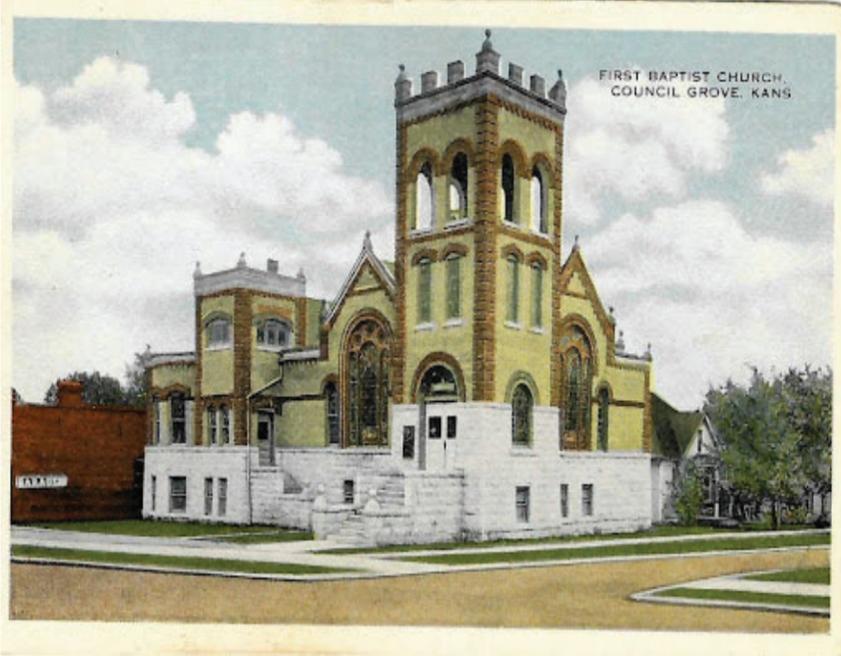


American Baptist Churches
Central Region Life

September 2021

Vol. 119 No. 9

First Baptist Church of Council Grove Celebrates 150th Anniversary



The First Baptist Church of Council Grove will be celebrating their 150th year of ministry in the community on Saturday, September 25, 2021, beginning at 11am and going until 3pm. There will be a presentation of the history of the church, a potluck lunch, yard games, a bouncy castle for the kids, a pie auction, plenty of other activities and conversation to go around. All are invited to celebrate with us.

The First Baptist Church of Council Grove was organized on Dec. 3, 1870. At this time, the church met in a school house at the corner of Main & 3rd, now Belfry, and was served by several temporary pastors. In 1884, the Rev. A.B. Tomlinson organized an effort to build the first church building. It was erected on the southeast side of the intersection of Union and Market streets, on lots now included in the Madonna Park. The building was constructed by Deacon C. A. Towler, who was a brick mason. In the fall of 1884, a beautiful brick building was dedicated to the worship of God. The total cost of that first building was \$3,500. The Reverend Tomlinson moved to California and the church invited Rev. A.D. Abrams of Whiting, Kansas to become the next pastor. Abrams oversaw great growth and it was decided that the church would establish a second congregation in Wilsey. Besides regular Sunday services, the church had a flourishing Sunday school, a weekly prayer meeting, and a ladies missionary aid society.

A major flood occurred in 1903 severely damaging the original building. The church began taking steps to build a new house of worship by purchasing a lot at 325 Main St. In 1905, a permit was granted to M.E. Leatherwood & the Baptist Church for construction of a new building. Footings for this new building were started in September of 1905 and was finished on January 12, 1913. Total cost of the Church was \$14,000 with capacity of 350. Accounts of the building construction and dedication can be found in issues of the Council Grove Republican dated January 3 and 17, 1913. When originally constructed, there was an additional story on the bell tower at the Northwest corner of the building, as shown in the picture below. The top story of the bell tower became unstable and was removed sometime prior to September 1939.

In the early 1990's, the Church home at 325 Main St. was deemed to have serious maintenance issues and the lot suffered from a lack of proper drainage. A decision was made to build a new house of worship at 501 Country Lane (following pic). Much of the construction of the new building was done by members of the congregation. First services at this new home were held in August, 1993 when construction had progressed to the point where it could be occupied. The large stained-glass windows from the main floor of the building at 325 Main St. along with the cornerstone and some wood trim was installed at this current church home and provide a beautiful worship setting for the congregation. Recent pastors include: Robert Southard (1974-1978), Keith Jacobson (1978-1985), Steve Henry, (1987 -1989), John Bliss (1990 - 2003), Rick Neubauer (2006-2009), Brad Cartmill (2011 - 2017), and Christopher Carlson (2018 - Current).

