend, CMM, April 1-2

Omahaland Pastoral Appreciation  
Dinner, April 23, Watch for Details.

Clergy Seminar, CMM, May 2-4.

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

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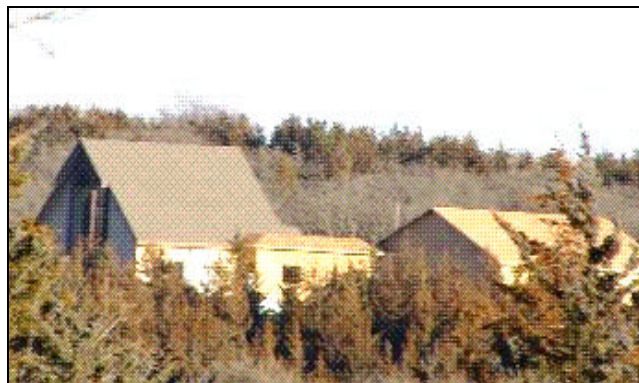


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## Camp Construction Continues

Construction continues at Camp Moses Merrill as the vision of the camp becoming a true Center for Christian Growth comes into focus.

Construction workers are planning to complete work in May on the addition to Friendship Chapel that includes the Ward Conference Room, restrooms, kitchen, office and reception area. The camp is already receiving inquiries about use of the new facility.



The ABC/NE Board, meeting Sat. Feb 12, gave the "go ahead" for the Building Bridges gift from Calvary Baptist Church to fund construction of the shell of a motel-style lodging facility. Individuals and churches may then provide funding to complete each of the 11 rooms. Each room, when completed, will have a queen and a twin bed and private bath.

## NEEDS - GIFTS - MATCHMAKER

What do these words have in common? They are part of a new initiative for our ABC region. As part of the New Life 2010 program we are thinking of ways we can revitalize our churches. God used a work session in Milwaukee to lead our Executive Minister Susan and me to some almost identical ideas, while working independently from each other. As we shared ideas and realized what had happened I thought, "this is what Henry Blackaby means in *Experiencing God* when he says 'look around, find out where God is at work and then join Him' "

We are excited to do that in an initiative we have dubbed, "**Churches Helping Churches**". We are convinced that each of our churches has some unique gifts and that we also have some needs. We believe that, in many cases, the region can be the "matchmaker" bringing together the gifts and the needs for the furtherance of ministry.

Needs (and gifts) can come in a variety of packages. We want to come to your church and visit about this program and see what we uncover together. Physical needs (like building needs) program needs (maybe VBS, small groups, youth, etc.) or resources (videos, materials, etc.) are perhaps some of the things we will find.

The region board endorsed the idea at the February meeting and we will now begin to work toward implementation. Stay tuned for more information, but in the meantime begin to think about your church. What gifts could you share with another? What could someone share with you?

Bob Phares  
Churches Helping Churches Task Force

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

### Talking Money

I keep thinking about what Bob Roberts said at the 2004 ABC/NE Family Reunion. He said we don't want to talk about money because many of us have made a "god" of it. It's sacred. It's more important to us than most other things. The minute the pastor mentions money, we start to get upset. Why? We aren't bothered nearly so much by talk about our time and talents. We don't want the pastor to even mention money because we think of it as ours rather than a trust from God.



I've been defensive about money talk myself. I always used to get upset by the United Way telling me to give my "fair share." How in the world did they know what my "fair share" was?

I think we should talk about money. I think churches should have workshops and clinics about how to get out of debt, smart financial management, financial planning, etc. I know pastors who have extensive information on credit counseling services available for members. There is a big church on

the east coast that actually helps members get out of debt and stay out of debt. How much money do you spend on interest beyond house payments in a year's time? What else could you use that money for? Churches that assist members with financial planning usually see an increase in giving.



When I talk about debt, I'm not picking on a family surprised by medical expenses, burdened with unexpected home or car repair or other extraordinary needs. I'm talking about once that debt has started on the credit card how easy it is to add this and that non-essential item. Pretty soon we only care about the minimum payment. We don't even realize that we will end up paying many times the value of the purchased items. Today it is not unusual for folks to carry credit card balances that will take 30 years or more to pay off even if they do not add one more purchase in those 30 years.

We are stewards of all God's gifts to us. A steward is an individual charged with responsibility for management. How will we manage God's gifts? This seems like a topic that belongs in church.

