

Central Region Life

SEPTEMBER 2025

BETHEL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

In This Issue:

Bethel Pickleball Tournament

Annual Gathering 2025

Women in Ministry Lunch

Sabbatical News

Changing Seasons

Climate Change- CBTS

Westen Area Meeting

Planned Giving

RISE Youth Conference

Prayer Emphasis

National ABWM News

NE Area Meeting

SE Area Meeting

Prairie Baptist 75th

Meridian Ave 100th

FBC Lawrence Fall Fest

Women in Ministry Retreat

4Ten Applications Open

World Mission Offering

MPYC 2026

Mid-Winter Missions

Senior Adult Retreat



The Bethel Pickleball Tournament will take place on Saturday, September 13, at English Landing Park in Parkville, MO. The tournament will run from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM and promises a full day of fun, competition, and community connection. **Registration is \$50 a team.**

This annual event is hosted by Bethel Neighborhood Center, a 114-year-old faith-based community organization dedicated to empowering individuals with hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency. The tournament serves as a fundraiser to support Bethel's after-school and summer youth programs. Regi

Last year alone, 138 inner-city students (grades 1–12) benefited from these programs. Students not only received homework help but also participated in educational field trips, social skills development, conflict resolution workshops, healthy lifestyle activities, and college preparedness sessions. All proceeds from the tournament will go directly to sustaining these vital opportunities for local youth.

As part of this year's fundraising efforts, Bethel Neighborhood Center is also hosting a Fundraiser Raffle with all proceeds going toward the Youth Enrichment Programs.

The Bethel Neighborhood Center Fundraiser Raffle features three exciting prize drawings: a 7-night stay for four at The Cliffs at Princeville, Hawaii; a Garmin Smart Watch; and \$200 in Scheels gift cards. All entries are due by October 7, 2025, at 12:00 PM CDT, with winners announced on October 8, 2025, at 6:30 PM CDT. Please note that winners of earlier drawings are not eligible for subsequent prizes.

You can register for the tournament and enter the raffle below.

[Registration](#)

[Online Raffle](#)

BETHEL
NEIGHBORHOOD
CENTER FUNDRAISER

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13

AT ENGLISH LANDING PARK
PARKVILLE, MO
GAME STARTS: 8AM

MEN OR WOMEN OF ALL
SKILL LEVELS ARE
WELCOME!

\$50 PER
TEAM

REGISTRATION:

[Register Here](#)



RAFFLE!!

HAWAII
7 DAYS &
7 NIGHTS



FOOD TRUCKS,
PRIZES AND
MORE
SILENT
AUCTIONS

ANNUAL GATHERING DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

The 2025 American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) Annual Gathering is scheduled to take place at First Baptist Church of Salina, Kansas. The theme for this year's gathering is "Together at the Table" with our theme verse coming from Luke 14: 12-15.

The keynote speaker at this year's Annual Gathering is Rev. Jacqueline "Jackie" L. Saxon. Jackie currently serves as the Executive Minister for Mid-American Baptist Churches (MABC) and resides in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in administration, pastoral care, financial management, preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

In the next few pages you will find an in-depth biography for Rev. Saxon, a schedule of events, hotel and lodging options in Salina, and an invitation to join others for the Women in Ministry lunch following the gathering on Saturday. You will also find a list of items for the mission project. This year's mission project is for the Salina Rescue Mission. There are paper and online registrations for individual registrations as well as childcare registrations.

Please look for information about workshops and other details in the coming weeks. We look forward to the fellowship and spiritual growth this gathering will bring. Plan ahead, register now, and secure your accommodations early.

**Links to online Individual
and Childcare Registration**

**Individual
Registration**

**Childcare
Registration**



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF THE CENTRAL REGION

Annual Gathering 2025

September 26-27, 2025

First Baptist Church of Salina

TOGETHER AT THE TABLE

"You'll be—and experience—a blessing"

Luke 14: 12-15

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Jacqueline Saxon



Rev. Jacqueline “Jackie” L. Saxon grew up in Rochester, New York, and was nurtured in the faith by the members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, where she was baptized at the age of 12. She attended Howard University and received a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Banking. She began her career as a Financial Analyst at IBM in Endicott, New York, and was soon transferred to Austin, Texas, where she became an Advisory Financial Analyst. While working for IBM, she contemplated attending seminary and pursuing a life in ministry. It was a seed planted in her youth while attending the New York State Girls Guild Conference (now known as ABGirls) every summer and nurtured as an adult by active membership as a layperson in ABCUSA churches in New York and Texas.

After much prayer, discernment, and 12 ½ years of work experience, Jackie resigned from IBM and enrolled as a full-time student and Presidential Scholar at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. While she was a seminarian, University Baptist Church of Austin called her to be their Associate Pastor and promptly ordained her in 2001 upon graduation. Contrary to popular belief there really are American Baptist Churches in Texas. She served as their Associate Pastor for eight years when Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary invited her to be the Admission Counselor Recruiter, which led to becoming the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vocation, which she served in that capacity for a total of eight years before resigning in March of 2017.