Over the years the First Baptist Church has seen hundreds of people come to the Lord, hundreds of baptisms, and baby dedications, along with dozens of weddings. It has seen a sustained and powerful influence in the community. To this day, the church has been involved in many ministries, including: Sunday schools, prayer groups, Bible studies, youth and children's groups, Vacation Bible School, revivals, camping, choir ministries, Operation Christmas Child, Christian radio programs, mission efforts throughout the world, disaster relief, Washunga Days outreach, the Community Thanksgiving and Easter services, a plethora of Christmas activities, and continued involvement in CareNShare, The Thrift Store, the Ministerial Alliance, and CASA.

We thank all our members, lay leaders and pastors for the strong leadership and excellent service to Christ over the last 150 years and pray that God continues to bless our church and this community.

In this Issue...

Page 1
FBC Council Grove Celebrates 150th Anniversary

ABCCR Search and Call Prayer List

Page 3
Planned Giving Prayer Emphasis

Page 4
Interim Ministry
Grandview Baptist Donates Supplies

Page 5
It Is Enough Now O, Lord
4Ten
Senior Adult Retreat

Page 6
Central Seminary
Fredrickson Center

Page 7
ABW Mary Gate Atkinson Scholarship Recipients

Page 8
2021 Annual Gathering

The ABCCR Search and Call Process



This is part four of a five-part series on the incredible value created for the local church through the ABCCR Search and Call Process.

‘Why does it take so long to find a pastor?’ In this fourth part of our series on the Search and Call process. A highly skilled group of people in Human Resources spend their entire day recruiting, interviewing, and hiring, filling job openings within an organization. What they do is the same as what a Search and Call Committee does, but when search for a pastor we have special dynamics. On average, it takes one month for every \$10,000 of pay in Corporate America. While church salaries are not comparable to corporate salaries, if we use that as a model and add a month for the following five challenges when searching in the spiritual world, it begins to explain why finding Waldo takes more than a year.

1. Finding the Mind of Christ...

All search process, sacred and secular, require dedicated effort in three phases: Search, Interview and Hiring. In the church we add finding the mind of Christ as a congregation. The criteria for de selection, by the Search Committee., requires a clear sense of not only the general qualities and characteristics, but also the dreams, expectations, and vision of a wide array of ages and interests, which are often create competing priorities. When we do not know what Waldo looks like, it takes time and energy to recognize the red striped shirt, stocking cap and round lensed glasses.

2. Phantom Job Postings and Job Posters.

Post openings that are not financially viable, but they post in hopes they can find some at a real good deal (of course they call it someone spiritually dedicated). Some pastors post their resume, even though they may not really be ready to move. They are just testing the waters. This creates an unreliable system, especially those public job boards, less so the ABC profile system. Professional HR staff use robots and algorithms to sort profiles. Our churches must manage this labor manually. When you have one real Waldo in a game of imitation Waldo’s you begin to realize where the time goes.

3. HR professionals do nothing but search and call, day-in and day-out. It’s their job.

The search Committee squeezes the search activities in between work, family activities, and other church activities. In many cases the Search and Call Committee also serve on other boards, teach a Sunday School Class, or sing in the choir. Competing priorities mean that a myriad of emails and ‘catch up’ phone calls are required. Finding Waldo becomes significantly tougher when the instructions create the stress of timelimits. Finding Waldo in the next 2 minutes is significantly more difficult than the instruction, ‘Take your time, we’re not in a hurry.’

4. The best candidates, sacred or secular, are weighing multiple offers.

Think of this scenario: You have a major decision to make, and you bring it before God. How long does it take God to give you an answer? That’s what’s happening with pastoral candidates. In the secular hiring process, candidates weigh pay, benefits, work environment and promotability. The pastoral candidate has those factors, plus discerning God’s will. In addition, in an ABC Church, saying “Yes you’ll come and candidate,” means I must please most of the church. Think of how long it would take you to decide to move and uproot your family knowing that once it’s public that you might move, your current church may not be overjoyed to have you as the pastor if things do not work out. It’s like being given four Where’s Waldo Game Cards and then being told only one of the four cards has a Waldo on it.