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

### How America For Christ ministers to the least, the last, and the lost

While news reports most often deal with single mothers, more and more single parent families are headed by men. That became a harsh reality recently at the Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC)--one of more than 20 Neighborhood Action Centers in mission partnership with National Ministries--in Indianapolis, Ind. The center also is affiliated with the American Baptist regions of Indianapolis and Indiana/Kentucky.

A minister in the neighborhood called about a young man requesting help for himself and his two small children. The children's mother had left them with a neighbor without word if or when she would return.

The father assumed care of the children, but childcare problems caused him to lose his job, and the family was evicted because he could not pay the rent. At the time he went to the church, he and the children were sleeping in the park. The father feared his children would be taken away since he could not provide housing, so he had been reluctant to ask for assistance. Concerns about his children's health in cooler weather, however, forced him to the church.

Evonne Brown, outreach counselor at EMCC, immediately went to work following the pastor's call. Because the father had no income, securing housing was nearly impossible. Through cooperation with the church, however, a landlord was convinced to allow the family to move immediately into a furnished apartment while EMCC worked to help this young man become self-sufficient.

EMCC's Outreach Center assisted with one month's rent through federal government funds, and the center's pantry helped with food until the paperwork was completed for food stamps and financial assistance through the local Department of Family and Children.

In cooperation with other agencies, EMCC helped family members obtain clothing, since all of their possessions were lost when they were evicted. The Outreach Center also provided assistance to the father to apply for childcare, which allowed him to return to work. With EMCC's guidance--and the help of a neighborhood pastor and other agencies--this family has weathered its storm and become self-sufficient.

Brown says, "We are grateful that we were able to live out the mission of Edna Martin Christian Center and assist in moving this family from hopelessness to a vision of hope."

The Edna Martin Christian Center serves a neighborhood that struggles with underemployment, unemployment, poverty and drugs: Fewer than one half of adults have a high school education, and one third of families live below the poverty line.

Executive Director Dr. Lawrence Lindley, a commissioned American Baptist home missionary, says the words of Isaiah 58:7-8 encourage him in his work: "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them... Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly."

See Page 4 for details about this year's America For Christ Offering Challenge

## Would You Like to Grow Your Church?

Most folks would like to see their church grow . . . whether that growth is in wisdom, in spiritual depth or in the number of members.

Recent research shows that there is one reason most people begin to attend a church. This one reason scores much, much higher than any other reason. More than advertising, more than a call from the pastor, more than an attractive building. What is it? **Most people begin to attend a church because someone they know invites them.**

Common excuses for not inviting people to church:

*I don't know anyone who doesn't already attend a church.* Don't look past the person who cuts your hair, a neighbor, someone in a club or class with you, your letter carrier.

*I don't want to be overbearing or pushy.* We don't hesitate to tell folks about a great restaurant we've found and it never occurs to us that this is pushy. You don't have to be pushy. You are simply telling someone about something you really enjoy that you think they might enjoy too.

*I'd be embarrassed if they said, "No."* Keep a positive spirit. They may say "no" but they may be touched by your interest. The seed will be planted.

*I don't have the gift of evangelism or hospitality.* Inviting someone to your church for worship or for a special event is a simple invitation. Anyone can do it.

*I'm afraid they won't like my church.* You need to do some serious thinking. Why wouldn't they like it? Is there anything you can do to help your church to be a more welcoming place? Many people are looking for authenticity in a church more than show business.



The simple truth is that inviting folks to church is primarily the responsibility of the laity. Like most things, you improve with practice.

Challenge yourself to invite someone to Easter services at your church.

## Youth Opportunities

Ministry by and for ABC/NE Youth is alive and well! ABC/NE has two lead volunteers who help coordinate and resource youth ministry in Nebraska. Jason Workman is youth adjunct on region staff. This is a part-time, volunteer position. Jason is full-time on the pastoral staff of Benson Baptist in Omaha. Jason is assisted by Brad Wiese, youth pastor at First Baptist of Holdrege. A number of other capable youth leaders put in many hours assuring that quality youth programming is available to Nebraska young people.

Here are some of the great opportunities for youth this year:

**SENIOR HIGH RETREAT** -- This retreat is at Camp Merrill March 4-5. The theme is "Pursuing Your Passion."

**JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT** -- This retreat is at Camp Merrill April 15-16. The theme is "Re-taking the Hill."