She once described herself as “swimming in waters that were not her own as a ‘Bapti-method-terian’” because she found herself in the company of not only Baptist congregations but Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, preaching, teaching, and leading workshops. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in Administration, Pastoral Care, Financial Management, Preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

In May 2017, she walked the Way of St. James, also known as the Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile Pilgrimage that starts in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and ends in Santiago de Compostela, located on the northwest coast of Spain. In the last two years, she has completed this pilgrimage twice, and the coastal route that starts in Portugal. She wrote a book about her experiences on the Camino, which has recently been published, entitled: *Tales from the Trail: Keeping it Real on the Camino de Santiago—One African American Woman’s Quest for Clarity*.

In October 2018, she was called to be the Executive Minister for the Mid-American Region of Iowa and Minnesota. She says that she traded one capital city for another. She now resides in the Des Moines, Iowa, area and is learning all about the Midwest. She is delighted to have the opportunity to serve the Iowa and Minnesota ABCUSA church family in this capacity.

Rev. Dr. Wallace Smith and Jackie have been friends since serving together at ABCUSA National Youth Gatherings held at Estes Park, Colorado in the 1990s and 2000s.

2025 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2025

Thursday, September 25

- 3:00 PM** Minister's Council Executive Meeting at FBC Salina
- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 6:30 PM** Business Meeting and Worship

Friday, September 26

- 8:30 AM** Registration Begins at First Baptist Church Salina
- 9:30 AM** Session #1
- 11:00 AM** Lunch
- 11:45 AM** ABW & AB Men Meetings
- 1:15 PM** Session #2: Keynote Speaker- Jackie Saxon
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** Workshop Session #1
- 4:15 PM** Workshop Session #2
- 5:45 PM** Dinner
- 6:45 PM** Session #3: Speakers- 4TEN Students, Alaska Mission Trip
- 8:00 PM** Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 27

- 7:00 AM** Camping Conversation and Refreshments
- 8:00 AM** Registration Continues at First Baptist Church Salina
- 8:30 AM** Devotion
- 9:00 AM** Business Meeting
- 9:30 AM** Session #4: Keynote Speaker - Jackie Saxon
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** Worship & Communion
- 11:30 AM** Journey Home
- 12: 15 PM** Women in Ministry Lunch

HOTELS & LODGING

There are many lodging options in Salina. You can choose between a large selection of hotels, bed and breakfasts, and Airbnb or VRBO options. You can find a list of hotels in order from closest to furthest from the church below.

Homewood Suites Downtown- 1.6 miles

115 E. Mulberry St. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-2600

Baymont by Wyndham- 2.5 miles

1740 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6900

Sleep Inn & Suites- 2.5 miles

1820 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-826-1711

Days Inn South- 2.8 miles

632 Westport Blvd.
785-827-9315

Candlewood Suites- 3.0 miles

2650 Planet Ave. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6939

Quality Inn & Suites- 3.1 miles

2110 W. Crawford
785-825-211

Country Inn & Suites- 3.2 miles

2760 S. Ninth St. Salina, KS 67401
785-827-1271

Book with Airbnb

www.airbnb.com

Fairfield Inn by Marriott- 3.3 miles

2455 Virginia Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-5333

Holiday Inn- 3.8 miles

3145 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-404-6767

Hampton Inn & Suites- 3.8 miles

401 W. Schilling Rd. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-9800

Courtyard by Marriott- 3.9 miles

3020 Riffel Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-309-1300

Hilton Garden Inn- 4.2 miles

3320 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-309-0440

Best Western Inn & Suites- 4.3 miles

745 W. Schilling Rd.
785-493-9800

Super 8 by Wyndham- 4.4 miles

705 W. Schilling Rd.
785-404-2771

Book with Vrbo

www.vrbo.com

2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering Individual Registration Form

September 25, 2025 - Ministers Council Meeting and Dinner
September 26-27, 2025 Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church of Salina, 843 Lewis Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

First and Last Name* _____

Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag

Phone* _____ **Email*** _____

example@example.com

Address* _____

City* _____ **State*** _____ **Zip*** _____

Are you a delegate from your church? * Yes ☐ No ☐

Church Name* _____ **City*** _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Individual Registration \$65 **(Includes dinner for Friday night)**

MEALS

Thursday Ministers Council Dinner: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Cookie

Friday Lunch: Soup and Salad

Friday Dinner: Pasta Bar

Choose Your Meals

- ☐ Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Free)
- ☐ Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Non-Clergy) \$15
- ☐ Friday Lunch \$10
- ☐ Friday Dinner **Included with registration**
- ☐ Saturday Morning Camping Conversation with Refreshments \$5

Dietary Restrictions

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Diabetic

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering Childcare Registration Form

September 26-27, 2025 Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church of Salina, 843 Lewis Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

Child's Name* _____

Child's Age* _____ Child's Grade* _____

Address* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

Church Name* _____ City* _____

Parent's Name* _____

Phone Number* _____ Email* _____
example@example.com

Emergency Contact Name* _____

Emergency Contact Phone* _____ Relationship to Child* _____

Childcare Registration

☐

Childcare for Friday– \$50

Friday childcare will be provided from 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM, lunch and dinner are included in the cost of childcare. Childcare will not be provided during dinner or the evening session.

☐

Childcare for Saturday– \$12

Saturday childcare will be provided from 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM, no meals are provided.