How long should it take? If it takes to hear God’s call. God’s call for the candidate and family. God’s call for each member of the Search Committee and God’s call for each active member of your church. The ABCCR Search & Call Team simplifies this process and brings considerable expertise in addressing the 4 ‘Time eaters above.’

Give us a call if you feel things are taking too long. Give us a call if you are worried about your ability to address these time eaters. Give us a call if you just want to talk.

Your ABCCR Search & Call Team

Gregg.Hemmen@ABCCR.org
(605-415-8598)

Jennifer.Schneider@ABCCR.org
(913) 488-1313

Bill.Hendricks@ABCCR.org
(913) 558-3311

For the month of August please be in prayer for the people and the ministry at the following churches:

- First Baptist Church, Wellington, KS
- New Mount Zion Baptist Church, Topeka, KS
- Zo Baptist Church, Tulsa, OK
- Cornerstone Baptist Church, Caney, KS
- West Haysville Baptist Church, Haysville,KS
- First Baptist Church, Leoti, KS
- London Heights Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS
- City Life, Wichita, KS
- South Broadway Baptist Church, Pittsburg, KS
- First Baptist Church, Oswego, KS
- All Tribes Community Church, Tulsa, OK
- First Baptist Church, Winfield, KS
- First Baptist Church, Overland Park, KS
- First Missionary Baptist Church, Leavenworth, KS
- First Baptist Church Turner, Kansas City, KS
- First Baptist Church, Atchison, KS
- Lao American Baptist Church, Lenexa, KS
- Bethel Neighborhood Center, Kansas City, KS
- Faith Renewal Baptist Church, Wichita, KS
- First Baptist Church, Junction City, KS

A Country Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand!

On June 16, 1858 Abraham Lincoln gave his famous speech that began with "A house divided against itself cannot stand". He was referring to the slavery issue and predicted that we would either be slave or free – that we could not co-exist with such a great division among the states. A panel of historians in 2011 emphasized "while slavery and its various and multifaceted discontents were the primary cause of disunion, it was disunion itself that sparked the Civil War."

At no time in my lifetime do I recall as much controversy among Americans as we have now. Last year it was the division regarding race and now it's over whether or not COVID vaccinations and wearing masks can be required. I'm not taking sides, just stating facts!

When I was young, we were required to get smallpox shots to prevent having another epidemic of it. When polio came on the scene, we were all required to take the medicated sugar cubes to prevent getting it. We never hesitated as my cousin had gotten polio and we certainly didn't want it. Before our children could go to school, they had to have the DPT shots. We never questioned anyone's authority to require that, it was just a fact.

No matter which way you believe, I think it is tragic how violent our disagreements have become. Jesus gave His life so that we could live in His image of unconditional love; and yet, even some professing Christians are speaking out in unloving ways either in protests or social media.

As followers of Christ, can we not lovingly express our opinions and allow others to have theirs? There are so many needs in the world today that I believe should be our focus – consider all who have been devastated by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. Many were already struggling to provide for families and now, except for the help of God's people, it seems impossible.

There are so many ways that you can share the financial blessings that God has given you. It may seem that you really don't have much, but look around the world and you'll realize how truly blessed you are.

I'd love to talk with you to discuss what might be the right solution for you. It could be an immediate gift, one spread over a period of time or a Charitable Gift Annuity that gives you income for the rest of your life and then benefits the ministries you have chosen. Please give me a call. There is no charge for my services or obligation to follow my suggestions. I'll be available at ABCCR Annual Gathering, so see you there!

Rev. Wilma E. Engle,
Director of Planned Giving
Cell: 316-644-2069
6745 Interurban, Wichita, KS 67204-1323
E-mail: wilmaengle@juno.com

Rev. Timothy Schwartz,
Assistant Director of Planned Giving
Cell: 913-424-9939
E-mail: timmans39@gmail.com

Central Region Life
117 Years

of Continuous Publication

CENTRAL REGION LIFE

News of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Executive Minister: Gregg Hemmen
Associate Executive Minister: Jennifer Schneider
Editor: Morgan Bandy

Prayer Emphasis: Tim Schwartz
Planned Giving: Wilma Engle
Women's News: Janet Crowl

Published by
Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc.