**Youth Group MISSION TRIP Opportunities** -- We have churches that are open to having youth groups come to offer Vacation Bible School in their neighborhoods. SYF (share your faith) Teams are groups of youth from one church that travel to another church to share their faith stories.

**ABC-USA BIENNIAL** -- Two Nebraska youth will participate in the Biennial as representatives of ABC/NE. Nominations are due to the Omaha office no later than March 11.

**CAMP MOSES MERRILL** -- The full summer camp schedule may be found on Page Five.

**AB GIRLS** — AB Girls Conference is June 3-5 at Camp Merrill.

**AB BOYS** — Boys and young men meet with American Baptist Men at both their western meeting April 8-9 in Arnold and their Camp Merrill Conference Aug. 12-13.

ABC/NE Trivia (see the answers on p.8)

- Where will the 2005 ABC/NE Family Reunion be held?  
a. Alliance b. Kearney c. Lincoln d. Omaha
- Beryl Hornberger is the new ABC/NE president. To which church does she belong?  
a. Fremont b. Grand Island c. McCook d. Arnold
- What special ABC/NE event is coming in April in Arnold?  
a. western women's retreat, b. western men's retreat, c. western youth retreat
- 27 Nebraska Baptists are going on a mission trip in April. Where are they going?  
a. Alaska, b. Thailand, c. Oklahoma, d. Arizona
- Name these four people:



- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

[Ed. Note:  
This wasn't my  
idea! -S.E.G.]



## Nebraskan Experiences Kodiak

Stephen Foreman, Fremont, spent last summer as an American Baptist Volunteer-In-Mission at Kodiak Baptist Mission (KBM) in Alaska. Here are some of his reflections: "I think the most meaningful times during my 11-week stay were with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. One of my jobs at the mission was to facilitate middle-schoolers in a contemporary bible study called mentor-group. The purpose of mentor group was to discuss, learn, and challenge one another in our faith while maintaining a positive, Christ-centered, atmosphere. From this basic framework I was blessed with the most rewarding summer of my life. My experience at Kodiak Baptist Mission strengthened my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, made me a strong advocate for KBM's unique type of ministry, and gave me memories to last a lifetime. Memories that have quickly become great stories..."

Stephen remembers one experience in particular: "On this particular day three counselors (including me), a resident mission expert, and 10 adolescents were packing up for a three day, two night back-packing trip into the back country of Kodiak Island.



Necessities were double-checked; food, water, extra socks, bibles, and even pepper spray, in the unlikely event of a bear attack. The van was cramped with bodies and backpacks for the ride into the interior of Kodiak. Upon arrival, our hiking immediately commenced. My head seemed to be on a swivel as I took in the vast landscape from every direction. Finally, fatigue set in and we rested. This stop, like every stop, was used as a time for resting our physical bodies and feeding our spiritual through readings from the Bible. At the first camp-site the girl campers were quick to regain energy and engage in conversation that left them giggling into the night. Unfortunately, their fun ended abruptly after an accidental discharge of the concentrated pepper spray. Although pepper spray can be used effectively to deter an attacking bear, the ironic thing is that the smell of the spray, once released,

will actually attract them! Needless to say, we packed up and found a new camp-site where we slept safe and sound..well, at least safe. Over the course of the trip the campers slowly lost inhibitions towards one another and began to opening up during the Bible readings and discussions. Finally, while atop a flat peak rising just above low-lying clouds, the journey climaxed. In that final evening Bible study, Christ's love and plan of salvation was presented. With tears in her eyes, a young girl came forward and accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. To this day, her transformation in mind and spirit matures with the help of the Kodiak Baptist Mission. As the mission has the privilege of witnessing and spiritually nurturing to their unique island community, American Baptist Churches have an equally unique privilege of supporting this ministry. KBM and American Baptist Churches share a partnership designed and ordained to fulfill the Great Commission!"



We are delighted to report that Stephen will return to Kodiak for the summer of 2005. He has found that this ABC mission site is a beacon of light for an entire island community. Stephen is passionately involved in raising money for a new van for the mission. If you'd like to hear more, contact Stephen Foreman at 402-719-0136 or Steve Bills at 402-556-4730. To find out more about Kodiak Baptist Mission, visit their web-site at [www.kodiakbaptistmission.org](http://www.kodiakbaptistmission.org).

