

Central Region Life

JANUARY 2023



Bound Together with Cheese Crackers and Capri Sun

In October our 2022-2023 4Ten leadership group met at Camp White Memorial in Council Grove, Kansas. Associate Executive Minister, Jennifer Schneider, Davey Kiker, and myself are blessed to be able to walk alongside these students to pour into them and teach them to use their gifts to serve the body of Christ. Throughout the weekend they studied leaders in the Bible and discussed the attributes that made them leaders, they worked together to get through the low ropes course, and they also planned their own worship service for Sunday morning.

The students examined what their worship services looked like and discussed the elements they wanted to add to their own service. One of the aspects of service they decided they wanted to incorporate was communion. We didn't have the traditional wafer and grape juice, so they decided on cheese crackers and a Capri-Sun. It may seem silly, but this was possibly one of my favorite acts of communion I've participated in.

While sitting in front of the lake watching students lead each other in worship I thought about how communion is not about the bread and juice; it's about the body and blood of Jesus that bind us together. It's not about the ritual or the method; it's about listening to Jesus and doing what He says. Communion is not an obligation, but a celebration. Many of us sing "Blest be the Tie That Binds" after partaking in communion. There is joy to be found in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; that joy comes from being bound in love through Him. We come together in community to celebrate what Jesus has done for us. Communion is a time when we collectively reflect on the covenant that binds us together.

Morgan Bandy



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RETHINKING INNOVATION

REV. JENNIFER SCHNEIDER, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

I was reading an article from Dr. Jolene Erlacher the other day. The article was titled "How Can You Rethink Innovation?" Dr. Erlacher was last fall's keynote speaker at our ABCCR region annual gathering. She is the founder of Leading Tomorrow and desires to help churches, businesses, schools, and other organizations encourage effective intergenerational leadership. In this article, she was encouraging her readers to think about innovation.

As I was reading her words, I kept thinking about how we have been forced to innovate over the last few years. The pandemic pushed all of us to think about ministry in new ways. Some days I get tired of trying to create new programs, plans, and processes. I want things to "be like they used to be." It is often more comfortable to fall back on tried-and-true formulas.

Yet, as I ponder the beginning of a new calendar year, I can't help but think about all the possibilities this new year will bring. There will be opportunities to try some things differently. New people will enter our lives, and our church families will have chances to create spaces for new ideas.

According to Erlacher, young leaders are wired to innovate. She suggests young leaders are "**more likely to question assumptions and to challenge current ways of doing things.**" If we want to share the gospel with new generations, we need the help of our young leaders. They have grown up in a world where things never stay the same but are constantly evolving.

Dr. Erlacher quoted futurist Alvin Toffler in her article. He stated, "**The illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.**" This is a difficult challenge but one we can't afford to ignore. As people of faith, we must be willing to deconstruct our past programs and processes to decide what is valuable and what must be let go of. This will allow us to adapt to our changing world constantly.

However, thankfully we can trust in the one who never changes. In Micah 7:7, we find these words: "**But for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.**" (NRSV). As we seek to learn, change, and grow, may we trust that God is ever faithful.

May 2023 be filled with new opportunities and God's many blessings!

Rev. Jennifer Schneider
Associate Executive Minister

[CLICK HERE TO READ DR. ERLACHER'S ENTIRE ARTICLE](#)



4Ten Snapshots



AB Girls are planning an event for early 2023. Winter Jam will be in Wichita on February 17th and in Kansas City on March 3rd. Tickets are \$15 a person. If anyone is interested or has any questions, please contact Jordan, Cindy, or Kami. Once we gauge interest, we will determine which concert we will attend. When a date is determined we will send out permission forms.

We appreciate everyone who supports AB Girls whether that is by donating, volunteering, or praying. We are super excited for upcoming events such as Winter Jam this winter and Praise Weekend in the summer. Please be on the lookout for more information about these events and we can't wait for you to join us!

Jordan Fritz: 785-342-0539

Cindy Fritz: 785-820-1640

Kami Minor: 816-916-5264



Why Is Now the Time to Declutter

Prairie Homestead Senior Living

For many, our homes literally contain a lifetime of memories and “things”. It’s normal for “things” to multiply to the point of overflowing. Whether you are planning a move in the future or have no intention of making a change, there are several benefits to decluttering. The cold, winter months are a great time to devote efforts towards that goal.