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

MEDICAL

Allergies

Consent for Emergency Medical Care for a Minor: By signing this form, I hereby authorize the Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc. also known as the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and First Baptist Church of Salina, Ks to consent to any medical care and treatment for my child that is recommended by a licensed healthcare provider to whom the Child is presented for treatment. To ensure that the Child receives prompt medical care and treatment, when necessary, I hereby release any licensed health care provider providing medical care to the Child in reliance of this form from liability relating to such provider's acceptance of my substitute caregiver's consent.

If you consent, sign your name here: _____

I, the undersigned individual, grant American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR located at 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, Kansas, and First Baptist Church of Salina, KS the perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free right and license to: Record my participation and appearance on digital or film photography, video, audio or any other medium. Use my name (or any fictional name), likeness, voice, and biographical material and information in connection with these recordings to be used only in or for ABCCR written, electronic and web publications, including social media and apps to be used for the promotional material, multimedia and publication purposes of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. To Reproduce, distribute, publicly display, and/or publicly perform, in print, electronic, or any other medium, copies of the recordings, in whole or in part. Grantor represents that he or she possesses all rights necessary to grant this permission for and in connection. I am voluntarily making this grant of rights. I further agree to release and forever discharge ABCCR, its agents, employees, and designated representatives from any and all claims in law or equity that I, my heirs, or personal representatives have or shall have arising out of recordings. I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve and waive any rights in this release.

If you consent, sign your name here: _____

Is there anything else we need to know?

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

SALINA RESCUE MISSION

MINISTRY PROJECT ITEMS



TOILET PAPER

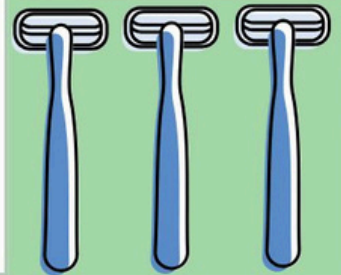
Possible Brand Options:

Angel Soft, Cottonelle, Charmin, Scott

DISPOSABLE RAZORS

Possible Brand Options:

BIC, Shick, Gillette



MEN'S JEANS

Any size

Greater need for smaller sizes- 30 -36 waist

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

Preferred Brand:

Free and Clear



For the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering mission project, we will be collecting the items above to donate to the Salina Rescue Mission.

Salina Rescue Mission offers programs to **Rescue and Restore** lives by sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, while also providing shelter, employment, New Life program, medical and mental health services, and street outreach. Each program is personalized to meet individual needs and encourages a relationship with the Lord.

ABCCR WOMEN IN MINISTRY LUNCH

September 27, 2025

12:15 PM

Please plan to join other women in ministry for lunch
after the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering.

Location of lunch will be shared at a later date.

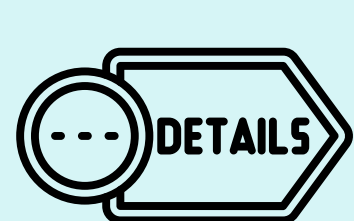
Email Nancy Killingsworth to RSVP:

nancyjsnyder@gmail.com

SABBATICAL NEWS!

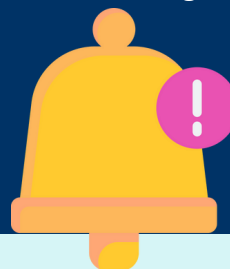
Here is a brief summary of what Gregg will be doing during his sabbatical from September-December 2025. First, some foundational information on the idea from the Bible. The sabbatical is an extension of the biblical concept of Sabbath, providing a longer period for rest, reflection, and spiritual growth, rooted in the belief that God provides and sustains His people, both physically and spiritually. The concept of a sabbatical finds its basis in the biblical principle of the Sabbath, with both sharing the idea of rest and renewal. You might want to check out Genesis 2, Exodus 20, and Leviticus 25, which serves as the foundation for the idea of a sabbatical.

For those who would like more detail about what he will be doing during his sabbatical, click the details button below. He will also be keeping a journal, which you can find by clicking the journal button below, for anyone interested in following his journey over the next few months.



NOTE FROM GREGG

I am grateful to the Central Region for providing the gift of a sabbatical and as a reminder, I'll be focusing in other areas of life from September-December 2025. During this time, please bring questions and information you'd normally bring to me to Jennifer Schneider.



jennifer.schneider@abccr.org

CHANGING SEASONS

REV. JENNIFER SCHNEIDER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Living in Kansas, I enjoy the changing seasons. Each season brings both changes outside my windows and in the everyday flow of life. September has arrived, and with it the end of summertime and the beginning of fall. Students have returned to school, and for some families, this is a school year of firsts; first year of kindergarten, first year of high school, or first year of college. Gardeners have begun preparing their yards for cooler weather as days continue to get shorter.

