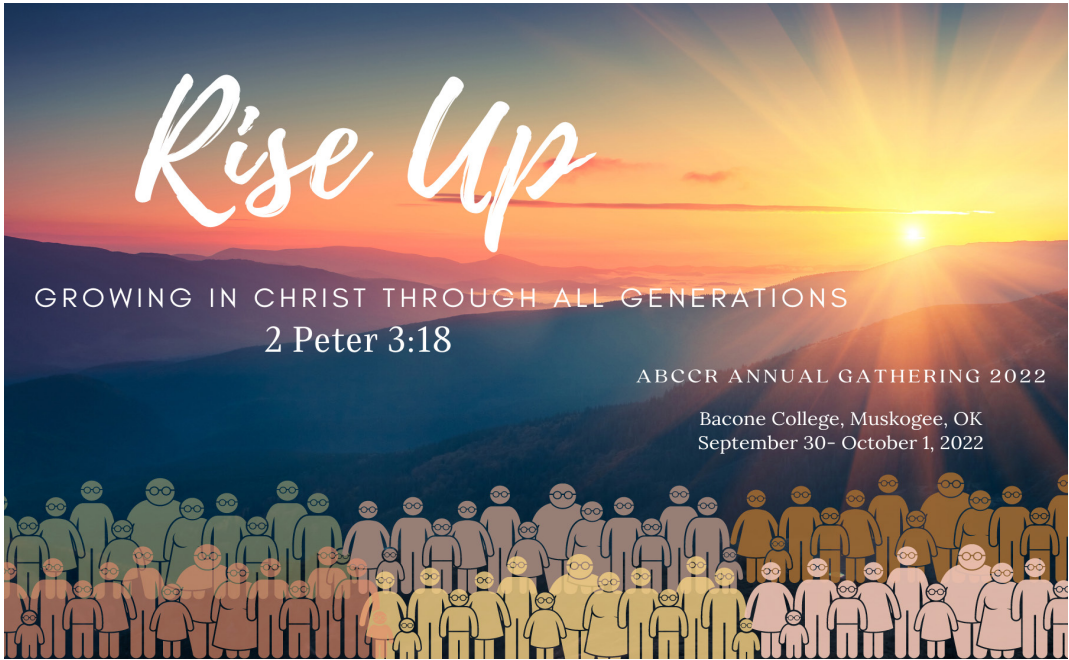


American Baptist Churches  
Central Region Life

July 2022

Vol. 120 No. 7



The ABCCR Annual Gathering for 2022 will be held at Bacone College and Muskogee Civic Center on September 30- October 1 2022. The theme is “Rise Up: Growing in Christ Through All Generations.” The theme verse comes from 2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Annual Gathering will kick-off on September 29 with the Minister’s Council dinner. Registration will begin at 9:00am on Friday morning. Dr. Pam Durso will be leading a devotion and the ABW and AB Men lunches will be held before the first session at 1:15pm. A full schedule of events will be made available in upcoming publications. Registration forms are included at the end of this paper.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Jolene Erlacher. Jolene is passionate about equipping the next generation to thrive in their faith and develop as leaders.

Dr. Jolene Erlacher founded Leading Tomorrow in 2014 with the aim of equipping churches, businesses, schools, missions agencies and other organizations for effective inter-generational leadership in an evolving culture. Jolene worked for eight years at North Central University, specializing in leadership training, student development and personnel management. During that time, she identified the need for building awareness of generational differences as young leaders entered the workplace, especially in ministry contexts. This began an extended journey of researching the experiences and needs of Millennials in ministry positions. Her book, Millennials in Ministry (Judson Press) documents her findings.

Jolene’s book, Daniel Generation: Godly Leadership in an Ungodly Culture, was released in August 2018, and her new book, Mobilizing Gen Z for Missions will be released in 2022. She specializes in providing training and consulting on team effectiveness and inter-generational leadership, and works with community organizations, government agencies, churches, missions agencies, and small businesses. Jolene teaches continuing education courses for Eduspire. She is also an adjunct faculty member and teaches graduate courses on Organizational Leadership at several universities including North Central University, and serves on the Boards of Directors for The Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission.