Send communications to: morgan.bandy@abccr.org or
Morgan Bandy, 5833 S.W. 29th, Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505
Phone 785/272-7622 — Fax 785/272-5860
Standard Class Postage Paid at Topeka, KS
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
5833 S.W. 29th, Ste. A, Topeka, KS 66614-5505
Subscription Rates: Individual, 1 year \$12.00
100% Church Membership, 1 year \$7.00/person



Let us pray for all of the students who will be going back to school, whether they are in preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school or college that they will be able to focus on their studies to learn and grow in knowledge and understanding as they continue to develop as children of God.

Let us pray for all teachers, faculty, teachers aides, helpers and staff that they will have hearts of compassion and care as they help to teach students in new and exciting ways.

Let us pray for all of the support staff including librarians, counselors, cooks, bus drivers, custodians, etc., as they work together as a group to serve the students and community in a wonderful way.

Let us pray for coaches, assistant coaches, athletic trainers, cheerleading and pom pom squad leaders that they will help all students to compete with good sportsmanship as they grow and develop physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually day by day.

Finally let us pray for school boards, administrations and communities to work together to help all children, youth and teenagers become the persons that God wants them to be as they use their abilities, gifts and talents to serve neighbors, church and community in the months and years ahead.

As the scriptures say, let this be our prayer: "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long." Psalm 25: 4-5 (NRSV)



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 10,000 people.

The combined years of experience of the ABCCR pool of Interim Ministers exceeds 150 years. We've seen it all and have dealt with most any circumstance you can imagine. Please note - I did not say, 'Successfully' dealt with these difficult people. We've dealt with the 'Difficult' members listed in the table below and we've learned a lot! Most of us are still pulling the nettles from our hide because of those encounters. The practice of Interim Ministry is the sharing of what we've learned, often through hurt, pain and disfunction. I hope this article, and the ones that follow, helps establish a common perspective. And possibly, cause you to contact the ABCCR Interim Program for resources and discussion.

Five principles underpin our approach to dealing with difficult church members. Without these five principles successful mitigation, and the minimization of negative impacts, are limited. In the upcoming articles, we'll tackle 'The Dirty Dozen,' one at a time. If you cannot wait until we get to the thorn in your side, please give me a call (913-558-3311).

Five principles for Dealing with Difficult Church Members:

#1 Most people are not difficult; they are different.

Churches in transition, will naturally think of things they've not done before. Differences should cause church members to listen carefully and suspend conclusions until understanding has occurred and the mind of Christ has been sought. Knee jerk reactions and pigeonholing another's position is unproductive. With that said, we must realize that some people assume authority and make conversation difficult, if not impossible.

#2 Difficult people are contagious.

The thought that, 'The Church will be able to move on,' are erroneous. Rarely will positions change. Conclusions usually do soften on their own. In fact, just the opposite is true. When a difficult member becomes vocal and visible, polarization usually occurs. Sides are drawn and one bad mood can escalate into a full-blown problem.

#3 Inclusion is better than exclusion.

Understanding leads to acceptance of differences. If you cannot accurately voice (state each party's point of view accurately, to the other party's satisfaction) you have work to do. The ability to come to a good solution follows understanding. Most issues within the church are multi-faceted. Black and white is tantalizing, but rarely helpful. A decision today can create rifts amongst church members that lasts decades. Rarely does the Dirty Dozen affirm a unified message of Christ.

THE DIRTY DOZEN

Angry Members	Stubborn Members	Clueless Members	Deal Maker Members	Shy & Passive Members	VIP Members
Henny Penny Members	Skeptic Members	Frazzled Members	Debbie Downer Members	Drippy Sweet Members	Misinformed Members

#4 Everything is not negotiable.

The Dirty Dozen often forces compromise and a congregational desire to seek a safe, 'middle' position. Some groups, and some people have nothing to negotiate with. This does not mean they are wrong. It does mean the Church must seek the Mind of Christ, and a fair and just hearing. A member of the Dirty Dozen should not be able to exert unfair pressure, improper information, or create a false narrative into church decisions.

#5 Half-truths work, because they are half true.

Without exception each of the Dirty Dozen leverage half-truth and they are allowed a hearing because they have a hold of one end of truth. They can often quote a Bible verse to support their opinion. As a result, dealing with a member of the Dirty Dozen pits the church against a Biblical principle. We then get pulled into an unproductive Biblical debate rather than addressing the other half of the truth.