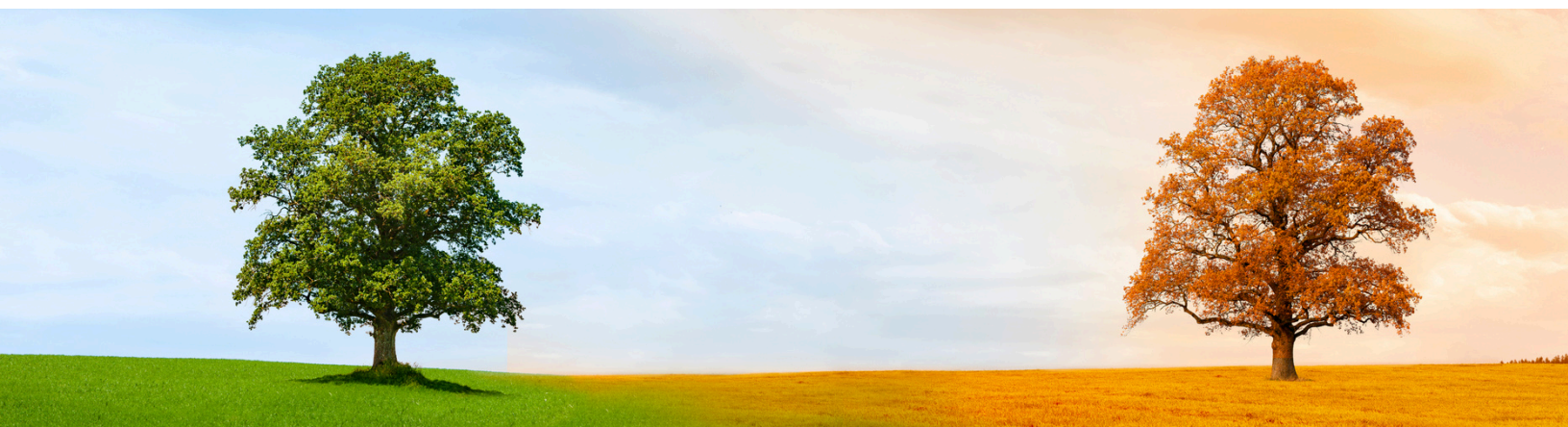
It is no different in the life of a church family. New back-to-school activities, new ministries, and new outreach opportunities fill church calendars. Church leaders and staff are thinking about upcoming holidays, while pastors and worship leaders are planning for special worship services such as Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Summer has a slower rhythm, and with fall comes a burst of new energy.

Region life in the ABCCR has rhythms as well. Summer is a very busy time in region life. 4TEN students went to Kodiak to serve, region staff went to Omaha for the ABCUSA Mission Summit, and we completed seven weeks of camp! Amidst all that busyness, we visited churches, participated in pastoral installations, attended meetings, and continued to do region ministry.

This September will bring a new busyness to region life. September 26-27 will be our Annual Meeting at FBC Salina. I hope many of you will be there! We begin a new year of 4TEN, a new Vantage Point 3 group, and a new women in ministry retreat in November. Plus, Bethel Neighborhood Center is having its first Pickleball Tournament on September 13th!

While region staff and leadership will continue to do ministry this fall, our Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, will be taking some much-needed time for rest and renewal. Rest and renewal are an essential part of healthy life rhythms. He will be back full-time after the first of the year, and we all hope he comes back rested, with new ideas, and an excitement about doing ministry together. During this sabbatical time, church pastors and leaders are encouraged to reach out to me or Morgan Aspinwall with any questions, concerns, or needs.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Things change. It is reassuring that even though the seasons change and we experience the ebbs and flows of life, God remains the same. ABCCR staff continue to hold our churches, leaders, and pastors up in prayer. May God continue to bless your work as you seek to serve in Jesus's name.



FAITH LEADERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE FOR FAITH LEADERS

Series Overview:

As we are increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate change and becoming aware of the threat it carries for human and planetary wellbeing, this new context for ministry brings new challenges for faith leaders and ministers. Once its urgency is understood, it results in new priorities and actions. It raises significant theological and ethical questions. It calls for leadership and preaching that help congregations rise to their calling to care for creation. It involves new forms of pastoral care for those experiencing climate anxiety and grief. It also requires new forms of ministry and missional engagement that are relevant to the needs of this unique time in history. It involves recognizing that faith leaders and congregations can be important in helping to build the spiritual and public will needed to enact the impactful solutions for climate change that are available. And it invites us to a deeper spirituality that is equal to the challenges of this day.

📅 Second and fourth Tuesdays, September - November 2025

🕒 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

📍 Virtual

💰 Free



The
Buttry Center
for Peace and Nonviolence

 **CENTRAL**
SEMINARY
센트럴신학대학원



Dr. Leigh Stearns
September 9

Climate Change as Ministry's Context: Basic science of climate change, climate solutions, and urgency of action.



Rev. Dr. Leah Schade
October 28

Pastoral leadership in the context of climate change: Preaching, teaching, leading worship, talking about climate change, and dealing with conflict.



Rev. Dr. Greg Hunt
September 23

Eco-theological Grounding: Biblical, theological, and ethical perspectives on climate change and creation care.



Josh Richardson
November 11

Ministry opportunities in the context of

climate change: Building church and community resiliency, advocacy, climate justice, and mercy ministries for those affected by climate change.



Dr. Rachel Wheeler
October 14

Eco-spirituality: Nurturing spirituality and faith practices in the context of climate change.