Jolene’s education background includes degrees in Education and English, and a graduate certificate in International Leadership. Her doctorate is in Leadership from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She has also completed training on the StrengthsFinder assessment through Gallup Consulting and is a certified IPSAT (Identity Profile Self Awareness Tool) leadership coach. Jolene is also a Certified Church Consultant through CC.U (ChurchConsultation.University).

Jolene is fluent in Spanish and has volunteered and studied in various countries including Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Kenya, and South Africa. She is actively involved in her local church and community. Jolene lives in central NC with her husband, twin daughters and their dog Rex. She enjoys reading, writing and drinking coffee.





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## FBC Louisburg Youth and Bethel Neighborhood Center Youth Work on Playground

The youth of FBC Louisburg and Bethel Neighborhood Center worked together to spread mulch on the playground at Bethel. They worked together to make the playground much safer for the students who play there.



## FBC Overland Park Helps Ukraine



First Baptist Church of Overland Park and their siste church, Kansas New Vision Church of the Nazarene assembled 450 hygiene kits for the people of Ukraine. They had great fun together packing kits and learning about Heart to Heart International “operations Hub”. How wonderful it is to have opportunies to serve with other and truly become the hands and feet of Jesus!

## Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation



*A Ministry of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region*

I can remember it like it was yesterday, and it happened 40 years ago this summer, which was my last summer working on our Illinois farm. Dark clouds were looming in the west as the front moved across the Mississippi River and the tremendous thunderstorm began to not only bring rain, lightning and thunder, but more importantly, hail! I can remember standing on our back porch and hearing the tremendous and torrential hail hit the old tin roof and I stood there in silence and watched it all come down. I felt so bad for my dad and our family as most of our corn and soybeans had just been planted in the past few days, since this was in early June.

I am so glad that something prompted me to go and get my film camera and take a couple of photos out the back porch door. I still have them in my photo album and while it is hard to describe them, they are mostly black, with a small circle of bright orange and yellow light emanating from the storm. My heart sank as I took those photos and I knew that most likely all of our crops were destroyed!

When we got up the next morning and drove around to the various fields to look at the crops, my fears were realized. The small corn and bean plants were shredded and only little stubs were sticking out of the ground. While we are not the “Wheat State” like Kansas, our family usually planted around 200 acres of wheat every year for a crop rotation, and it was all knocked to the ground and most of the kernels were lying there as well. It was utter devastation and ruin for these crops. Fortunately, my dad had taken out crop insurance, so the corn and soybeans were replanted to produce a crop in the fall, but the wheat was gone and he was paid a sum for that loss.

I do want to make it perfectly clear that when you fund a charitable gift annuity, that it is not insurance. It is an agreement where the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation, Inc. will pay the donor(s) a set sum of money each year for as long as they live. Still, my point here is that you are covered by the KBCF and your annuity payments will stay the same every year until you die and go to be with the Lord. You are covered by a multi-million dollar foundation, whose funds are invested well by our partners at Endeavor Wealth, and governed by our elected board of directors from all over the Central region. You do not have to worry about your gift being destroyed, devastated or ruined.

If I can be of service to you over the summer months with help for a charitable gift annuity or another planned giving matter, please do not hesitate to call or email me. As we go through these summer months, you might remember that if you fund a gift annuity, you can leave your remainder to Central Region Camping or Camp Christy or any other mission partner.

Gratefully yours,  
Rev. Tim Schwartz  
KBCF Director of Planned Giving  
tim.schwartz@abccr.org



## FBC Lyons Hosts Day Camp

First Baptist Church of Lyons hosted day camp for their community during the first week of June. They did arts and crafts, played dodgeball with wet sponges, and worshiped Jesus together. A huge shoutout to Pastor Joel Grizzle and his team for a super fun week!



# 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:** Tim Schwartz

**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

## Radical. Redeemed. Ready



Melissa Newberry, Jennifer Schneider, Christina Adams, and Angie Jackson were just some of the many people who gathered at Green Lake Conference Center for the Radical. Redeemed. Ready Conference to celebrate ministering women. The conference featured inspiring speakers, creative worship, engaging workshops, and multiple ways to connect while experiencing innovative approaches to ministry.

*Save the date!*



**2022 GIRL'S PRAISE WEEKEND!**

July 15 - 17 Check in at 7:00 p.m.

