

the ESSENGER

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska



September 2007

ABC/NE Date Data

FAMILY REUNION, North Platte,
Sept. 21-23

Adult Ministries Conference
Moses Merrill
Oct. 1-4

AB Women's Fall Retreat
Moses Merrill
Oct. 5-7

Fall Pastors' Seminar
Moses Merrill
Oct. 15-17

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American Baptist Churches of Nebraska 2007 Annual Convention Family Reunion



*"Now to Him who is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask
or imagine . . . to Him be glory . . .
for ever and ever! Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)*

September 21-23, 2007
Sandhills Convention Center
North Platte, Nebraska

This Opportunity is for YOU! Nebraska Baptists Gather in North Platte For 140th Anniversary

The 140th Anniversary gathering of Nebraska Baptists will take place at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte, Sept. 21-23, 2007.

From Region President Darren Stroh: "This is a Family Reunion. Yes, it's good to be in Nebraska where a helping hand is always an arm's length away, but family...well, it's just different. It's better. Being with like-minded people. Praying with people who walk a similar faith journey. Eating and laughing around the table and checking up on what the Heavenly Father is up to in their neck of the woods. It's like...well, a family reunion. And what's even greater about the family of Believers I find myself in is that I can be family even if there are subtle differences between me and my brothers and sisters. It's good to get together. It's good to encourage each other face to face. It's good to let the Holy Spirit encourage us as kindling to a stack of wood for together we are stronger...because we're family.

"The convention team has worked very hard this year to be creative and encouraging—to give the Holy Spirit every possible opportunity to build up each who attend. I encourage you to make plans to come. Let's make this a family reunion to remember—a family reunion that shows face by face that God is not in retreat. And if you are worried that it'll just be a bunch of boring meetings, consider the words of Paul, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.'"

This is your invitation to come and join in this wonderful, renewing, refueling time!

From the Executive Minister Susan Gillies

Mattie was a Democrat

Mattie E. Rumery passed away July 22, 2007, after living 101 years. She was a significant part of the life of the Nebraska Baptist State Convention. She was the last living graduate of Grand Island College. The history and records of the college now reside with the University of Sioux Falls. In 1991 she was honored as the woman who had been most influential in the history of the American Baptist Women in Nebraska.

Mattie was a classic “encourager.” She was certainly a blessing to me. I believe all Christians are called to be encouragers but only a limited number do it really, really well.

When I drove to North Platte for the Memorial Service, I was stunned to learn that Mattie was a Democrat. How could that be? Her son-in-law was Bob Phares—Mr. Republican, former mayor of North Platte, nearly governor of NE, now on the Board of Regents. (Of course his biggest claim to fame is that he is a former ABC/NE President!)

Finding out that Mattie was a Democrat was great. Because I love it when stereotypes are blown apart.

It is all too easy to think that everyone looks at life the way I do. It’s easy to think that folks who are similar to me in faith may be similar to me in politics. The truth is, it’s just not so. Our society has become obsessed with putting people in pigeon holes. And it’s not very helpful.

Perhaps we need to think about the way we categorize people when we meet them. Do we base our attitude about someone on truth or hearsay? Do we judge people by length of hair, color of skin, clothing, or political affiliation? Do we assume that because someone has a “conservative” position on one issue, they will match some stereotypical definition of conservative on all issues? Do we assume the same of someone with a “liberal” position? Or a middle-ground position?

Or, with each person we meet, do we look to find Jesus in them? Do we understand each person is a unique child of God?

I did find out that Mattie switched her registration in order to vote for Bob in the primary when he ran for governor. I asked him if she changed it back afterwards and he said, “Probably.” Mattie wasn’t rigid in her party affiliation. She often asked Bob for advice about candidates.

So what do we learn from this “encourager” Christian who defied certain stereotypes? Mattie reminds me to try to be more like Jesus. Her life encourages me to be true to my faith, careful in my politics, thoughtful in all things, gentle and humorous in my relationships and filled with joy. And to encourage others to do likewise.