Rev. Dr. Ruth Rosell
November 25

Pastoral care in the context of climate

change: Caring for those experiencing anxiety, grief, guilt, and hopelessness related to climate change.

READY TO REGISTER?

This continuing education series for faith leaders is designed to explore these many dimensions of faith leadership in the context of climate change. Each session will include an hour of content presentation and half an hour for discussion. There will be no fee for participants, as a Climate Science in Theological Education grant will cover all costs. However, participants are asked to make a commitment to attending all six sessions in hopes that a cohort of support will be developed. A certificate of completion for nine hours of continuing education from Central Seminary will be available for those that participate in all sessions. Register here:

www.cbts.edu/buttry





WESTERN AREA GATHERING

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2025**

10AM - 2:30PM

**Camp Christy
320 Camp Christy Dr.
Scott City, KS 67871**

REGISTER HERE



10:00-11:30 AM

WORKSHOP #1

Worship Basics by Rev. Scott Rainey of First Baptist Scott City

11:30 AM-12:00 PM

BUSINESS MEETING

12:00-1:00 PM

LUNCH

***Camp Christy will provide the main dish.
Please bring a side or dessert to share.***

1:00-2:30 PM

WORKSHOP #2

Church Revitalization by Rev. Chris Prater of First Baptist Hays

2:30 PM

JOURNEY HOME

PLANNED GIVING

HELPING YOU TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,
REV. TIM SCHWARTZ
KBCF DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING
913-424-9939 / 785-272-7622
TIMMANS39@GMAIL.COM
TIM.SCHWARTZ@ABCCR.ORG

Like most things in this modern world that we live in, we need computer software to get things accomplished and completed. That is true for the work that I do in planned giving as well. September is the month that the foundation renews our software contract, so I thought I would write something about the excellent and exceptional software company that the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation works with!

Their name is PG Calc, which obviously stands for planned giving calculations. Their headquarters are in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and they are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year in the software business. PG Calc began and was birthed out of Harvard University's planned giving program. The founders were Gary and Mary Pforzheimer, Bill Laskin & Winston Jones. Gary Pforzheimer is the president of the company and Bill Laskin is the vice president of product management. In 2007, their webinars began to educate and instruct their clients. In 2015, they launched PGM anywhere, the web-based version of their signature gift illustration software, which is the software that I use for all of our charitable gift annuity illustrations.

In 2024, they became the planned giving division of Foundation Source. Foundation source is a large company that empowers individuals and organizations to engage in philanthropy. They administer nearly \$40 billion in charitable assets. They support over 2300 private foundations and more than 1800 non-profits. They facilitate over 180,000 grants and planned gifts annually.

You might think that now since they are part of this larger corporation that they would not be as concerned for smaller foundations like ours, but I have personally found that not to be true. Let me share an example of that with you.

Late last year, one of our wonderful annuitants decided that she wanted to fund a number of gift annuities for family members, so I began processing them through the software and getting all the documents prepared to complete the process. After processing those meticulously and going back over them with a fine tooth comb, there were still a couple of errors in the documents. One of those was no fault of my own, in the sense that I used the software correctly, but it would only let me extend the first payment date to the beneficiary within one year of the date of the gift. The annuitant wanted some of the first gifts from the individual annuities to correspond with their birthdays and this meant that a few of the annuities had to be processed as deferred gift annuities. So while I had read about deferred gift annuities, I had not worked on or processed any of them up to this point.

Because of that, I called the PG Calc office to ask some questions and get some help. I was completely shocked and surprised when the call was answered and the lady said—" Good afternoon. PG Calc, this is Kara Morin, can I help you?" You see, I know who Kara Morin is because she has led a number of the free webinars that the company offers for education and training, that I have attended over the past 4 years.

I was surprised because Kara is an executive in the company as she is the senior director of planned giving services, and I did not expect her to answer the phone for me! I thought it would be someone who was much lower on the totem pole. Anyway, she wanted to know how she could help and I explained the whole situation to her. She took the time to explain the process with the software over the phone and then she sent me an email with a detailed written explanation as well and offered further help if I needed it.

I did verbally express my shock to her about the fact that she answered the phone and she shared two very important things with me. She said, "we all work together as a team here at PG Calc and no matter our title, we all share the responsibilities of the job and answer the phone to serve our clients." She also assured me that the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation was just as important to them as any other client! Well, I hung up the phone and I was supremely grateful for their excellent customer service. In a world where it seems like customer service is getting worse and going downhill all the time, I was thankful for the customer service that our software company provided. I found Kara's instructions to be very helpful and because of that I was able to change those gift dates and process those annuities as deferred gift annuities.

Let me just temper my previous comments by saying that we do pay for our software annually and no company is perfect. I would also need to point out that they are not like a bank or some other large corporation, in the sense that you need to call for customer service during weekdays and regular business hours. They do not have 24/7 customer service availability, but I was impressed with their accuracy, knowledge, and the quality of their help!

Our software provides the technology and tools that I need to help you when you are funding a charitable gift annuity, a deferred gift annuity, etc. Without them, I would not be able to do what I need to do in this vital field of planned giving. If you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity for yourself, you and your spouse, or any other family member or even friend, please contact me by email, text, phone or voicemail and I would be delighted to speak with you or meet with you to begin the process of providing financially for you, your beneficiary and the charitable organizations and partners that you wish to bless with your gift.