**Camp Webster**

Salina, Ks

*"You are the potter, and I am the clay".*

Isaiah 64:8

AB Girls of the Central Region will be hosting their annual Praise Weekend at Camp Webster this year!

The AB Girls of the Central Region are so excited to announce that we will be holding our annual Praise WEEKEND this summer! Please help us to get the word out to all the girls in 3rd - 12th grade to invite their friends and join us on July 15 - 17th! Our theme this year is from Isaiah 64:8 "Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." More information about registration and details will be sent out in April. Please let one of our coordinators --know if you would like to be included in the mailing of information.

Cindy Fritz - cindyfritz26@gmail.com 785-820-1640

Jordan Fritz - jordyfritz5@gmail.com 785-342-0539

Rebecca Pushee -rebeccapushee@usd475.org 785-458-2520

## Central Region Life

American Baptist Churches of the Central Region

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## Back to School: Learning of Terms Related to Senior Healthcare

As school gears up, we are reminded that we are always learning, even as we begin to consider senior care needs. Understanding the differences between the various senior living terms can be quite confusing. When you’re trying to make decisions about a loved one’s health care, it helps to know exactly what the words and phrases mean, especially since definitions can vary by state or community.

**Senior Living** is simply a term that applies to how and where a senior citizen lives. This is often used as a broad umbrella term for all types of living options. **Independent Living** can mean staying in one’s own home, but there are **Senior Independent Living Communities**, which are suitable for people still able to live alone, who would like access to some support and services, such as maintenance, dining options, medical care or entertainment. There may also be opportunities to have transportation, housekeeping or even laundry services. Senior Independent Living Communities are much like traditional housing communities with some extra age limits or restrictions. Whether at home, in this kind of facility or in a community, independent seniors have the option of hiring additional home health care providers or of using medical alert systems to summon assistance. **Housing with Services** allows a person to live in a home or apartment with other seniors, while provided with a range of possible services, such as delivered meals, housekeeping and personal care. Extensive care, such as that provided in a skilled nursing facility, is not supplied, but a small amount of additional help with meals or activities can allow a resident to keep their general independence.

Living in an **Assisted Living Facility** is often considered when additional support is needed. Assisted Living facilities offer a small amount of assistance with the senior’s daily care, but not the full resources of skilled nursing. Typically, assisted living residents have their own rooms or apartments, but share community rooms and services, which might be one or more meals provided, 24-hour security, medication assistance, and entertainment and recreation. Some facilities provide transportation, perhaps at an additional cost, or off-site activities, such as shopping or dining out.

A **Nursing Home (or sometimes referred to as Long Term Care)** is a residence for elderly or disabled people who need permanent or long-term continual care. Help with taking medications, eating, dressing, hygiene and other daily activities is provided as needed. Services included at a nursing home would be the attention of nurses, assistants and aides, as well as occupational, physical and speech therapists. Other terms used for a nursing home are **Convalescent Home, Skilled Nursing Unit, Rest Home or Care Home**. Nursing homes, by any name, include all meals, housekeeping and daily health care, and most provide entertainment and recreational activities suitable to each patient.



A **Skilled Nursing Facility** is an in-patient residence, which provides everything around-the-clock that a person who, because of age or disability, cannot do for themselves independently. Included will be medically trained staff, licensed nurses, physical and occupational therapists, as well as food and bodily care. Skilled Nursing Homes can be a temporary option for receiving rehabilitation after an accident or surgery or can be long-term or permanent care. Many nursing homes are certified as Skilled Nursing Facilities.

**Continuum of Care Retirement Communities** are facilities which offer multiple levels of senior care. Services may include independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and hospice care all on the same campus. With all service options provided in one facility or campus, the resident can continue in a familiar setting and make friendships within the community, no matter what progression their condition takes. Although not a full continuum of care retirement community, Prairie Homestead Senior Living in Wichita offers several options for Senior Independent Living (offering twin homes and patio homes) as well as Assisted Living services.

In the long run, when discussing senior care options, one should always ask for definitions of terms used. It’s advisable to know exactly what level of care one’s loved one will receive, what costs are included with each level of care, and how a resident’s progress or decline will affect care and cost. There is nothing wrong with asking questions when getting clear answers will make someone’s life and care better, and the best long-term care service providers will be helpful and informative.

