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American Baptist Churches Cen ral Region Life

November 2021

Vol. 119 No. 11

Greenwood Baptist Church Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry





Greenwood Baptist Church in Pomona, KS celebrated their 150th Anniversary on September 26, 2021. They hosted a wonderful Homecoming event, feturing special music by the Liberty Bell Trio. They had a memorial tree dedication and fellowship lunch of homemade chili and hot dogs. They also had a drawing for a beautiful lap quilt piece donated by Shirley Ames.

The Greenwood Church recieved its start in October 1865. Harrison Reed and his wife came from Littleton, Illinois to Frankiln County, Kansas to live on a farm which they had bought from a woman named Thorp of the Sac and Fox Indian Tribe. this farm consisted of 640 acres of land located on the South Bank of the Marais des Cygnes River in Greenwood Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed were members of a Baptist church in Littleton, so they put their church letters in the First Baptist Church in Ottawa. Mr. Reed was an ordained deacon and he began immediately to hunt for Christian people so that they might organize a church at Greewood. Deacon Reed gladly opened his new house to the community and Sunday School was held there. Later, preaching services were started. In fair weather, services were held under the shade of an oak tree, west of the house. This place is just west of the church and known as the Meagher farm,

Greenwood Baptist Church was organized July 10, 1870 by Reverend I. Hetrick who served the church as Pastor for 19 years. It had 10 constituent members. Many were taken into the church the first year,

The weather was no deterrent to the converts as they were baptized in the Marais des Cygnes River, regardless of conditions. Sometimes the ice was thick enough for the congregation to stand on, On one occasion, a team of horses and. wagons were driven on a pond for the singers and a hole was cut in the ice for the baptism. The preacher and candidates descended a ladder into the water.

Deacon Reed gave the land for the church and cemetery and the church was erected in 1871. Fred Miller was the head carpenter. It was built with mostly volunteer work and from native lumber which was sawed a short way up the river at a sawmill.

Greenwood Church was the first house dedicated to the service of God in the Miami Association. It was valued at \$1200.00. The Miami Association met with Greenwood Church at it's 4th Annual Meeting on September 6, 1872. Again on September 8, 1876; September 18, 1894 and once after 1900,

There was no railroad, and the road from Ottawa followed a trail which was probably an Indian Trail, as the Government Indian Agency and Trading Post was located 1/2 mile west of the church. The old Burlington Trail crossed the Marais des Cygnes at a point one mile east from where the bridge now is located. Then it went south and west where the church stands. The church was built facing the trail, the reason the church sets a little to the northwest.

The first seats were home-made, a sort of box affair with straight board backs and were set on either side of the church, leaving a wide aisle down the center, A big stove set well to the back in this aisle space and a flyer hung from the rafters by brackets. The church was lit by kerosene bracket lamps, set along the walls by the windows, on either side. As long as Deacon Reed lived, he took care of the lamps and the fire. There was a raised platform in the front of the church for the singers and for the melodeon which they carried from the Reed home. The pulpit was a step up from that.

. It was an established custom for the men to sit on the east side of the church and the women sat on the west side. Most of the men chewed tobacco so the women would put cans along the wall so they would not get the floor dirty. People were very poor and had only what they could raise and very little market for that. The Preacher was paid from \$45.00 to \$75.00 per year and many of them preached at 3 or 4 places.

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In November We Think of Thanksgiving

Sometimes folks make a list of things for which they are thankful or thank God for the wonderful Thanksgiving meal with family. These are good things, but I recently looked at a definition of 'thankful' and it said it was a feeling. 'Gratitude' is taking action on that feeling.

It's great to feel thankful but it's even better to express that feeling with some kind of grateful action. If you're thankful for plenty of food for a great meal with family, maybe you could help to provide the same for others who are struggling right now financially.

If you're thankful to have your family able to be with you for a day, maybe you could reach out to someone who is all alone at this holiday season. If you're thankful for your salvation, maybe you could give an extra financial gift to a missionary who is sharing the Gospel or give an extra gift to your church for its children's ministries in the community.