Thank you, God, for Mattie.



From the Associate Executive Minister Steve Bills

140 Years of “Mission Mindedness”

As I sat around the tables in the basement of the First Baptist Church in Deadwood, South Dakota I was encouraged to hear Nebraska Baptists share stories about the many and varied ministries that were being done in their home churches this summer. Vacation Bible schools, food pantries, disaster relief trips and youth projects seemed to be common experiences. Not only were these men and women willing to take vacation time to come to minister in the Black Hills at their own expense, but they were looking forward to plugging back in back home when the week was over.

The Sturgis Aid Station ministry is the high profile outreach that gets more than its share of publicity, but the day-in and day-out routine faithfulness of our congregations is a great encouragement to us all.

Nebraska Baptists have always been about mission and ministry. Preparing for the 140th anniversary of the Nebraska Baptist State Convention has given us opportunity to review materials in our archives that chronicle the missionary expansion across the state. I get exhausted just reading about the work they did under the conditions in which they lived!

But things really have not changed much in 140 years. Our churches and members are still burdened for reaching their neighbors and for doing their part in fulfilling the great commandment and the great commission. Loving our neighbor as ourselves and preaching the gospel and making disciples is still the heartbeat that drives most of what we do as a family.

As mission gets farther from our homes it becomes less likely that we will be able to directly participate in it personally.

Most of our 5,600 members will never come to the Black Hills to serve on the ABC Emergency Services staff during Sturgis. Even fewer of us will accompany a team to the gulf coast for a disaster relief mission. Going overseas with an ABC International Ministries missionary project will be the privilege of even fewer of us. But we are all participants in these labors of love as members of the family.

Because of our support of mission through the ABC we have young people who go to camp and dedicate their lives to Christian service. Because of our support of mission through the ABC we have colleges and seminaries that prepare them for life and ministry. Because of our support of mission through the ABC we have home and foreign mission boards that form partnerships with our sisters and brothers throughout the world with whom we can work. Neighborhood centers, new church plants, orphanages, evangelism crusades, training for indigenous pastors and church leaders, campus ministry . . . the list goes on. All sorts of ministry for which we are all responsible and to which we all contribute — even though few of us will ever actually have the chance to see the work done firsthand.

Make the effort to participate in a mission trip or project like the Sturgis mission or the trip to Lodge Grass this October. Attend a missions conference like the one in Kansas City this November. Learn about the opportunities that exist for service in your own congregation. Visit the web sites to learn more about all that you are doing (www.nationalministries.org; www.internationalministries.org). You are part of a rich missional heritage going back 140 years.



Nola's Take Five . . .

Ideas from Nola Oberhelman
ABC/NE Christian Education Consultant

Take five methods for student retelling of stories:

1. conduct interviews of the characters
2. put on a puppet show
3. present plays wearing paperbag masks
4. fold drawing paper into accordion books and draw scenes on each section or page
5. tell the story in "going to Jerusalem" style, the first student begins, the next repeats and adds his sentence, etc.

Whatever method, retelling re-enforces learning.

Jeff Woods to Address Missional Leadership at Fall Pastors' Seminar

Dr. C. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary, ABC-USA, will be the leader for the Fall Pastors' Seminar. The Seminar will be held at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center, Oct. 15-17.



Woods will talk about **Missional Leadership**, including Bible study in Mark, research results from a number of studies, and personal insight based on experience. He will take on the "myths" of leadership.

Pastors' Seminars, sponsored by ABC-NE, are held every spring and fall at Moses Merrill. Registration, room and board for ABC/NE pastors is paid by The Carpenter Fund. Pastors may register by calling the region office.

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Adult Ministries Conference Special Features Abound!

The Adult Ministries Conference offers Nebraska Baptists and their friends a great time. The event will be held Oct. 1-4, at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Dr. Paul Welter will explore the questions of Jesus. See below.
- Missionaries Newton & Amelia Old Crow will share stories of their work in Lodge Grass, MT
- Exec. Min. Susan Gillies will review Stephan M.R. Covey's book *The Speed of Trust*
- Nina Jean Meth will share the story of her recent trip to eastern Europe.