I look forward to visiting with you at the annual gathering in Salina, so please stop by, grab a Payday and talk with me.



**YOUR
PARTNER
IN PLANNED
GIVING
SUCCESS**



RISE YOUTH 2025

ISAIAH 40:28-31

SEPTEMBER 7th
4-9pm



First Baptist Church Olathe
2024 E 151st St, Olathe, KS 66062
913.764.7088
www.fbcolathe.org/youth

Join us for Games, Worship, Food, & Discipleship!



Let us begin this month's prayer focus by focusing on the first letter of the alphabet, the letter A. Let us pray for two different parts of our Baptist faith life.

First of all, let us pray for the Annual Gathering, which will be held in Salina, Kansas, at the end of the month. Let us ask God to inspire and motivate as many of our Central Region Baptist family as possible, to attend the gathering, and for traveling mercies as well!

Let us pray for our keynote speaker, Reverend Jackie Saxon, the Executive Minister of Mid-America Baptist Churches, that God will use her in a powerful way to motivate and move us to continue serving God and loving our neighbor in all of our churches across the central region.

Let us ask Jesus to strengthen and encourage our annual gathering planning committee as they work so diligently behind the scenes to create a wonderful time of fellowship, prayer, education, worship and friendship around the tables.

Also, since the third Sunday in September is American Baptist Women's Sunday, let us pray for our American Baptist Women of the Central Region, and their president, Mona Huggins, that the Holy Spirit will guide their amazing ministry and provide the funds for them to complete their special project this year, which is a part of the astounding mission work that they continue to do as they bless and build up others in Jesus name!

Finally, let us pray that God would open our ears and our hearts to receive the teaching and message that will be shared as we gather together once again as the American Baptist Family of the central region. Let us reflect on the theme of this year's gathering as the scriptures say:

"You'll be—and experience—a blessing."

Luke 14:12--15. (MSG)



*1 Corinthians 3:9 – "For we are
co-workers, working together; you are
God's field, God's building."*

National ABW Events

Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry

**Conference Speakers &
Workshop Leaders**
September 25th -27th, 2025
Euclid, Ohio



Pre-Conference Guest Presenter,
Thursday, 9/25/2025
Rev. Dr. LaVerne C. Hall
President, Board of Directors, Dr. James and Janie Washington Cultural Center, Seattle, WA



Workshop Leader,
Friday, 9/26/2025
Rev. Brian Upton,
Executive Director, Building Hope in the City



Evening Preacher,
Friday, 9/26/2025
Dr. Lumar Vargas
Managing Director of Leadership and Development at Teach for America, Founding Pastor, Aviva Church



Plenary Guest Presenter,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Dennis,
Founder and CEO of Minority Behavioral Health Group, Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio



Morning Preacher,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard
Executive Director, Cleveland Baptist Association
General Secretary, North American Baptist Fellowship



Workshop Leader, Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Linda Peavy
Entrepreneur, Advisor, Instructor – Founder and Owner of LiPav Consulting, LLC



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Gimbiya Kettering
Author, former Director of Interculturalism and Diversity, The Church of the Brethren



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Chanté Roberts,
Executive Assistant, Mandel Community Center at the Sojourner Truth Building, Akron, Ohio



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Elder Linette Graddic
M.Ed., LPC, Director, Mercy Center Global Ministries; Therapist, Therapeutic Life Changers Counseling Center



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Pastor Sadawna Gainer,
Executive Pastor and 1st Lady of M.A.S.H. Ministries New Life Center, Cleveland, Ohio, Infrastructure Engineer for Cuyahoga County Department of Information Technology

Scan the QR code for more information



Conference sponsored by the Rudd Empowerment Center at American Baptist Women's Ministries

www.abwomensministries.org

Shalom Retreat



Sisters living in God's perfect peace: Building bridges of love, respect, and understanding while embracing God's wholeness, harmony, and rest



Worship Leader
Mickala Cheadle Josey
Beth Eden Baptist Church



Speaker
Rev. Lana Rice
Allen Temple Baptist Church



Speaker
Rev. Katie Choy-Wong
Consultant, trainer and writer in intercultural ministries

October 10-12, 2025 | Beth Eden Family Life Center |Oakland, CA

For more information visit www.abwomensministries.org/events or call 610-768-2288



Revitalization — Prayer is the Key

Northeast Area (NEA) Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 21, 2025

FBC Atchison

1640 Riley St, Atchison, KS 66002

Guest Speaker: Rev. Chris Prater

4pm - Revitalization Overview
And Mission Project Update
5pm - Dinner (Freewill Offering)
6pm - Business Mtg & Program

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches His disciples to pray with a focus on God's priorities: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:9-10). This prayer helps the church refocus on God's will, seeking His kingdom and righteousness above all..



Southeast Area Annual Gathering

We would like to invite you to the Southeast Area Annual Gathering on September 21st beginning at 3:00pm. Our Annual Gathering will be held at the First Baptist Church in Humboldt, KS. (118 N. 7th)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Business Meeting

Breakout sessions: (to be run simultaneously)

Youth Leadership with Morgan Aspinwall

Church Health with Melissa Newberry

Entertainment:

The Ottawa University Theatrical Troup.