October was pastor appreciation month, but any month is a good time to express your thankfulness for their faithful ministry. How have you been blessed? And how can you express gratitude for those blessings? The possibilities are endless!!

There is so much hatred in our world, we need to be sharing God's love at every opportunity. I just heard about a church member here in Wichita who stepped outside his home when he heard a disturbance. He was shot and killed, and this was a block from the church.

Do you want to see a revival in our country? It can begin with you, and you and you and me!

Maybe you've reached the stage of life that you aren't that active now, but you can still open your heart in prayer and your pocketbook to support ministries.

There are many ways you can do this, and I'd love to discuss possibilities that fit your individual situation, so please feel free to give me a call, e-mail or letter.

Rev. Wilma E. Engle, Director of Planned Giving

cell: 316-644-2069

E-mail: wilmaengle10@gmail.com

Rev. Timothy Schwartz, Assistant Director of Planned Giving

Cell: 913-424-9939

E-mail: timmans39@gmail.com

Needs for Murrow Indian Children's Home

Most of us know that COVID has had a significant impact on ministry in various ways. Meetings by zoom, distancing ourselves from others, and financial adjustments are just a few of the ways that we've had to re-think the way we love God and love one another.

Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma, has also had to make some significant adjustments to the way they care for Native American Children. Recently, in some correspondence with leaders of Murrow and the area, I learned of a significant financial shortfall that Murrow is facing. I wrote to Executive Director, Betty Martin, asking about the needs Murrow is facing and she replied, "Basically, the need is funding for operating expenses. I know that no one wants to fund operating expenses, but it costs money to care for children — utilities, staff, food, and consumable supplies. I'm not complaining, because I love these children and I'm glad they are here and not somewhere else. Please ask everyone to pray, pray, for all of the children, the staff, and for me."

I appreciate Betty Martin's passion for her work. I have also experienced the generosity of the Central Region churches. I know that many Central Region churches have generously supported Murrow in the past. The Board for Murrow Indian Children's Home is working toward raising \$50,000.00 by year end to cover the costs of ministering to our Native American brothers and sisters.

Would you consider a gift to Murrow Indian Children's Home this fall?

If you would like to donate directly to Murrow, you can go to their website and make your donation. You can also send your donation to the Region office and we'll make sure your donation is sent to Murrow for their work. Our address is:

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

5833 SW 29th Street

Topeka, KS 66614

Please put "Murrow Indian Children's Home" on your donation so we'll be sure your donation goes where intended.

It has been exciting for me to see how God has moved through these challenging days we find ourselves in. Thank you for your generosity to the children at Murrow Indian Children's Home.

Gregg L.J. Hemmen

Executive Minister, ABCCR

Sr. Adult Retreat to have Central Region pastor, Joel Grizzle as Keynote Speaker



Originally from Georgia but transitioned to Dallas, Texas to attend Dallas Seminary in his mid-twenties. Married to a fiery Texas redhead named Kendra, who baptized him into ways of Texas A&M. Together they have 3 children:

Kennedy 14, Jace 13, Gage 10. He has served at churches in North Atlanta, Dallas and has been in Lyons, Kansas since 2009.

> "Handshakes, Hugs & Hallelujahs" April 27-28, 2022

Families and Youth Faith Formation

Rev. Jennifer Schneider, Assoc. Executive Minister

Christian parents and church leaders are concerned about how to pass on faith to today's young people. They worry that teens might not have the same faith as their parents. However, research suggests most young people share the religion of their parents. A recent Pew Research report found that 63% of teens surveyed said they identified as Christian, while 72% of their parents considered themselves Christian. At the same time, most parents who claim to be religiously unaffiliated (24%) have teenagers who consider themselves non-religious (32%). These statistics, along with research done by Vern Bengtson with four generations of families, including more than 3,500 family members, conclude that religious families are surprisingly capable of transmitting their faith to their children. Bengtson discovered "there was significant parent-child similarity in religious affiliation, participation, religious intensity, Biblical beliefs, and civic religiosity." (Bengtson, 66)