BIBLE STUDY ON PERSONAL RENEWAL: A TIME FOR EMPTYING AND FILLING

Goal: Personal Renewal

Method: The Shakers were known for their vigorous dancing. In one dance they extended their hands with their palms down the first half of the dance to empty themselves of the negative thoughts, emotions, and attitudes that slither in unnoticed. In the second half of the dance they held their hands palms up to be filled with exciting new gifts from God. We will use their method as the approach to our Bible study.

Content: The Actual Words of Jesus, Especially a Few of His 333 Questions recorded in the Gospels. The first half of our time together we will apply some of his questions so we can empty ourselves of stress, brooding, anxiety, fear, comparison, criticism, or anger. The last half of our shared time we will consider his questions and actions involving peace, humility, spontaneity, surprise, healing, justice, love, and the courage to take new initiatives so we will be open to being filled spiritually. We will also do a study of Jesus' method of asking questions so we can continue to apply that approach to ours and others' lives.

Results: We invite you as Philip did Nathanael to "Come and see."

Layman & Clergy person of the Year Named By ABMen



Rev. Kip Mickelson with award.

—Rev. Kip Mickelson—
At the American Baptist Men's Conference August 11, at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center, Rev. Kip Mickelson was announced as the 2007 Clergy-Person of the year. Rev. Mickelson was awarded this honor for strong leadership with

American Baptist Men of Nebraska (ABMen/NE) and for his genuine compassion for the homeless and less fortunate people of our world. Kip serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Omaha. He is an accomplished musician, both as a performer and a composer. He has shared his musical gifts at many national ABC events. He continues to bring lively, wonderfully played music at ABMen/NE events.



Glenn Dappen (left) presents award to Bob Howe (right). Joyce Howe is in the center.

— Robert "Bob" Howe—
American Baptist Men presented their Layman of the Year award to Bob Howe of Second Baptist in Lincoln. The presentation was made at the annual Men's Conference at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center on August 11. At Second Baptist, Bob teaches Sunday School, serves on the Diaconate Board and as President of the local ABMen. He is coordinator of Senior Adult Ministries' bus trips at Second

and is an officer with ABMen of NE. He has been Membership Chairman for ABMen for four years. This summer he was a cabin leader at Mid High Camp I. Bob grew up in Prairie Union Baptist Church and also was a member of First, Lincoln, where he a leader of the "Boys Brigade," a Christian program for young boys. Bob and Joyce have three children and six grandchildren.

ABC/NE Prayer Focus for September:



- Thanks for God's abundant blessings!
- For peace in North Omaha.
- For the FAMILY REUNION.
- For the Youth Convention.
- For the beginning of the school year at Sioux Falls, Ottawa, and Central Seminary
- For Missionary Mike Mann and the work he does around the world.

Prayer is a vital part of our life together as American Baptists in Nebraska. Each year we have a special prayer emphasis. In 2007, The Messenger is featuring a prayer focus list each month.

CLIP OUT AND PLACE
ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR
OR IN YOUR BIBLE
AND PRAY. THANKS!



At a meeting of pastors of the largest ABC/NE churches, facilitator Tom Johnson from National Ministries (L), visits with Stan Murdoch of Kearney (C), and Lee Foreman of Fremont (R). The meeting took place at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center in mid-August.



History Headlines

If you could describe what's been happening in your church in just a few lines, what would you write? In the 1870 reports from churches, we read these comments:

—From Independence: "A promising revival is in progress, and sinners are being brought to Christ."

—From Camp Creek, Cass County: "Desire to record God's goodness in spreading for the church a table in the wilderness. Are destitute of regular preaching, but mean to wait and watch until break of day."

—From Lincoln: "Have raised one thousand three hundred dollars among their members towards building, and have under contract a house of worship to cost four thousand dollars or more."