1. It’s a way to De-Stress. Studies have shown that clutter increases anxiety, depression, and generally makes us feel overwhelmed and stressed (often without us even realizing that is the source). Cleaning reduces that stress, not only by reducing the clutter but also by expounding energy through the exercise of cleaning.

2. It’s a Safety Issue. Having too much stuff laying around often creates tripping hazards. As we age, a fall can trigger a health episode that is difficult to recover from. We need to proactively ensure that traffic pathways are clear and easily accessible. Reducing the amount of furniture, excessive decorations, clutter on the floor, and even area rugs should be evaluated, and removal considered.

3. It’s a way to share our blessings with others. During difficult economic times such as these, many struggle to make non-essential purchases. If you have items in storage or closets that are perfectly fine but just haven’t been used for years, consider donating such items. These treasures could be a blessing for others plus you’ll benefit from the decluttered space and perhaps even receive a tax deduction.

4. It’s a way to give Legacy Gifts early. Giving heirloom items to family members now ensures that the history and story behind the item is shared which will be passed on to future generations. Plus, you’ll experience the joy of giving and see others enjoying the gift as well.

5. It’s a Labor of Love. Anyone who has had to clean out a loved ones’ home following an unexpected illness or death knows what a difficult task it is, both emotionally and physically. Decluttering now will ensure others are less burdened if unplanned changes occur.

6. It’s a proactive step for downsizing. For those that are planning to downsize, decluttering now will help with a less stressful move later. Cleaning out your house now will also be one step in the right direction as you prepare to put your house on the market.

No matter the reason you are decluttering, make the process as positive and fun as possible. Keep the task manageable by tackling one room at a time (or even one part of a room). Set a timeline, giving yourself plenty of time to reminisce without physically or emotionally overdoing it. Consider having 4 boxes (Keep, Donate/Sell, Recycle, and Trash) and use the one touch method (once you’ve touched an item, it must go in one of the boxes) to ensure an efficient process.

Here at Prairie Homestead Senior Living, we have had many go through this process recently as they prepared to move onto our beautiful campus. If you’d like to connect with someone who’s been in your shoes, give us a call at (316) 263-8264, and we will arrange lunch with someone who would love to share their experience.

PLANNED GIVING

THANK YOU

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS YET? COULD YOUR LIST LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

1. EAT HEALTHIER
2. EXERCISE MORE
3. SPEND MORE TIME IN PRAYER
4. STOP_____
5. INVEST WISELY
6. SUPPORT MY CHURCH MORE
7. GIVE MORE TO MISSIONS

While I can't help you with some of these items, other than praying for you and encouraging you, I do have a way of helping you with the last three on the list.

If you choose to fund a charitable gift annuity, you can fulfill all three of the resolutions at the bottom of your list. If you open a charitable gift annuity, then your money will be invested wisely in the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation by our excellent investors at Endeavor Wealth Advisors. Based on the amount you donate and the age(s) of your beneficiary or beneficiaries, you will receive a certain amount of your gift back every year as long as you live and also receive an income tax deduction as well. Another added benefit is that if you fund your annuity with the gift of appreciated stock, you can also receive a deduction in your capital gains tax. When you fill out the application for your annuity, you can also choose your home church to receive some or all of the remainder amount left, when you go to be with the Lord.

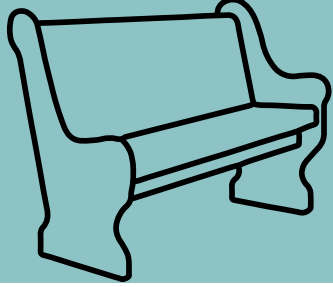
Finally, you can also choose a number of mission agencies, partners or offerings to receive a percentage of your remainder amount as well. For example, you could choose Murrow Indian Home, Victory Village, Prairie Homestead, or Bacone College just to name a few. You can also choose to support International Ministries or a specific IM missionary, missionary couple or family, and you could support ABHMS and home missionaries as well. If you are interested in helping a certain offering, you can also choose any of the four major yearly offerings that American Baptists collect like the One Great Hour of Sharing or World Mission offering, etc. You might be inclined to help the ABCCR region offering too, which could receive money from your charitable gift annuity also.