Step One, look at yourself and make sure you are not one of the Dirty Dozen.

		Yes	No	Maybe
Angry Member	Do you use anger to make your point? Do people back off quickly from you? Do you intimidate others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stubborn Member	Are you known for digging in your heels? Do you insist on your way? Do you take pride in your stance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clueless Member	Do you stay out of things and distance yourself? Are you slow to get involved? Do you rely on your lack of information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deal Maker Member	Do you soften issues by developing options? Do you leverage friendship to drive decisions? Do you call in favors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shy & Passive Member	Do you lack confidence in your opinions? Are you afraid to speak up?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIP Member	Have you earned the right to have your way? Do you take pride in what you do or give? Are you in everything?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henny Penny Member	Are you always worried about bad outcomes? Do you exaggerate details? Are you a worrier?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skeptic Member	Do you play the Devil's advocate role? Do you struggle to find the positive? Are you drawn to the negative side of issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frazzled Member	Are you too busy to talk? Do you arrive late or leave early with too many things to do? Do you tend to rush to conclusions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debbie Downer Member	Are you a negative person? Do you dig up points to be contrary? You would never be called the life of the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drippy Sweet Member	Do you cover up issues with 'niceness'? Are you seen as fake? Do you always give the benefit of the doubt to others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misinformed Member	Do you go to meetings unprepared? Do you fail to do your own due diligence? Do you speak without the facts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step Two: Tune in each month to review and learn techniques for living with Difficult Church Members.



Backpacks and Pencil Boxes Donated by Grandview Baptist Church

August 9, 2021 members of Grandview Baptist Church (KCKS) donated backpacks and pencil boxes to the students of Mark Twain Elementary School. The school is located just a few blocks from the church's meeting space.

Upon arrival at the school they were graciously welcomed by the front office staff and the principal. They were then given a tour of the school by the very delightful school secretary who has been serving students at Mark Twain for 19 years.

Pictured are several members from the church, very helpful staff members, and the principal. Many prayers for all of our schools (students, faculty, staff and families) as they begin a new year full of both challenges and opportunities.

It is Enough Now, O Lord

Dr. Gregg L.J. Hemmen, Executive Minister

There are a number of signature passages from the Bible that I return to again and again because (a) I'm pretty slow on the uptake and need to learn the same lessons again and again, and (b) there are new aspects to familiar stories that remind me these ancient stories are the living Word of God.

One of my go-to stories is part of the Elijah narrative from 1st Kings 18-19. I was fascinated by these events as a child. Who wouldn't be captivated by the story in 1st Kings 18 where it's Elijah against the 450 prophets of Ba'al? There's trash talking in this story when Elijah taunts Ba'al's prophets because Ba'al doesn't respond and seems to be sleeping. There's so much to learn from in this story. There's courage and boldness when Elijah steps forward and soaks the sacrifice before praying that God would show everyone just how powerful God is. It's all a very intense ministry experience for Elijah that ends with Elijah rounding up these 450 Ba'al prophets and has them killed by the Wadi Kishon. And Elijah comes out on top! Elijah could be one of the Marvel Avengers!

I don't know that any of our Central Region pastors have had anything quite this dramatic happen lately, but I do know that ministry this past year has been very intense. Intensity gets our adrenaline flowing and once the peak of that experience subsides, or the amount of energy required to keep going starts to run out, there's a strong inner sense that there's nothing left in the tank. This happened with Elijah. After Elijah's moment on Mount Carmel with the 450 prophets of Ba'al, he gets word that Jezebel wants him dead. God has just allowed him to prevail when the odds were 450:1. Now, the odds are 1:1 and what is Elijah's response? He says, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors" (1st Kings 19:4). It seems to me that Elijah is spent. He's got nothing left in the tank. If you keep reading on in this part of the Elijah narrative, he falls asleep, is fed and cared for by an angel, sleeps again, and then after a period of good rest and nourishment is ready to go again.

We all reach the point when there's nothing left in the tank and it doesn't matter what the odds are, the task before us seems insurmountable and well beyond what we think we can do. I know a good number of our ABCCR pastors feel like they have very little left in the tank.