—From Tecumseh: "Ask for prayer, that unity may prevail, and souls be saved."

—From Prairie Union: "Are realizing the truth of the Master's word—'In the world ye shall have tribulation,' but place their trust in Him who has said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.'"

—From Brownville: "Have an excellent Sabbath school, in fine working order."

—From Harmony: "Have most of the year been in a cold, barren state, having no stated meetings, and only occasional preaching by visiting brethren. Elder Lowe is now making a special effort with and for them, and with encouraging prospects. Already many sinners are inquiring the way of salvation."

—From Otoe: "No cheering news to communicate, but are still holding fast to the truth as it is in Jesus, and are determined to persevere in following Him."

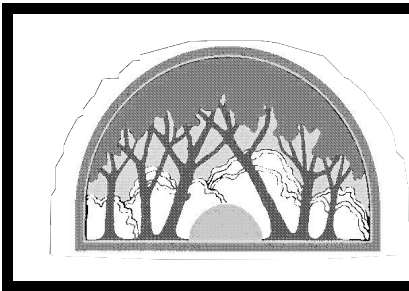
—From Ashland: "Have a flourishing Sabbath school, upon which they have expended one hundred dollars during the past year."

ABC/NE 140th Birthday Trivia (answers p.8)

1. In what town was the meeting held that adopted the first constitution for the Nebraska Baptist State Convention? a. Bellevue, b. Nebraska City, c. Tekamah, d. Omaha
2. In the minutes of that meeting in 1867, there is a listing of the ordained Baptist ministers serving in Nebr. How many were there? a. 12, b. 23, c. 37, d. 51
3. Is the rumor true that at the first anniversary meeting of the convention there was a vote to suspend the rules? Yes or No?
4. Which ABC/NE churches are the oldest? a. Bellevue & Union, b. Tekamah & First Omaha, c. Mason City & Ansley
5. Were Moses & Eliza Merrill the only ABC missionaries to serve in Nebraska?

Book of Timothy





Moses Merrill News

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Dear Friends,

Fall is my favorite season at Moses Merrill. I think you'd like it too. [Of course I like it because deep in the woods the mice are running around trying to get ready for winter and they're easier for me to catch!]

We have two sets of deer twins this year and one set of triplets. I haven't counted all the turkey babies.

More and more people are discovering the joys of RV camping in our peaceful valley. Usage is up and people are having a great time.

When was the last time you took your family or some friends on a nice all day picnic? Fall is a great time! Just stop by the Visitors' Center so we know you're here. I frequently rest under the bench on the porch. Just say "Hi," I'll be glad to see you.

—Camp Cat



Autumn Activities Just for You

October . . .

- Adult Ministries Conference 10/1-4
- Fall Women's Retreat 10/5-7
- Fall Pastors' Seminar 10/15-17

November . . .

- Vital Church Leaders Conference 11/5-7
- Holidays With the Merrills — Nov. 17
- An all day craft, food, entertainment festival

December . . .

- Christmas Vespers
Dec 2, 9, 16, 23 4:00pm



Thanks for all your prayers
and generous gifts!!

Nebraska Baptists Have a Vision for Moses Merrill

Nebraska Baptists continue to build on the vision for a "Center for Christian Growth." That was the term used when the land was purchased for the current Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center.

The Building Bridges Campaign, begun several years ago, has produced Friendship Chapel, Smith Amphitheatre, the Prayer Walk, Ward Conference Center, and Calvary Lodge. "I believe we've been faithful to the vision cast when the Fullerton site was purchased and later renewed when the Linwood site was obtained," stated Executive Minister Susan Gillies, "People of all ages, having found here a deeper relationship with God, affirm that this is truly holy ground."

WHAT'S NEXT? The final part of the Building Bridges Campaign is an Activity Pavilion or Building. This project is temporarily on hold while we deal with some infrastructure issues. A major re-working of the camp sewer lines is required by the state of Nebraska. According to Camp Director Clarence Reiss, "I am confident we'll be able to build an appropriate sewer system. The many friends of Camp Merrill will show their generosity again as they have in the past. Baptists in Nebraska are committed to this ministry and I'm grateful to be part of it."