*Looking for Champions in Nebraska to . . .*

## SHARE CHRIST WITH AMERICA

The Mission Department of the ABC of Nebraska announced at the February Region Board meeting this year's *America For Christ Offering* challenge. Because it seeks to honor both those churches which are able to contribute significantly to the Region's total gift, as well as those churches which have a large percentage of its membership participate in the offering, the department has created two categories in which a church can earn the **Nebraska Champions for America For Christ** designation.

The five churches with the highest total gift to the *America For Christ Offering* and the five churches with the highest per capita average (based on average worship attendance) will be declared **Nebraska Champions for America For Christ**. Churches achieving top-five placement on both lists will be designated **Grand Champions** for 2005.

Three members from the top church in each category will be invited to participate in an all-expense-paid trip to Kansas City to visit the Bethel Neighborhood Center, one of the ministries that is funded by the *America For Christ Offering*, and to meet its new Executive Director, Rev. Lisa Harris.

The Mission Department noted that ABC Nebraska churches were able to increase their giving to the World Mission Offering last fall by an average of over 23% and expressed confidence that our churches would be generous in funding mission and ministry in our own backyard.



## Camp Moses Merrill News

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### 2005 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

March 4-6	Senior High Winter Retreat
April 15-17	Junior High Retreat
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 have something for everyone, so why not plan to spend at week this summer at Camp. Come as a Camper.*

*Come to Primary or Junior Camp as a Grandparent, Grandparents are great encouragers and listeners.*

*Come to camp as a Volunteer Nurse or Cabin Leader for a week.*

*Come to camp as paid Summer Staff, we need your applications in by the end of March.*

*Come to camp with a work group-check with Clarence as what needs to be done or come to Project Camp, check with Pat Moore, Chapman*

*In whatever capacity that you decide to come to camp, you will be richly blessed and so will we. REGISTER EARLY!!*

### NEW! NEW! NEW!

We are offering two new exciting specialty camps for 2005. The Horse Care & Riding Camp is for horse lovers, ages 12-15, and limited to 8 girls. The Wilderness Camp is for boys & girls, ages 10-15. Campers will camp out and enjoy nature and the camp's backwoods. Contact the Camp or your Pastor for more information.

### WHAT ABOUT YOU?

#### Bring Your Group to Camp:

- family gatherings - weekends with friends - S.S. Class - Board retreats, etc.

#### Setting:

CMM has lodging facilities that can accommodate most any size of group and the rates are reasonable. And, we have the very best setting possible; it's not noisy, no traffic jams, and no big crowds. If you like to hike we have miles of hiking trails. Maybe you are into bird watching-we have many secluded spots for just you and the birds.

#### Activities:

If your family enjoys competitive sports "The Valley" is ideal with tennis court, sand volley ball court, ball diamond and lots of space for group activities. Our picnic spots are fabulous. A hay wagon is available, donation appreciated, to transport your group on a sightseeing tour into the back woods. Of course, there is swimming and horseback riding during the summer.

And don't forget to register your child or youth in one of our program camps. CMM strives to provide a secure, Christian setting for a good experience for all.

See you at Camp!

### JANUARY GIFTS

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

Ron Brand-Power Miter Saw

Dave Black-Windows & Signs

Susan Baker-Fluorescent Light Fixtures

Alan & Patricia Riggins-Monetary Gift

Mary Ann Anderson-Monetary Gift

It is only because of everyone's generosity that we are able to continue to operate. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

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

## Treasure Hunt

(Mat 13:52) He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

The kingdom of heaven is full of treasure. It's easy for us to find and value the old treasures but it's somewhat harder for us to grasp the new ones.

So how do we find the new treasures? Here are some suggestions:

- ? Read Scripture from a new translation. Sometimes there are gems we haven't seen because we have become too comfortable with our favorite translation.
- ? Pray for wisdom and insight. God constantly shows us new things when we are open to them.
- ? Follow "Susan's Rule" and never do the same thing the same way twice.
- ? Talk to people in your sister churches around Nebraska to see what they are doing and what's working.
- ? Read books. Right now there are tons of books on church renewal, congregational change etc.
- ? Go to Workshops: The ABC Biennial meeting is coming up in July. It's in Denver probably the closest it's ever going to be. Don't forget the Family Reunion in Kearney in September.
- ? Google it! Search the web for ready-made ideas or use what you find there to stimulate your own creativity.