Dinner (We will be taking up a love offering to cover the cost of the meal)

Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity."



PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH

75TH

CELEBRATION!

9 AM

RECEPTION - HOSPITALITY AREA

Everyone is welcome to gather, visit, and enjoy light refreshments together.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

All are welcome to join the 75th choir for rehearsal in the Sanctuary!

**9:30
AM**

**10:15
AM**

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, ABC-USA General Secretary will be guest preaching.

Enjoy rich music and continued story.

LUNCHEON - FELLOWSHIP HALL

A light lunch will follow worship time, all are welcome to join

**11:30
AM**

SEPTEMBER 21

**7416 ROE AVE
PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS**



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Saturday, September 27:

All Ages Youth Reunion Pizza Party 5pm-8pm

Sunday, September 28:

Celebration Breakfast 9am-10:15am

Special Worship Service 10:30am - 11:45am

Neighborhood Celebration & Cookout

3:00pm-8:00pm

(Church Tours, Food, Music, Bounce Houses)

SEP | 27-28 | 2025

200 N Meridian Ave.
Wichita

First Baptist Lawrence

**SAVE
THE DATE!**



• FALL FESTIVAL •

Saturday, October 11, 2025

To all of our
• NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS •

You are invited
to attend the first
FALL FESTIVAL
at First Baptist Church

*** Saturday, October 11, 2025**

*** 3:00-7:00 pm**

*** 1330 Kasold Drive, Lawrence, KS.**

Have some fun with both free and ticketed activities.
Come join us for barbeque, live music, face painting, pumpkin painting,
games and a great silent auction.

Come on over and have some fun... we think you will be glad you did!

ABCCR

Women in Ministry Retreat



Sacred rest for sacred work

● Saturday, November 15
Autrey Retreat Center
Council Grove, Kansas

\$20 a person

RETREAT INFORMATION

Please save the date for our Women in Ministry Retreat on **Saturday, November 15th** at 9:00 a.m. We'll gather at the beautiful home and retreat center of Jim and Marsha Autrey in Council Grove, Kansas.

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Soozie Whitten-Ford as our facilitator, guiding us through meaningful conversations, study, and fellowship centered on the vital theme of self-care for women in ministry. Together, we'll find space to pause, breathe deeply, and experience God's renewing presence.

A limited number of rooms are available at the retreat center. If you'd like to reserve one, please contact Nancy. You must have a roommate to reserve a room. Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. All other lodging arrangements will be on your own.

If you're able to arrive in Council Grove on Friday evening, join us for an informal dinner and time of fellowship to begin the retreat with connection and rest.

Come ready to be refreshed, encouraged, and renewed for the journey ahead.

For more information, contact Nancy Killingsworth:
nancyjsnyder@gmail.com

[Register Here](#)



4TEN is cutting edge leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall. 4TEN was formed by the scripture I Peter 4:10.

It exists to empower our youth to employ their gifts to serve Jesus and set an example.

Youth are the leaders of the future; we need them to step up NOW in their local churches!

Students who are chosen for this program are young people who love Jesus and are willing to grow in their relationship with Christ. Students do not need to feel a call to full-time ministry but do have the gifts and desires to be leaders in their churches.

If you would like to nominate someone, send their name, church, and phone number to Rev. Jennifer Schneider or scan the QR code that will take you to then website where you can fill out an application.



CONTACT US

jennifer.schneider@abccr.org



**FIRST EVENT
OCTOBER
24-26**



world mission offering

Each year, during the months of September and October, churches across our region and beyond set aside intentional time to focus on global mission through the World Mission Offering (WMO). This annual initiative, coordinated in partnership with International Ministries (IM), invites us to be part of God's transformative work around the world.

International Ministries is a historic cross-cultural mission agency with deep roots in the global mission movement. Through the WMO, churches of all sizes can actively participate in ministry alongside IM global servants—supporting them through prayer, financial gifts, and shared advocacy.

In 2025, we are highlighting the tangible impact that local churches can have when they partner with IM. From caring for immigrants and refugees, to empowering vulnerable women and children, to educating students in places like Mexico, these ministries are bringing hope and healing in Christ's name.

Global Servants 2024

IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Barbara & Dwight Bolck, Regional Consultants
- Carlos Donillo & Mayra Giovannelli, Regional Consultants
- Dolores & Motos Camille Joseph, Mexico
- Walscha Fabian Hernandez, Colombia
- Marcy Gonzalez-Barnes, Regional Consultant
- Seo Hogarty, Costa Rica
- Elberto & Molly Juarez, El Salvador
- Christine Lafferty, Nicaragua
- Patricia & Tim Long, Mexico
- Luis & Sarah Matos, Mexico
- Ricardo Mayol Bracero, Regional Consultant
- Sarah McCurdy, Regional Coordinator
- Dobbie & Keith Myers, Mexico
- Kholmi Ngunjiri & Nzungu Mahodaga, Dominican Republic
- David Panajon, Nicaragua
- Kelly & Val Pierre, Dominican Republic
- J.D. Reed, Regional Consultant
- Stacy & Tim Rios, Dominican Republic
- Dylan & Lynette Smith, Dominican Republic
- Coreene & Phil Smith, Brazil
- Joe Stockton, Mexico
- Ruth Vindas, Costa Rica
- Dalia Zelaya, Honduras