So . . . stay tuned!

Work Teams . . .

- good for local church team building
- good for men's & women's groups
- good for young adult mission projects
- good for the ministry at Moses Merrill

What is needed?

All kinds of skills—painting, repair, gardening & tree trimming, hauling.

Fall 07 specific needs for remodeling Parkgrove Lodge

What is required?

You'll need a willing heart. You'll also need to do some advance planning and let camp know ahead of time that you are willing to come and help. Heavy fall bookings make some weekends impossible for work crews. [What a great problem to have! -ed.]

From the Associate Executive Minister Dave Lundholm

A Denominational Family

Over the last few years I have had conversations with people from other denominations or independent traditions who want to pastor American Baptist churches. Some of those folks have become wonderful additions to the family. My colleague, Steve Bills, came from an independent tradition. He was attracted to FBC, Omaha, because of its program. It was after he got here that he discovered the richness of being part of the ABC family. He is now deeply involved not just at a regional level but also nationally with the Ministers Council Senate. This family adopted him and he adopted it.

At other times, the person with whom I've talked has seemed more interested in just "a job." The conversations sometimes go like this:

Dave: "It's great that you want to become part of the American Baptist family. We are a denomination that welcomes people from other traditions. Many of our finest pastors have come from other denominations and have found a home in the ABC-USA. There are many advantages to being an American Baptist in Nebraska. There is the Carpenter fund scholarship that provides excellent events for continuing education. There is Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center that provides a special space where people can slow down enough to experience God. We have an excellent pastoral retirement plan in the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board."

"I will be happy to help you to work through the process to have your ordination recognized by the ABC."
"So tell me, why do you want to become an American Baptist?"

Pastor: "Well I really don't want to become an American Baptist. I just want to pastor one of your churches. I am happy with the network of people I already know, I am familiar with the resources from the group I'm already a part of."

Dave: "If you are happy where you are at, I don't see why you want to pastor an ABC church. Wouldn't it be better for you to continue to serve your present denomination? If you want to become an American Baptist I will be happy to work with you to help you become one but if you don't, then I can't support your candidacy for an ABC church."

And just like the rich young ruler, they turn and go away.

The reason pastors like that want to be in an American Baptist Church is that they want a job. And if they should be called to the position they will expect the church to change to fit them rather than being adaptable to the needs of the church. The moral is that when you are looking for a pastor, it is important to discern those who are looking for work from those who are seeking to serve.



"If you want to cook southern fried chicken, don't try to get a job at a pizza parlor."-- Dave Lundholm

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

by Darlene Rimpley

October Deadlines

September 7, 2007 - Print Copy

September 12, 2007 - E-Mail

Home Town Editor (Note New Address)

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Subject: Messenger

ALLIANCE FBC: The church celebrated its 115th anniversary on Jul 15 with a dinner following worship. Bob, Mary, and David Kraft were church guests for the day. Bob provided music during worship and a hymn and chorus sing for the dinner program. A funeral for church member Jeanne Gearhart was celebrated July 23.

ARNOLD FBC: A baptismal service was held in the river on Jul 11 for eight persons. Sunday School promotion was held on Aug 26, and Bibles were presented to students entering the third grade. A "Back to School Appreciation" breakfast was held on Aug. 15 for the teachers, and other personnel of the public schools.

BEATRICE FBC: Sunday school promotion was held on Aug 26, with treats and a program highlighting the event.

BELLEVUE NEW LIFE: The church continues to offer its Family Movie Night the end of each

month, using secular movies to drive home Christian values. *Finding Nemo* illustrates the love of the Father and how He seeks us when we are lost. *The Great Muppet Caper* teaches that we can help anyone, regardless of our differences. Every movie shown is carefully selected and has a message of hope and faith for families to share. Admission, snacks and drinks are always free.