In many churches, October is Pastor Appreciation month. While this is only September, I wanted to get this to you early enough for some advance planning in case you wanted to show your pastor how much she or he is appreciated. There are lots of way you can show your appreciation and while monetary gifts and gift cards are nice, some of the most meaningful gestures of appreciation cost very little. A card, an email, or a small gesture of encouragement when you've got very little left in the tank can mean so much. If you sense that your pastor is at the point of saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord..." then why not take the initiative to be used by God to encourage your pastor? Be creative in your expression and know that your small gesture may be just what your pastor needs.

Thank you for the privilege of serving among you.

Gregg L.J. Hemmen

4TEN IS CUTTING EDGE LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING FOR YOUTH ENTERING 10-12TH GRADES DURING THE FALL. 4TEN WAS FORMED BY THE SCRIPTURE 1 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 desire to be leaders in their own churches.

DO YOU KNOW YOUTH WITH A LOT OF LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL?

YOU MAY NOMINATE THEM BY SENDING THEIR NAME, CHURCH, AND PHONE NUMBER TO REV. JENNIFER SCHNEIDER AT

jennifer.schneider@abccr.org

SAVE THE DATE

Sr. Adult Retreat

April 27-28, 2022

HANDSHAKES, HUGS & HALLELUJAHS

You Are Not Alone

A Chance to ReShape Your Congregation in 2022

How has your church responded to the multiple crises and pandemics we have and continue to face? How will you decide which aspects of yesterday's "normal" are worth keeping and which ones to let go? What happens when pastoring during a pandemic, leading in a liminal season, or responding to a crisis lasts much longer than you expected? What will a "new normal" look like for your congregation as it seeks to be transformed and to transform?

If you are thinking about these topics, you are not alone. Faith leaders and communities all over the country are asking the same questions. Central Seminary invites you to join the dialogue with other pastors and churches for reflecting on unpredictable experiences, processing them in community, and using them to grow more fully into your unique expression of the Body of Christ.

ReShaping Church is a guided process for capturing and integrating the innovation and adaptation resulting from disruptive life experiences, transforming churches into greater expressions of the body of Christ. Central Seminary's ReShaping Church: Thriving Congregations program is a partnership with Pinnacle Leadership Associates and generously funded by the Lilly Endowment. **The program is currently recruiting congregations to participate in the 2022 cohort.**

Learn more at cbts.edu/reshaping-church



Fredrikson Center 2021 Event Series 2022



Adventures in Faith

September 22

Adventures in Faith (AIF) is an annual event that brings a team of alumni who are established in their vocational or volunteer fields and united by a strong faith commitment to spend three days on campus in Ottawa, Kansas. While here, they make in-class, group and chapel presentations on blending vocation with avocation.

www.ottawa.edu/AIF



November

Braving Discipleship

November 5-7

Braving Discipleship is a weekend conference for high school students and youth pastors from Kansas and surrounding states. OU students are instrumental in planning and administrating this Christian conference. During the conference, OU students have ample opportunities to lead committees and small-group workshops within this Christian-based ministry.

www.ottawa.edu/braving



Hope for the Holidays

Many hands make light work—and hope! Students and community come together in this multi-step process to bake pies for the elderly in the Franklin County area! We smash, we mix and we bake wonderful pies for the homebound, elderly and caregivers.

www.ottawa.edu/youareloved

Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship

By Linda Callaway

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). The purpose of this scholarship is to provide assistance to students with a passion to serve the Lord in whatever “calling” God leads and to encourage personal spiritual growth development and lifelong Christian educational learning skills to assist with future preparation for ministry. These students must be active members of an American Baptist Church in the Central Region, an active member from an American Baptist Church National Mission, or an approved international student. Current scholarships are \$500.00 per semester for full-time students or \$250.00 per semester for half-time students.

Our Scholarship Committee has selected four students for the 2021-2022 academic school year: Jordan Fritz and Jessamine Greuter (Ottawa University), Laura-Deware Jones (San Diego, CA United States University), and Paul Kyaw Myint (Central Baptist Theological Seminary). Their profiles are featured in this newsletter. Please keep these students on your church prayer list and offer them support through inspirational cards, letters, and heartfelt gifts of encouragement. We serve as the hands and feet of Christ here on earth and from one generation to the next. Therefore, your continued prayers and financial offerings to this scholarship fund are greatly appreciated. Together, we are sharing Jesus’ love and Gospel teachings on servanthood while praising God from whom all blessings flow and always rejoicing in the Lord!