If parents are the primary influencers in faith transmission, church youth ministry needs to consider how they can reach and resource families. Youth ministry that only engages teens needs to look for ways these programs can include families. In Growing Young, the authors suggest one way churches evaluate if they are prioritizing families is to look at their numbers. They recommend comparing the number of teens engaged compared to the number of teens in the community. They also suggest looking at the percentage of resources; financial, physical, and human resources dedicated to reaching young people

Churches that prioritize youth and their families should consider how resources and staff can effectively implement ministries directed to families. They will have to evaluate available spaces, leadership, and financial resources that could be used for family-centric ministries. They might create new programs, trips, social activities, and retreats that allow families to learn and grow in their faith together. It also might mean repurposing spaces, so they are more family friendly. Churches might also consider ways to include families in youth programs they are already doing.

When communities of faith focus on teenagers and their parents, young people have the opportunity to learn and live out their faith together with their families. Youth have the chance to engage in what Dean calls "sacred eavesdropping." (Dean, 119) As Bengtson suggests, if faith formation happens in families, individual churches and larger church organizations must prioritize family ministry. When students engage in theological reflection, bible study, acts of kindness, or other "faith in action" activities with their parents, teenagers begin to solidify and claim their faith.

Jennifer Schneider Associate Executive Minister

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CENTRAL REGION LIFE

News of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

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Editor: Morgan Bandy

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As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, let us consider praying by making a list of all the blessings that God has bestowed on us over this past year. Then let us offer prayers of thanks as we look back over the list day by day and express gratefulness to God, both now and in the days to come.

May we also ask Jesus to inspire and motivate us to put our prayers into action by blessing and helping families, friends, neighbors and our communities in need of hope!

May the holy spirit guide us to be creative in all the ways we pray that we might live out thanks and praise to God in all the days that we are given.

As the scripture says,

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name." Psalm 100:4 (NLT)



How To Handle Difficult Church Members By Rev. Dr. William Hendricks; ABCCR Director Interim Ministries

Dr. Hendricks spent 5 years studying conflict as part of his D.Min. He created the seminar, "How to Handle Difficult People" that was presented in 5 countries and to more than 100,000 people.

Let's talk about the Dirty Dozen.

The Dirty Dozen are not the occasional individual who misses the mark. They are the individual who uses their personality and actions as a weapon to make their point and achieve their desired outcome. Most people are different than you, they see things differently. A few people are difficult, they have only their way of seeing things and rarely consider others. Difficult people wear their labels openly and do not change their thinking or approach and, that's what can trip your trigger or add that 'Last straw' to your pile of frustration.

Are difficult people doing things intentionally? Yes, in most cases, but they are not always trying to get you. They are good at creating a wave of destruction, and you may be in their path. Pastor's more than others seem to have an abundance of these encounters.

THE DIRTY DOZEN

A.	*	8			
Angry Members	Stubborn Members	Clueless Members	Deal Maker Members	Shy & Passive Members	VIP Members
***	\$				
Henny Penny Members	رد Skeptic Members	Frazzled Members	Debbie Downer Members	Drippy Sweet Members	Misinformed Members

1st Identify and Recognize- You should at least be able to understand the sounds and reactions a difficult person produces. That usually buys a Pastor time to de-fuse self and find control.

2nd Find Your Response Zone- Difficult people can best be managed when an Interim Pastor (or any pastor) selects the terms and the grounds for conversation.

3rd Realize and Affirm- Difficult people almost always have a hold of the tail of the tiger. Even in the greatest times of malcontent, they offer opportunity for redemption.

4th Pray and Release- Difficult people are a reminder that we fight with Christ. This is not the Pastor's to change but Christs. There are ways to get to a good spot so we can be a pastor.

The Angry Member and the Shy Passive Member.

The one thing these two characters have in common is that once they appear, they are fully super-charged. They go from zero to sixty in a blink! One dominates, the other hides. In both cases, they control the environment immediately, which opens the door to use your Response Zone.

Consider your Response Zone a box you stand on or in. One of your choosing. You go to this Zone to buy time, gain self-control, and de-escalate the moment.