There are all kinds of treasure out there. But don't just take the ideas and use them as is, customize them, polish them, do what you have to do to make them your own. And then enjoy the new treasures as much as you do the old. There is a treasure trove waiting...let's start digging.

## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

**February Deadlines**  
**January 10, 2005 - Print Copy**  
**January 14, 2005 - E-Mail**

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**ARNOLD FBC:** Sixty Valentine bags were packed and delivered to senior citizens and shut-ins of the community on Feb 3 following Ruth Circle meeting.

**BEATRICE FBC:** A gift of nearly \$250 was given to support the work of the Community Pantry and Emergency Services recently.

**COLUMBUS FBC:** The youth group painted and redecorated their meeting room. Two book study groups have recently organized: one is studying *It's Not About Me* by Max Lucado, and the other is studying *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Phillip Yancey. The AB Girls served a soup and sandwich supper as a fundraiser. A bell choir is being organized to present an Easter performance.

**FAIRBURY FBC:** Family Adventure Nights were held the four Wednesday nights of February, with supper, activities and fellowship being the focus. The Sicangu Lakota people in Winner, SD, joyfully received the Pennies for Jesus Offering taken at Christmas. A group of youth and sponsors attended the Dare 2 Share conference in Lincoln. FBC is participating in the community Lenten lunches sponsored by the Jefferson County Ministerial Association.

**FREMONT FBC:** The FBC youth sponsored an Omahaland Overnighter at the YMCA on Jan 28. A soup supper was held on Feb 3, followed by Dr. Jim Eckman, president of Grace University speaking on Biblical sights in the Iraq area; and a free will offering was received towards new chairs for the parlor.

**GIBBON FBC:** Valentine boxes for the college students were packed on Feb 6. FBC held worship service at the Good Samaritan Center on Feb 9.

**GRAND ISLAND FBC:** Rev. Charles Gregory has accepted the call to FBC as the full-time pastor and will begin March 16. Rev Gregory has been pastoring at the Broken Bow FBC. The ABWM furnished cookies for the Red Cross and served supper at the Salvation Army in February. Doyle and Dorothy Hunt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb 13.

**HOLDREGE FBC:** A Focus on the Family Parenting Seminar was hosted by FBC on Feb 16. A dodge ball tournament was held on Feb 12.

**JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Dorcas Circle held a Valentine lunch on Feb 9, and Naomi circle a Valentine supper that same day. A Valentine Banquet was held on Feb

19 for the church family, as well as guests. The JCC Theater group is practicing the play "The Mystery of Montley's Manor", to be presented in several months time.

**MCCOOK FBC:** Rev. Stanley Upchurch has answered the call to be the interim pastor. A Sweetheart Valentine Banquet was held on Feb 12, with prime rib being served. FBC is participating in the community Lenten luncheons.

**NORFOLK FBC:** The Kick-Off for the "40 Days of Purpose" was held on Feb 6 with a pancake breakfast, which was served by the Youth Group. A Deacon Retreat was held on Feb 12, and the deacons served dinner at the Rescue Mission on Feb 24.

**NORTH PLATTE FBC:** Barb and Woody Falkena celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. The ABY decided to cancel their skiing trip for this year, and will instead take a short trip to a still to be decided destination shortly after school gets out. The Junior High youth held a bowling party and a lock-in during February. Pictures were taken for the new church directories. The youth are holding a "Church Cookbook Drive" to raise funds for their work.

**LINCOLN BELMONT BC:** An ABC/NE

Youth Leadership gathering was held on Feb 19, with the theme, "Come to the Well."

OMAHA BENSON BC: A Valentine Supper was held on Feb 12, with the funds going towards the youth mission teams' trip to Alaska. A Singspiration was held on Feb 6. Donations were taken for Blanket Sunday on Feb 6. A Ministry Fair was held during the Sunday school hour on Feb 27. Helen Redman celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

OMAHA FBC: A New Year's Day party for the children was held.

OMAHA PARKSIDE BC: The AB Women's Ministries met on Feb 4, with Rev. Onnie Drain, the founder of the Alliance of Clergy Women in Omaha, as the speaker. The church gathered bingo prizes for Maple Crest Care Center.