Linda Callaway
 Church & Community Coordinator and
 Scholarship & Student Concerns Associate
 PO Box 67622, Topeka, KS 66667-0622
 lkjhcall@aol.com
 831-224-6245

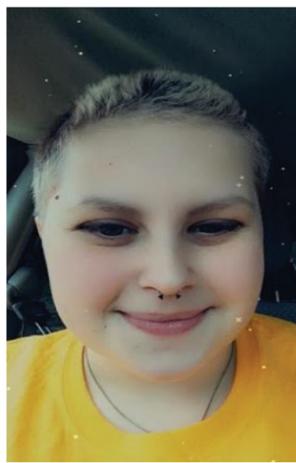
2021-2022 Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship Students

Jordan Fritz

Telephone: 785-342-0539
 Birthday: September 1
 School Address: 1601 S Hickory St
 Apt. G8, Ottawa, KS 66067
 Email: jordyfritz5@gmail.com



Jordan is a member of Gypsum FBC (Judson ABW Association), a senior majoring in Accounting at Ottawa University, and a member of Theta Phi Alpha Sorority’s campus and community service involvement programs. She’s also involved in OU’s Campus Activities Board, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Track & Cross Country teams as she continues “running for the glory of God and Him giving the strength to do this sport because it is a mental game.” She serves on the ABWCR Board of Directors as a Co-Coordinator with AB Girls’ Ministries. Her focus for spiritual motivation is from Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



Jessamine Greuter

Telephone: 785-215-4588
 Birthday: April 6
 School Address: 1001 S Cedar St.
 Ottawa, KS 66067
 Email: tacogreuter@gmail.com

Jessamine is a member of Topeka West Side Baptist Church (Tri-River ABW Association), a junior at Ottawa University majoring in Secondary Education with an emphasis in English Language Arts, a servant of the Lord in the Chapel program, Ambassador for the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Organization, and a Trailblazer’s Mission Group leader directing OU’s Campus “Braving Discipleship Youth Retreat.” She completed ABCCR 4TEN Youth Leadership Training program, “finds the work God can do through youth inspiring and is astonished at the love they hold for Christ,” and shares Psalm 147:3: “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” She is excited to continue her walk with Christ at OU.

Laura Deware-Jones

Telephone: 816-714-4884
 Birthday: August 8
 Home Address: 1602 N 7th St.
 Atchison, KS 66002
 Email:
 ldewarejones473@USuniversity.edu



Laura, a member of Atchison FBC (Missouri River ABW Association), is a senior online student of the San Diego, CA United States University studying to become a Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN). She has her Certified Nurse Aide and Registered Nurse Certifications and her Master of Divinity degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. She has served nationally and internationally with medical teams on Christian outreach mission trips. This summer, she worked with America’s SnapNurse Healthcare Staffing program which supplies California with nurses for their COVID-19 vaccination clinics. She is asking “God’s provision for her life” and believes Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”



Rev. Paul Kyaw Myint

Birthday: June 11
 Home Address: No. 290/49 Ward
 Payintnaung Road
 North Dagon, Yangon 11421
 Email: paulkyaw@gmail.com

Rev. Paul, a Doctor of Ministry Student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary (CBTS) in Kansas and a member of Believers Church Myanmar in Yangon, Myanmar, was raised in a Buddhist family, but accepted Jesus as his personal Savior in 1998. He earned a Bachelor of Theology in Yangon and Master of Divinity degree in India. In 2012, he attended a one-year certificate course in Singapore and learned about church concerns. As National Youth and Sunday School Pastor from 2015-2017, he visited different parts of the country and conducted training in churches. He is currently serving in Bethel Harvest Mission and also lecturing in Believers Church Theological Seminary. Leadership is the most challenging issue in his country and in the churches. The second challenge is lack of education in Christendom. With his Doctor of Ministry degree from CBTS, he believes he will be equipped to follow his calling and help local pastors and seminary students.



Worshop Descriptions

Compassion as a Catalyst to Recalibrate, Reset and Refresh

Dr. Joel Schroeder, a pastor residing in the ABCCR but currently not serving a church, will teach a workshop entitled, "Compassion as a catalyst to Recalibrate, Reset, and Refresh." He will build upon some key passages and use a book called "Compassionomics" to illustrate the value of compassion to those that give and receive it.