When you donate to a charitable gift annuity, you will be on your way to accomplishing three important resolutions on your list! If I can be of any service or help to you in this area, please do not hesitate to call or email me at the numbers listed below.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Midwinter Mission & Evangelism Conference in McPherson, KS, in January. I would be delighted to visit with you or discuss things with you then. Until then, I hope you will do well on your New Year's resolutions!!

**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**





VIEW FROM THE PEW

PASTOR BILL HENDRICKS

John, from Ft. Scott, Ks asked:

“What does a pastor really do beside preach on Sunday? How do they keep busy?”

ANSWER: this question comes up regularly during the Search & Call process. No two days are ever the same. Some things are obvious, and others will never be known. The Pastor lives in a world of confession and confidentiality. People rarely see below the line, including the pastor’s family.

Some Above the Line Activities:

- Plan worship, Preach & lead studies
- Visit shut-ins and hospital calls
- Service in Central Region programs
- Provide wedding, funeral, and other services
- Participate in church board and committee meetings



Each of these activities requires both prayer and preparation. Some require extended time. In addition to prayer, there is content design and the numerous calls and emails that ensure each of these activities are fresh, professional, and well-polished.

Some Below the Line Activities:

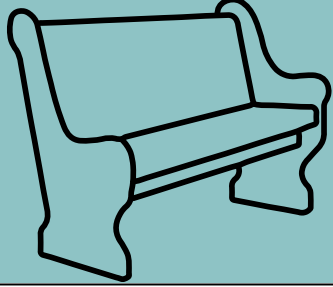
- Work in the community and other ecumenical activities
- Coaching and counseling (Weddings, marriage, substance abuse)
- Handling the drop-ins
- Become a drop-in at: youth group, women’s and men’s group and children’s programs
- Tending to the distressed (Drugs, homeless’ and those dealing with loss (even pets)
- Intercessory Prayer, study, and professional growth

A pastor works 24 x 7. Cell phones and messaging ensure the pastor is available. Even on their day off, Below the Line Activities capture hours of the pastor time daily. Office hours create some predictability but Below the Line Activities are unpredictable.

How much time is spent weekly? It varies from week to week and pastor to pastor, there is a ballpark summary of hours of how a pastor’s time is consumed on the next page...

One thing is certain... a pastor’s life is unpredictable. When one reviews the table above, everything is important when it happens. The time required to respond varies from pastor to pastor and church member to church member, but availability is always expected when the need surfaces.

Thanks for the question, John.



VIEW FROM THE PEW

PASTOR BILL HENDRICKS

(continued)

ABOVE THE LINE ACTIVITIES	TIME	BELOW THE LINE ACTIVITIES§	TIME
Worship Planning & Preaching	18 Hr.	Coaching & Counseling	6 Hrs.
Weddings, Funerals, & Other*	1 Hr.	Community/Ecumenical*	2 Hrs.
Board & Committee Mtgs	3 Hrs.	Handling Drop-Ins	2 Hrs.
Intercessory Prayer	5 Hrs.	Dropping in on Activities	3 Hrs.
Shut-in & Hospital Visits	3 Hrs.	Tending to Distressed	2 Hrs.
Church Admin/Leader Devel.	3 Hrs.	Region and Area programs	1 Hr.
Lead Bible Studies & Prayer Mtg			

Below the Line Activities vary from week to week. Over a month's time these would be average.

* These activities may occur monthly. Time requirements are broken into weekly, but likely occur at one time.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: BILL.HENDRICKS@ABCCR.OR | CALL: 913-558-3311

Tomorrow starts a busy month for me and my family; tomorrow is the 5th birthday of my twin grandsons, next week is one of my granddaughter's 4th birthday, then there are children's programs, church activities, Christmas Eve services and then Christmas Day! Whew! I know many of you will be experiencing many of the same wonderful activities. It's just important that we take time to invite our Savior to go along on our journeys.


I had a wonderful experience happen today. I am keeping my five-month-old infant granddaughter, Margaret, for the rest of the school year, and I usually hold her while she naps. She'll be my last, so why not?! Anyway, when she awakened from her morning nap, she looked right into my eyes with her piercing blue eyes as if to say, "Grandmomma, I love you more than any other person at this moment." We must have stared into each other's eyes for 12-15 seconds. Both of us were just loving with our whole hearts! What a gift I was given!