The ANGRY Member has chosen the issue, and their tactic is power. The moment they speak, their volume, the emotion and their strength are puffed up. You may see them coming, but they are already loaded for bear. A simple statement like "I want to talk to you, but not like this," sets them on their heels. You can suggest, 'Let's pray right now, or Let's go to a quieter place.' Whichever you suggest do it! Start praying immediately or start walking to a different room; both actions place you in a leadership role. They must pray and they must follow you to a different room.

The SHY Member hunkers down and won't come out. When they respond, they dodge and dart in a seemingly random path. They go into full bunny mode instantly. They control by being out of control. They may use tears, or self-deprecation, but their goal is one that says, 'My world is out of control, you fix it."

The trigger for the Pastor is to jump into 'Helper mode,' with no immediate knowledge or details. We become frustrated in the blink of the eye because the Angry and Shy Member have put nothing on the table to work with. They have chosen the time and the place. They have brought the energy but getting to details is very difficult.

With both types, they have some level of truth, but rarely all the truth. When you can get to your Response Zone, you have time to establish Truth. Break their concern into three or four points. Exaggerate what they feel and cause them to say, "Well it's not that bad.' And then say, 'OK it's clear this is important to you, let's talk.'

Remember the key response phrase, 'I want to talk to you, but not like that.' They will slip in and out of their difficult mode. Sometimes, many times in the first 20 minutes. When you see this occurring, say again, 'I want to talk, but not like that... Let's get the issues on the table and find God's answer.' This now makes it a shared problem, you can create an assignment that each of you will do, so you can buy an hour to think, promising to reconvene. It is not the responsibility of an Interim Pastor (or any Pastor) to solve the problem. Our goal must always be, to get things in front of Christ. But it is

very hard to get people on their knees when the Angry member is pounding on the table, or the Shy one is hiding under it!

The source of power for these first two of the Dirty Dozen is to get you to decide and take control of the situation by being out of control. When managing these two difficult types, the Interim Pastor must recognize that the problem they carry is always a small part of something bigger, something we do together AND something God is very interested in.

We will discuss the tactics for the rest of the Dirty Dozen in subsequent articles. If one of them is knocking on your door right now and you would just like to talk through it, please feel free to give me a call . (913) 558-3311.











In 2016 Dee Ann Grummon learned of a bike fixing station a church in Hutchinson offered the community on their property. From there was born the seed to what has grown into an oasis for bicyclists. Along came Donna and John Krug. They are avid bicyclists and have been riding for years. The original trail for the Trans American bike trail went south of town, which they rode frequently. In 2019 the Adventure Cycling Association decided to re-route the Trans America Trail from Rush Center to Great Bend because the trail south had become increasingly crowded by semi-trucks.

Later that year the Krugs, who are also a part of Be Well Barton County met Pastor Daniel Dugas who was pastor at Central Baptist Church and learned of the camping space behind the church. Through meetings and prayer it was decided to approach Be Well for some grant money to rebuild the picnic tables and install a charging station for bicyclists. They truly didn't know what they started!

This year, the first year that bicyclists have truly learned of this oasis, brought people from 5 countries and 17 states. But it doesn't stop there.

For years Debbie Potter, a longtime member of Central Baptist, has wanted to have the picnics and pig feeds that the Church use to have. She always wanted to have a shelter put on the campgrounds. Pastor Dugas wife, Bridgett had gotten some grant money for outdoor improvements so the two ideas came together. The grant money paid for a cement slab, and then Debbie donated a used shelter carport display that was laid on the cement slab just this summer.

Also this summer John and Donna met Delbert Randolf on a community bike ride. They ended up bringing Delbert by the CBC bicycle camp grounds. Delbert had lost a child to an untimely death just over a year ago. Delbert has been involved in Boy Scout Troup 157 for ten plus years along with his sons Devin and Alex. Delbert told Boy scout Troup leader Ernesto Diaz and his son Felix Diaz about the camp. Mr. Diaz's son was looking for a project for his Eagle badge. Delbert told Felix that he would fund a water well project if it could be a memorial to his son Devin. Through the generosity of several entities, including Rosencrantz-Bemis Water Well Company who donated their services, there was a fresh water well dug on Oct. 9th in memory of Delbert's son on the camp grounds. The handled pump was placed the following week, and we are just waiting on the memorial plaques' that will be on three of the four sides of the cement base.