BRIDGEPORT: The congregation is busy preparing to be the host church for the Family Reunion (annual convention) of the ABC/NE in North Platte Sept 21-23. The Friendship Circle has met through the summer with meetings in the evening so employed women can take part. Planning continues for a new building.

BROKEN BOW FBC: Vacation Bible school was held in June, with a good attendance. FBC worked with the Ministerial Association to sponsor a youth conference on June 24, with four high schoolers, "Growing Young", giving a

musical concert. The Ministerial Association also hosted the Christian Motorcyclists Association state Rally at Broken Bow on June 1-3, FBC pastor, Betty Johnson, and husband, Ron, are members. Several of the Broken Bow churches, including FBC, dismissed regular services to join with the group at the grandstand at the fair grounds for the Sunday morning worship. The congregation was saddened when Pastor Betty announced she has accepted a call to pastor The United Church, an ABC-affiliated church in Mapleton, MN. She will be missed by the congregation and the community.

CHADRON FBC: The adult Vacation Bible School held in July averaged 20 people each evening. FBC's OGHs offering was designated to Greensburg, KS.

FAIRBURY FBC: Bill & Phyllis Stahl celebrated their 55th anniversary, on Aug 5, and Bob & Evelyn Jackson their 65th anniversary on Aug 29. VBS students collected food to go to the BVCA

Food Pantry. The "Continental Singers" presented a concert on Aug 12, which was followed by a carry in dinner. A Back to school Bash was held on Aug 26, which began with a brunch and was followed by games and fellowship during the regular Sunday school hour.

FREMONT FBC: Elmer & Evelyn Baks celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug 18. An all-church picnic was held on Aug 19 at Clemmons Park. The ABW went to Camp Merrill for lunch and a program on Aug 9. The FBC youth took a mission trip to Norfolk FBC on Aug 11-13, where they shared at a worship service, presented them with a monetary gift and a BIG banner of encouragement signed by all of the people at Fremont FBC. A potato bar was held as a fundraiser for the trip on Aug 5.

GIBBON BC: The Gibbon Ministerial Association held a community picnic and concert, which featured "Narrow Way", at Davis Park on Aug 12. FBC housed a youth group from Iowa who were on their way to Colorado on a mission trip on Jul 28, and also on their return home on Aug 4. AWANA Kick-Off and registration was held on Aug 29.

GRAND ISLAND FBC: A bazaar was held on Aug 18, with the proceeds going to the heating/cooling fund. "Coffee Time" is held every weekday morning at 10:00 am for all who care to attend, a tradition that was started by Rev. Jim Wood a number of years ago.

HASTINGS FBC: Three men were baptized on Jul 29. On Aug 4 we had a 1-day Bible school - 11 kids learned about and dramatized a story from Daniel and followed that with a trip to the water park. Rob and Joyce Dinnell celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Aug 2 - wow. The adult Sunday school class continues to attract visitors to its discussions of "The Purpose Driven Life." We have a traditional music group and two contemporary bands (one is a youth band) helping lead worship on Sunday mornings.

HOLDREGE FBC: The youth group went tubing on the Niobrara River Aug 3-4.

JUNIATA COMMUNITY CHURCH: The JCC ladies hosted the Holdrege ABW on Aug 1, with the latter giving a program and JCC serving a lunch. Church-in-Libs-Park was held on Aug 26, with a morning worship service and a picnic dinner following.

LAVISTA JUDSON: Knitting needles are clacking away as several members donated yarn to be made into lap robes for Maple Crest Nursing Home. Camp Merrill campers came back having made many new friends and lots of wonderful memories. Over 50 children attended Avalanche Ranch Vacation Bible School in July. Several men from Judson attended the ABM Conference at Camp Moses Merrill. Promotion Sunday was held with kids going into third grade and six grade receiving new Bibles. In August "The Gathering" was started. This is an outreach ministry for those who normally would not attend a church. Centro Christiano International has begun meeting at Judson twice a week. This is

an outreach ministry for our Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ. Several members of Judson participated in the "Musical Extravaganza" held at Sunset Hills. Pastor Williamson and several other members of Judson rode to Sturgis to minister to those at the big motorcycle rally.