RIVERSIDE BC: On Sunday, Feb 13, Riverside members held a Sweetheart Banquet. Guests from First Baptist, Fremont, were Stephen Foreman, who spoke about the mission in Kodiak, Alaska, and Eric & Lisa Purcell and Michael Harris, who spoke about mission work in Thailand.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: The "February Family Festival" was held each Sunday evening in Feb, with participants being able to select from activities such as woodworking, kid's crafts, desserts, adult crafting, quilting, art and illustration, and church maintenance. The Youth and Children's Ministries held a cookie and bake sale on Feb 12, with the proceeds going to tsunami relief through the OGHS.

TECUMSEH FBC: A Super Bowl party was held on Feb 6. FBC hosted the first community Lenten Luncheon on Feb 10.

TEKAMAH FBC: The Good News Club collected several sacks of toys to give to the Open Door Mission at Christmas. An intercom between the nursery and the sanctuary has been added.

LAVISTA JUDSON: January started out with a "New Member Reception" luncheon welcoming all our new members. The AWANA Club held their annual food drive for the local LaVista Food Pantry during February. Six people were baptized in February. A donation was given to the American Baptists to be sent for Tsunami Asian Relief. Rev. Rick Barnes, ABC missionary to Mexico, spoke at a dinner at the Willistons. A committee is being formed to lead the Church Expansion project. Please pray for Judson as we take this big step and begin our fund raising program.

OXFORD, FBC: A "potluck" dinner was held on Jan 18, followed by our Annual Business meeting. Yearly reports were read and approved. New officers and committees were appointed and approved. Our most exciting news is that the mortgage for our new addition has been paid in full. The addition consists of a multi-purpose room, 2 classrooms, 2 baths and extra storage. We are thankful for the dedication of our church family and to God for His many blessings.

OMAHA, MIRACLE HILLS: We welcomed Betty Dirks into membership. Betty transferred from Calvary Baptist. The whole church is experiencing a six-week study on Max Lucado's new book, "Come Thirsty," which will take us up through Easter. We sent out our first round of invitations to those moving into our neighborhood - 155 singles and families moved in within a mile of the church in January and February. We began praying for our prayer partner church in Alliance and Pastor Jim & Joyce Rowe.

GIBBON FBC: The ABW had a "Ladies' Night Out" at Bisco's on Jan 20, at which time they exchanged names for prayer partners.

HOLDREGE FBC: This is a year of the celebration of FBC's 125th anniversary. A "Parenting Seminar" was held on Feb 16 at The Tassel. A dodge ball tournament was held on Feb 12, with teams from FBC participating. Celia Howard celebrated her 95th birthday on Jan 27, and Doris Marquis recently celebrated her 80th birthday. The ABW recently furnished pizza for the Gibbon FCA. Valentine boxes for the college students were packed on Feb 6.

LINCOLN FBC: A joint worship service of the Christians from Russia who have their worship service at FBC, and the family of FBC was held on Jan 30, with all aspects in both Russian and English, including the singing of hymns at the same time in each language. FBC youth attended the Dare 2 Share held on Feb 25th and 26th.

OMAHA BENSON BC: Helen Redman celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan 15 at an open house in the church Family Life Center. The youth attended a lock-in at the Fremont YMCA on Jan 28. A Valentine's dinner was held on Feb 14.

OMAHA PARKSIDE BC: The Adults for action held a soup supper on Jan 28, with

the participants bringing two cans of soup - one for the pot and one for the food pantry.

LINCOLN, SECOND: A 115th Anniversary Dinner Celebration for Second Baptist was held Jan 30, sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministries group. 100+ members and friends celebrated our ministry for God with fellowship, good food and a special drama based on our history. The Drama was written by member Evelyn Durham. The Chancel Choir presented special music on "Super Bowl" Sunday, a special "Souper Bowl" offering was

received by the youth for the Matt Talbot Kitchen of Lincoln. Boy Scout Sunday, Feb 13, featured a special Flag ceremony in morning worship. Members of the Missions Board sponsored a Soup Luncheon fundraiser to help Tsunami victims.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: Receptions were held following Sunday services for Svetlana Rodionova, who has served as pianist for 10 years, and for Lee and Rita Ray, who have retired as church custodians. A Bible study is being offered on Wednesday evenings during Lent. The annual Valentines dinner was served by the Sunday Night Live youth with a program of love songs performed by Dr. Rodionova. Sunset Hills again is host of the annual AB Men's national day of prayer breakfast on Feb 26.