It made me pause to think about how Mary must have felt when baby Jesus looked at her. She knew she had been given a special gift, but just imagine how Mary felt the first time Jesus locked eyes with her, as if to say, "Momma, I love you!" Margaret's loving stare and my imagination brought me happy tears. I stopped right there in the moment and thanked Jesus that I am getting to love on my baby girl every day for the next few months!

Merry Christmas, dear friends! May you experience love this Christmas like never before. May the Lord God shine his face upon you and give you peace... and JOY for the coming New Year!

Mona Huggins
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ABWM National News



Dear Friends,
He shall judge between
the nations, and shall
arbitrate for many peoples; they
shall beat their swords into plow
shares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nei-
ther shall they learn war any more. -- Isaiah 2:4
We pray that the blessing of preparation for
Christ to return will bring you peace and joy in
this Advent season.
May the peace of Christ be yours,
Wendy and Gina





As we begin this new year of 2023, let us pray for the Mid-Winter Mission and Evangelism conference that will take place near the end of the month. Pray that we would have good weather so that many can attend and hear more about how we can all do mission and share the good news in our churches and our lives. Let us pray for safe travels for all who will come from across the region to this important conference.

Let us ask Jesus to bless all who will speak and share, especially our IM missionaries, Doctors Rick & Anita Gutierrez, who will be presenting at the conference. As we prepare to listen to them, might we pray and support them, so that they can continue serving the Lord and helping others come to Christ.

Finally, let us pray that the Holy Spirit would inspire and encourage us to serve in new ways of mission in our churches and communities!!

The scriptural theme of the conference is:

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:12 (NRSV)

Upcoming Events

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

Mid Winter Mission Conference

January 20 and 21, 2023



to be held at

First Baptist Church, 600 E Marlin, McPherson, KS

Registration

Name _____

Address _____

e-mail: _____ phone _____

Registration is \$25 per person to pay travel expenses and honorarium for our missionary speakers Dr. Rick and Dr. Anita Gutierrez, who serve in South Africa.



Dinner and lunch will be provided by the McPherson church for a free will offering but we need to know by **January 7th**. #____ Dinner #____ Lunch

Please make checks payable to "Mid Winter Missions" and mail to: Wilma Engle, 6745 Interurban, Wichita, KS 67204-1323 or register and pay online. One person per registration.

Schedule

Jan. 20 – 4:00 pm Registration begins
 5:15 pm Dinner
 6:30 pm Program begins ---- Should end by 9:00 pm
 Jan 21 – 9:00 am Gathering with music
 12:00 noon Lunch & homeward to share your experience

Housing is on your own at local motels or with friends!

Offering for missions will be received!

ANNUAL GATHERING 2023



First Baptist Church
Lawrence, KS
September 29-30, 2023

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have
commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20



PRAIRIE PASTORS

CONFERENCE

When: March 27-29, 2023

Where: Sunset Hills Baptist Church
9416 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68114

Look for more information and registration in January

BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER WEEKEND

January 27-28, 2023

First Baptist Church,
410 S. Hickory Street
Ottawa, KS 66067

Luke 5:17-26

Register Here



Senior Adult Retreat

REGISTRATION MATERIALS ARE
AVAILABLE AT
WWW.ABCCR.ORG OR
THROUGH YOUR LOCAL
CHURCH OFFICE.

JOIN THE FUN!

"No Turning Back"

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-15 MSG

APRIL 26-27, 2023

WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
304 S SENECA
WICHITA, KS



DR. JERRY CAIN, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mission Projects

IN THE CENTRAL REGION



First Baptist ABWM ladies of Gypsum and Lindsborg took Christmas boxes and went to the Freemont Lutheran Church where they have a setup to pack and send boxes to children in different parts of the world. They helped put together the shoes boxes and wrote notes to the children receiving them. These boxes contain toys, clothes, and bathroom essentials. It was a wonderful time to be together to fill these boxes.

Cindy Fritz, Gypsum/Lindsborg ABWM president.



Uniontown First Missionary Baptist Church filled-out almost 250 Christmas Cards for their local nursing homes and to send to those serving in the military.



There will be a groundbreaking Ceremony for the Multipurpose Hall (Health & Wellness Center) at Bethel Neighborhood Center. On January 12, 2023 at 4:00 pm. They are still fundraising to meet the \$800,000 goal to complete their project.