Mission Workshop

Global servants, Eric and Yuree Lembke, will be sharing about their ministry in Thailand. The Lembke's serve at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School & College (KKBBS) located in Mae La Refugee Camp near Mae Sot, Thailand. Young adults, mostly from the Karen ethnic group, attend the school to pursue a degree in ministry so that they are able serve as Christian leaders within the refugee camps and internally displaced persons in areas along the Thai/Myanmar border. Eric and Yuree's ministry focuses on working with refugees through education, discipleship, and evangelism. At the school, they teach English and ministry classes. They also travel to villages in the Karen State, Myanmar with KKBBS students and staff to teach and conduct Bible classes.

Tai Qi for Health and Renewal

Trish Dowd Kelne is the director of Winter Center for Restorative Justice, a nonprofit community outreach organization. She has been blessed to work with Baptist Churches, Youth, and Pastors as part of a partnership with Fredrikson Center of OU and Chaplain John Holzhueter. She is a certified instructor for the Academy of Tai Qi through which she teaches classes and seminars. Tai Chi for Health and Renewal is a workshop giving participants a chance to learn a bit of Tai Chi, an ancient eastern health system for balance, flexibility and vitality. Participants will learn about the mental components of Tai Chi (meditation) that allows for the reduction of stress and increased focus and mental clarity. Participants will also try a few exercises, seated, standing, stretches and breath. Provided in partnership with the Lawrence Academy of Tai Qi.

Reshaping Church

Several ABCCR churches have been part of the Reshaping Church process in 2020-2021. Reshaping Church is a guided process for adapting to a changing church environment and seeking God for a personalized approach to growth and transformation. We have had churches of all sizes and in different contexts take part in this process. A panel of leaders will talk about their experience and field questions you may have. Those panelists include: Bill Hendricks (interim pastor and ABCCR Director of Interim Ministries), Melissa Newberry (pastor of Grandview Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS), Kathy Pickett (pastor of Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS), and Matt Sturtevant (pastor of First Baptist Church, Lawrence, KS).

Vantagepoint 3

The past 2 years, the ABCCR has used the Vantagepoint 3 process as a tool for discipleship and leadership development. Vantagepoint 3 is a 9-month journey through the Bible, personal inventories, current leadership insights, and writings on spirituality to probe three key questions: (a) Who is God? (b) Who am I? (c) What is God up to in my life? This past year, we had 3 groups that went through this

process and we plan on offering this opportunity to new groups again this year. A panel of this year's leaders will describe their experiences of the process and answer your questions.

Those leaders are: Jessica Henks (Administration & Worship Pastor at First Baptist Church of Stilwell, KS), Wallace Smith (pastor of First Baptist Church of Overland Park, KS), and Blake Wyatt (pastor of First Baptist Church, Hiawatha, KS).

Praying With Purpose

Rev. Michael L. Strickland is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atchison, where he has served the past 9 years. He aspires to equip people to know God's heart, to bear God's likeness, and to carry out God's life's work in every corner of creation. Meaningful practices of self-care and hobbies

include photography (especially film photography), journaling, cycling, camping/hiking, and reading. Many who want to "recalibrate, reset, refresh" will likely turn to prayer. But will it work? Will they be able to stick with it? And what does any of that mean? In this workshop, we will be exploring the nature of prayer, an often-overlooked requirement of effective prayer, and some prayer practices you might consider trying.

The 2021 Annual Gathering will be held at First Baptist Church of Salina, KS. It kicks off on Thursday, September 30 with the Minister's Council Clergy and Spouse dinner.

Please look for more information on workshops, lodging, and other matters pertaining to Annual Gathering in the FOCUS packet, weekly emails, future Central Region Life issues, and the region website; abccr.org.

Please pay attention to registration dates. Meals will not be available for registrations received after September 10th.

Voting will be taking place via Zoom this year. Voting will be at 7pm on Tuesday, September 28th.

If you are a delegate please provide your email address on your registration form so that we can send you an invitation to the Zoom link.

If you have any questions, please contact: Morgan Bandy, morgan.bandy@abccr.org

Central Region Life

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

Yes, I wish to subscribe to

NEW RENEWAL GIFT SUBSCRIPTION — \$12.00 per year

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____