AFRICA

- Ann & Bill Clemmer, Regional Consultants
- Antia & Rick Gutierrez, South Africa
- Boaz Kibarak, Kenya
- Christina & Lance Mubye, Zimbabwe
- Katherine & Wayne Nden, DR Congo
- Kathy & Tim Rice, DR Congo
- Faye Yarbrough, South Africa

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND LIBERIA

- Melanie Duggan, Lebanon
- Don & Sarah Chelli, Lebanon
- Hermelinda & Jorge Damasceno, United Kingdom
- Laura & Rich Freeman, Turkey
- Amelia & Jon Good, Europe
- Camille Jones, Regional Consultant
- Nora & Peter Kalkman, Regional Consultants
- Bucky & Larry Stanton, Hungary

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

- Lamontejon Jamar & Alema Ao, India
- Katie & Taku, East & South Asia
- David Sagar, India

GLOBAL CONSULTANTS

- Myndia Bails, Restorative Arts
- Lauren Bethell, Abolishing Global Slavery
- Kristy Engal, Health & Wellness
- Mike Mann, Economic Development
- Rodney Ragsan, Theological Education
- Ray Schallinger, Immigrants & Refugees
- Juanine & Walt White, Health & Wellness, Capacity Building

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

- Apharan & Scott Coats, Myanmar & Thailand
- Annie & Jeff Dinsberg, Thailand
- Joel & Trish Hoffman Magat, Thailand
- Gordon & Lee Ann Huang, Japan
- Alise & Mark Juarez, Thailand
- Eric & Tere-Lombke, Thailand
- Docky Mann, Thailand
- Lori & Matt Mann, Southeast Asia
- Sarah McCloy, Japan
- Jonathan & Thelma Nambu, Philippines
- Aaron & Valorie Osterback, Malaysia
- Kel Dapley, Thailand
- Rosal Dabait, Philippines
- Shipomi Komita, Japan
- Aaron & AmyEstelle Teat, Southeast Asia
- Katrina & Kyle Williams, Southeast Asia

GLOBAL COORDINATORS

- David & Joyce Reed, Spiritual Care
- Rhonda Reed, Health & Wellness
- Dobby Warner, Missionary Aid & Family Care

Our Ministry Priorities:

- EVANGELISM
- DISCIPLESHIP
- THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
- IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
- PEACE AND JUSTICE
- ABOLISHING GLOBAL SLAVERY
- EDUCATION
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- EVERYWHERE TO EVERYONE
- SHORT TERM MISSION
- YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
- CHURCH BUILDING

INVITING PEOPLE TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PROCLAIMING GOD'S REIGN OF JUSTICE, PEACE, AND ABUNDANT LIFE

EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST TO ENGAGE IN GOD'S MISSION

1003 W 9TH AVE, STE A, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406 • 610-768-2168 • INTERNATIONALMINISTRIES.ORG

WHAT IS THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING (WMO)?

Each year through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands of churches and individuals come together to promote and support ministries that God is using to transform the world. We want you to join in, too!

Many of our partner churches will dedicate time in September and October to use our free World Mission Offering promotional resources (available in print and through www.worldmissionoffering.org) to make it easy to share stories of God at work through global mission. Build excitement for mission in your congregation! Some churches will take a one-time offering for world mission during this time, and many others make monthly recurring gifts to the WMO.

As one pastor described his church's involvement in the WMO, "God allows us to participate in what he is doing, which blesses our church and inspires us to get involved in our own mission activities where we live and beyond."

Join with us, as we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

HOW ARE WMO GIFTS USED?

WMO gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, international partner, and other ministry support), for administrative support, and for development costs.

WHAT ABOUT MY GIFTS TO SPECIFIC GLOBAL SERVANTS?

All personalized global servant support is targeted for the global servants and keeps them in their ministries.

WHAT ELSE WILL MY WMO GIFTS DO?

As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world—when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expense. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funds they need but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry. When personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap and keep global servants in their country of service. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable us to address crises when they arise, and so much more. Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure that you support all of IM's ministries.

Questions? Email wmo@internationalministries.org or call 610-768-2311 to speak with someone on our development team.



mpyc-abc.org



MOUNTAINS & PRAIRIES

Youth Conference

JUNE 14-18, 2026

**YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH
GRANBY, COLORADO**



Keynote Speaker
REV. JOY
MARTINEZ- MARSHALL

SAVE THE DATE

Mid Winter Missions Conference
January 16-17, 2026
Prairie Homestead
Wichita, KS



Guest Speaker:

Jill Lowery

International Ministries



What's Next?

Philippians 1:6



Mid Winter Missions Conference
January 16-17, 2026
Prairie Homestead, Wichita

SR. ADULT RETREAT 2026

SAVE THE DATE
April 22-23
Milton Baptist Church

Put this information on your calendar
now. You won't want to miss this
event.

Wholly Holy Hospitality

More details will be shared soon!