Two more community members got on the bandwagon: Jason Cauley, who was also a part of the biking community in Great Bend, made the sign that identifies our campgrounds, and Todd VanSkike from VanSkike from Golden Belt Bike Shop donated bike racks for use at the campground site.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CENTRAL REGION?

Churches in Action





Faith Renewal Baptist Church's brand new American Baptist Women's Ministries group has had a busy few inaugural months. They just formed in September and already created a few dozen "pillowcase dresses" for young girls overseas who are in need. They also stuffed some jack-o-lantern sacks as decorations for their upcoming "Trunk or Treat" outreach on Oct 31. They also have crafted some fall gifts to be delievered to their shut-ins. Congratulations!

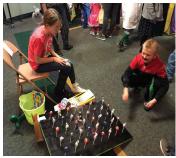


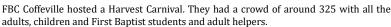




Center with funds raised through their ABW Project for 2020-2021.









FBC Council Grove already has a great start on the Christmas season with 85 boxes packed for Opperation Christmas Child







Nate Marsh, Lead Pastor at FBC Topeka named one of Topeka's "Top 20 Under 40"

Prairie Homestead's Focus on Safety Extended to Neighborhood

Living in a safe neighborhood is a top priority for everyone, but especially seniors. At Prairie Homestead, safety means a lot of different things. Safety includes having night security guards and safety checks, but it also means reducing risk of falls by increasing strength and balance. Prairie Homestead's care for seniors even extends past the boundaries of the campus and will now reach further into the nearby neighborhoods.

Prairie Homestead will be implementing a Neighborhood Wellbeing Program thanks to a \$24,780 Impact and Capacity Grant (ICG) recently awarded by the Kansas Health Foundation! The program will help reduce the feeling of being unsafe and maximize the opportunity for all neighbors to improve health and wellbeing. Prairie Homestead's Neighborhood Wellbeing program will work to build relationships between neighbors and provide education to increase safety which will ultimately result in healthy outcomes and a sense of community connectedness. Prairie Homestead will host educational presentations, social gatherings/networking, and provide resources to build community unity, pride, and wellness. Education, awareness building, and action steps designed to increase safety will improve the community sense of security plus participants will feel an improvement in overall health benefits such as reduced anxiety, depression, and stress Brenda Janda, Executive Director, shared "We are so thankful

for the support received from the Kansas Health Foundation. We are excited to strengthen relationships in our neighborhood and increase safety and wellbeing. We want Prairie Homestead to be a resource for seniors and families, and this program will be a great opportunity.

For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, visit www.kansashealth.org.

For information about Prairie Homestead Senior Living, call (316) 263-8264 or visit their website at www.prairiehomesteadseniorliving.org

Sewing Group at FBC Overland Park Provide Pillows and Wig Bags for Patients

Cancer Action requested pressure pillow sets and wig bags recently, so the Sewing Group at FBC Overland Park went to work providing 20 pillow sets and 13 wig bags. Thank you to the amazing team; Don Hollenbeck stuffed many of these pillows and Gloria Hollenbeck crocheted the lovely wig flowers. Thanks sewers: Jeanne Fagan, Jean Trigg, Ronda Winship, Lynda Foote, Donna VanGoethem, Martha Wilindez, LuAnn Logback, and Linda.





Fire Relief Fund for FBC Lawrence



On October 15, the food pantry director stopped by the church to drop off some items when she noticed puffs of smoke coming from under the siding in a corner of the sanctuary Within minutes, the corner of the sanctuary was engulfed in flames. Hours later, after fire crews responded and labored to stop the fire, significant damage had been done to the walls roof, and interior of the sanctuary. Thankfully, no one was physically hurt, the damage was not further spread, insurance will cover the cost of much of the rebuild. But, we know that expenses will still come that will not be covered. Worship, service, and ministry will be greatly impacted for months. A caring and supportive community has immediately offered to help with the renovation and restoration, and if you would like to contribute, your gifts are welcome.