#### NEW MEMBERS

OMAHA FBC: Doris Clark, Shirley Hatfield  
OMAHA BENSON: Catherine Hall, Winifred Johnson, Tom Thompson, Pam Thompson, Yat Keuth

HOLDREGE FBC: Laurie Nelson  
GIBBON FBC: Tamie Davis, Travis Davis  
FREMONT FBC: Wade Bloxton, Kevin and Cassandra Sleeper, Steve and Cindi Dodd, Steve and Deb Doty, Kathy Keller, Kaity Bonow, Mikala and Miranda Howard, Tammy Ritthaler  
ARNOLD FBC: Dean and Melody Coleman, Matthew Coleman, Steven Johnson

LAVISTA JUDSON: Robert and Betty Larson, Jack Hock

OMAHA, MIRACLE HILLS: Betty Dirks

ARNOLD FBC: Dean and Melody Coleman, Matthew Coleman, Steven Johnson

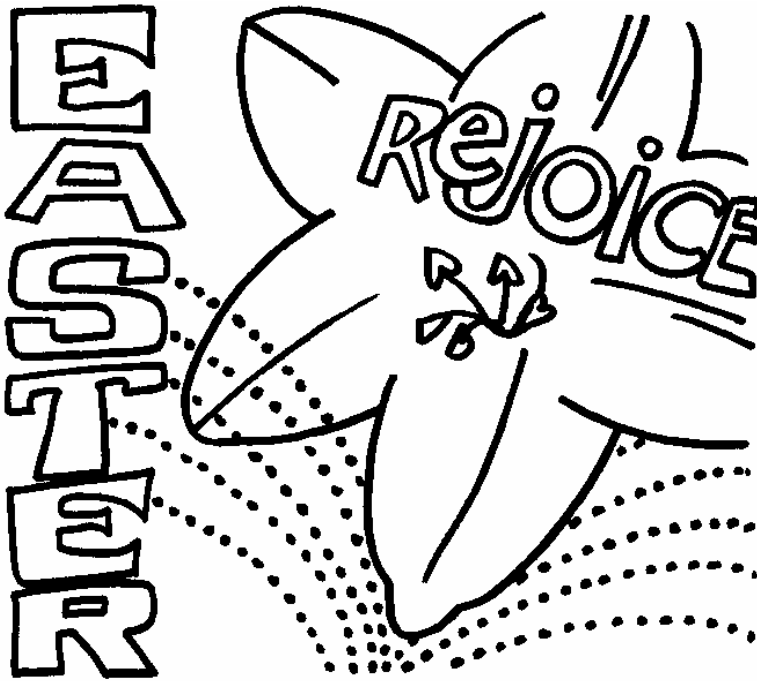
OMAHA BENSON: Nicolas Taaborsky and Kayla Workman

LINCOLN, 2BC: Victoria Meredith, Gary Culver, Michael Odell

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: Christina Larsen (baptism).

#### ***Constantly Abiding for 125 Years – and Going Forward***

Celebrate our 125th Anniversary with us on April 16 and 17  
Hamburger Feed, All Church Dinner, Special Music, Guests, and Video  
***First Baptist Church, Superior***



May your celebration of Easter be blessed.  
— The ABC/NE Staff

### ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister.....Susan Gillies  
Area Minister.....Dave Lundholm  
Minister of Mission Support.....Steve Bils  
Director of Camps & Conferences.....Clarence Reiss  
Camp Staff.....Trudy Reiss, Lou Grotelueschen,  
Joe Huss, Andrew Kern  
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

### Trivia Answers (Trivia Quiz on Page 3)

1. b. This year's convention will be in Kearney (next year in Lincoln).
2. a. Our new president belongs to Fremont First Baptist.
3. b. The western men's retreat will be in Arnold.
4. a. The ABC/NE Mission Trip in April is going to Alaska.
5. 1) Sue Gammel, Office Manager 2) Susan Gillies, Executive Minister 3) Kathy Brown, Minister of Mission Support, ABC Central Region 4) Judie Heller, Volunteer Mission Secretary. (This photograph was taken in Colorado Springs in 19??.)



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