LINCOLN BELMONT: Pastor Dale Robbins and his family will be moving to Kansas. He has accepted the call to pastor a church there. He will be missed by our church family.

LINCOLN FBC: The church women have a "Pray First" at 7:00 am on the first Monday of each month, where the women start the day and month off right with prayer. The FBC men attended a Saltdogs game on Aug 24. Nearly 700 people were served during the B.L.O.C.K. party on Jul 14. FBC had a booth at the University's "Big Red Welcome" on Aug 26. The mid and high school Youth Group ended the summer with a swimming and cookout party on Aug. 26. An informational meeting was held concerning a possible 2008 mission trip to Jamaica.

LINCOLN SECOND: These are days of transition for the Second Baptist family. Pastor Renae Odell left earlier this summer and Pastor Jim Cummings will finish his ministry with us the end of August. He is returning to school to become a hospital chaplain. Long time member and ABMen leader Glen Sliter passed away in July.

MCCOOK FBC: July 21-23 was a grand time of installing our pastor Allan Jackson. It included a neighborhood pig roast, a community potluck dinner, a special Sunday morning worship and dinner and installation. Susan Gillies, Dave Lundholm, and Steve Bils from the ABC/NE staff all participated in the installation. K.I.S.S. (Kids in Sunday School) was held all through August with the goal of showing the wonders of Sunday School to children with songs, stories, games, and crafts. A television was donated to the nursery room.

NORFOLK FBC: A groundbreaking ceremony for the new church building was held on Jul 15 with a large crowd attending, and young and old turning over a shovel full of sod. Rally Day Sunday was held on Aug 26, with a tailgate party featuring a potluck dinner following worship, and using the theme, "Reaching For the Ultimate Prize."

NORTH PLATTE FBC: Pastor Greg, and the Youth Mission Team have returned from their Passport Mission trip to New Orleans. It was an exciting and rewarding week. Pastor Tom and some of our church leaders attended a Leadership Retreat at Camp Merrill on Jul 26-28. Vacation Bible School was held Jul 8-12. Fifty-Year Members were celebrated at worship service and a potluck dinner on Jul 15. Long time member Mattie Rumery passed away on July 22, 2007 at the age of 101.

OMAHA BENSON: Pastor Stephen Wuor of the Sudan church supported by Benson has been licensed through the church so he can perform baptisms. A Music and Game night was held on Aug 12. The annual Road Rally was held on

Aug 18. A 63-year member, Agnete Larsen, passed away on June. 3.

SCOTTSBLUFF FBC: An "Old Fashioned Hymn Sing" was held on Aug 26.

OMAHA FBC: FBC held an "Invite a Friend to Church" Sunday and to an "All Church Picnic" on Aug 5 at Hanscom Park. We were fortunate to have ten men attend the men's conference at Camp Moses Merrill the weekend of Aug 10-11. On Aug 18th our church embarked on a new adventure. Our church, along with several area churches, served lunch to our neighbors as part of our Outreach Ministry. Bags with personal toiletry items were given to anyone who wanted one. Aug 26 was a fun and emotional day for the kids of FBC. It was Promotion Sunday, a baptismal service saw eight of our kids walk through the "waters of baptism" and the kids were in charge of the morning worship service. Plans are underway for the beginning of our "Electric Wednesday Program" which will kickoff on Sept 12.

OMAHA PARKSIDE: The First Kachin Baptist Church members cleaned, repaired, resealed and repainted the large stained glass window and the Plexiglas on the south wall of the sanctuary. The Heartland Festival was held on Jul 14-15, which included family sports events, a food court, and music and Luis Palau as the feature both nights. A follow-up to newly committed or recommitted Christians after the Heartland Festival included a special Sunday on Jul 22, when all were invited, given token gifts, and a "Linger Longer" was held.