You can give at: https://go.rallyup.com/firstbaptistlawrence



Central Region Life

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region 5833 S. W. 29th St. Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505

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Name	
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Email	

Mission Conference Schedule

Friday evening - January 14, 2022 (ZOOM Only)

7:00 - 7:05 PM - Welcome

7:05 - 7:50 PM - Dr. Ray Schooler.

7:50 - 8:10 PM Question and answer period.

Saturday morning - January 15, 2022 (ZOOM and In-Person)

9:00 - 9:09 AM Welcome

9:10 - 9:40 AM - America for Christ - Dr. Christine Roush

9:44 - 9:45 AM - Introduction of Lisa Rothenberger-Winter

9:45 - 10:15 AM - One Great Hour of Sharing - Lisa Rothenberger-Winter

10:15 - 10:40AM - Schedule Break

10:41 - 11:11 AM - World Mission Offering - Rev. Sharon Koh

11:15 to 11:45 AM - Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering -Rev. John Williams

CENTRAL REGION

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 14-15

HAVE YOU HEARD?



TODAY, we're launching the 2022 Missions & Evangelism Annual Conference, and w

Regardless of COVID, this conference will be in-person and simulcast

This is not just about missions. You will receive tools that make missions relevant and practical. The tools you need to grow your church!

We'll see you there!

Central Region It's LIVE and It's ONLINE.

IANUARY 14-15

					Host Churches:
	SION & EVANGELISM A		Garden City, FBC		
REGISTRATION FORM January 14-15					Great Bend, FBC
Name:	3				Hiawatha, FBC
Church Name:	City:				Humboldt, FBC
Cell Phone:	Email:				KC, Victory Hills
The Mission & Evangelism Committee has \$750 in matching funds. For every dollar the region receives above your \$25 fee,			<u>2,</u>	McPherson, FBC	
\$25. ⁰⁰ /Person	ched. The monies received will be divided ur special offerings: America For Christ,			Wichita, Faith Renewal	
One Great Hour of Sharing, World Mission Offering, and Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. Can you help us reach our goal of $$1500.^{\infty}$?					Topeka, FBC
Check One:					
Yes – I'll Be there!	My Registration Fee		Additional Offering		Speakers:
[] No – I can't make it.	But I Still Want to Give				Rev. Dr. Ray Schooler Senior Director of Developmen
		Total Due	\$		International Minsitries

Conference Details

FRIDAY JANUARY 14 - The 2022 Mission & Evangelism Conference kick-off with a mission challenge from Ray Schooler our Zoom Keynote speaker. Mark your calendar- Friday Evening January 14, 2022 Keynote 7:00 pm. When we receive your registration, a link will be sent to you.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15 - COVID Pending, we will have 'Watch Parties' in 8 locations across the Region. Our theme is ${\sf TOGETHER-when\ we\ put\ our\ Missions\ Money,\ 'Together'\ we\ can\ do\ better!\ If\ we\ are\ under\ COVID\ restraints\ and\ and\ are\ under\ COVID\ restraints\ and\ are\ under\ un$ cannot meet, you will receive a link. Please check the location where you will come 'Together' in ABCCR mission

Check One: I will attend the following Watch Party. A light lunch will be provided.

[]	Garden City FBC	[]	Great Bend FBC	[]	Hiawatha FBC	[]	Humbolt FBC
[]	KC Victory Hills	[]	McPherson FBC	[]	Topeka FBC		

[] Wichita Faith Renewal

Return this Registration Form to Wilma Engle - wilmaengle10@gmail.com or mail to: Wilma Engle; 6745 Interurban St.; Wichita, KS 67204-1323. Please make checks payable to: Mid-Winter Missions

Registrations Due By: January 1, 2022

Rev. Dr. Christine Roush Associate Director of Discipleship Amrican Baptist Home Mission Society

Lisa Rothenberger-Winter ABCUSA World Relief Office

Rev. Dr. John Williams ABCCR Retired Executive Minister

Rev. Sharon Koh Executive Director Internationl Ministries