OMAHA, SUNSET HILLS: A near capacity crowd attended "A Musical Extravaganza" on Jul 15 with a sandwich supper and music provided by Omahaland churches. Fourteen members attended the AB Men's Conference at Camp Merrill, including Pastor Ron French, who was one of the two speakers, and members of Forgiven, who provided the music. The weekend was completed with the men returning to lead the Sunday worship service. The August "Senior Play Day" was held on the Aug 15 at Mahoney State Park, and a side trip to Holy Family Shrine at Gretna. The youth who went on the Kansas City mission trip led the Aug. 26 service. In a special day for children going back to school "Backpacks and Lunch Boxes" were blessed. A dedication was held for the new keyboard and church sign, which were memorials from the Rev. Palmer and Helen Swenson family. "Sing Until Sunset," an outdoor music festival, will be held Sept. 9. The Sunday morning church service that day also will be held outdoors.

OXFORD FBC: Vacation Bible School was held in the evenings, Jul 9-13, with approximately 75 children in attendance. This is a community-wide program, with an open invitation to all children, pre-school - 6th grade. The material used for VBS was titled "Avalanche Ranch" and with the assistance of local ropers, many of the children learned to rope. The VBS closed with a program on Friday evening. Our summer Sunday School program is titled "Living Inside Out Heroes," with our teens assisting the teacher as they work with the pre-school through 6th grade kids.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

NEW MEMBERS:

ARNOLD: Brook Blowers, Ashton Weinman, Brady Weinman, Charlie Blowers, Drew Bowers, Braedon Froid, and Tristan Johnson.

FREMONT: Merissa Harris, Nichole Seagle

GIBBON: Bill and Geraldine Ward

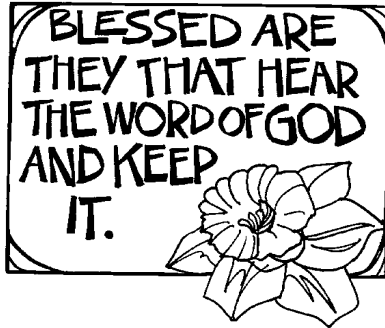
HASTINGS: Steven LaGrange, Tom Lamb, and John Vance

HOLDREGE: Cody Dahlgren, Amanda Gardine

LAVISTA JUDSON: Ellen Lloyd, Mark Collins, Janine Costello

OMAHA BENSON: Mark Hamilton

OMAHA SUNSET HILLS: Cheyenna Siefker, Ose Okoruwa.



140th Birthday Trivia ANSWERS

1. a. The first constitution of the Nebr. Baptist State Convention was adopted Nov. 13, 1867 at Bellevue.
2. b. There were 23 ordained Baptist pastors in the state at the time of the adoption of the constitution.
3. Yes. Baptists will be Baptist!
4. b. Tekamah & FBC-Omaha are the oldest ABC/NE churches.
5. No. Dozens of missionaries served in Nebraska territory and then the state of Nebraska in the 1800s. Many of our churches were begun by ABC Home Missionaries.



ABC of Nebraska Staff

Executive Minister	Susan Gillies
Associate Executive Minister	Dave Lundholm
Associate Executive Minister	Steve Bills
Director of Camps & Conferences	Clarence Reiss
Camp Program Director	MaryBeth Robertson
Camp Staff.....	Jerry Buss, Trudy Reiss, Darcie Jones Elizabeth Dietrich, Denise Harris, Joe Huss, Beverly Pacas
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Office Assistant	Margaret Brown-Moore
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Volunteer Mission Secretary.....	Judie Heller
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Pastor to Pastors (W).....	Paul Kondy
Pastor to Pastors (E).....	Dick Peterson
Youth Ministry Adjunct	Jason Workman


Plan now Nov 17
"Holidays With The Merrills"
 An all day festival with crafts, entertainment, food, & fellowship at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center.



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