Yvonne Loftis  
Director of Sales & Marketing  
Prairie Homestead Senior Living



As we enter the month of July, let us pray for the camping ministries in our central region. Let us pray for Brandon Pitt, our new central region camping coordinator that God would give him wisdom to oversee and help all of our camps run smoothly this summer. Let us also pray for Steven & Danielle Massaglia, who are the managers of Camp Christy, that God will guide them as they help all of the camps and campers there on the western side of Kansas.

Let us pray for all of the camp leaders and the staff that will work with them that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to fill the camps with fun, teaching, recreation, crafts, games, exercise, group activities and times of good worship and prayer.

Finally let us pray for all the campers that they will have a fun, safe and wonderful time meeting new campers and meeting Jesus for the first time or growing in Christ! May they have plenty of time to renew, relax and rest, since even God rested! As the scripture says,

“And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.” Genesis 2:2 (NRSV)



# Vacation Bible School in the Central Region

**FBC Chanute**



**Wichita, City Life**



**FBC Council Grove**



**Zotung Christian Church, Kansas City**



**First Baptist Church, Lawrence**





NEW PASTORS IN THE CENTRAL REGION...

PASTOR SAM HECKER received a unanimous vote acceptance to become the new pastor of Oxford First Baptist Church. Sam, his wife Caitlyn and 3 kids began their ministry May 29th. Sam was raised and home schooled as a devout Catholic. At the age of 17 he read the bible for the first time on his own. After reading the Gospels he had a complete conversion of heart and gave his life to the Lord. Feeling a pull towards ministry and Sam started teaching the youth group in Dexter Kansas and both Sam and Caitlyn teach in the public school, in Dexter. Sam serves a member of the Kansas Air National Guard... His heart is for the lost. providing them with the love, joy, peace, and hope that only a life in Christ can provide.



PASTOR NATHAN FOUST was selected to become the new pastor at the yoked churches of Ada and Minneapolis Kansas. Nathan and his wife Liz began their service to the Lord and the church on Sunday, June 5th.

Nathan was ordained to preach to be Minister of the Gospel of the Christian Church by Elders of University Christian Church in Manhattan, KS, in 2019. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Bible and Leadership from Manhattan Christian College, where he maintained a 3.8 GPA and secured a spot on the Dean’s List.

Nathan and Elizabeth share a heart for Christ and a community ministry of evangelism, leadership for youth and support for people in crisis.

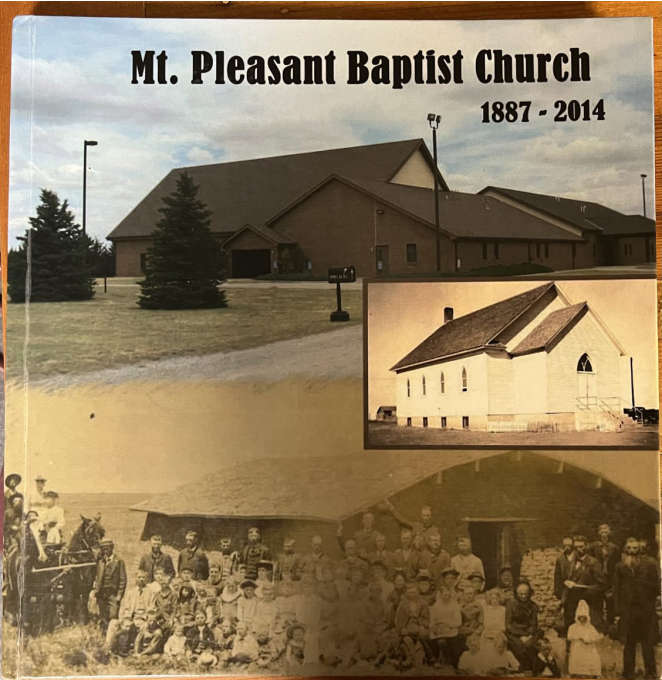
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Hoxie, KS Celebrates their 135th Anniversary!

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Hoxie, KS, celebrated their 135th anniversary on June 12th. Gregg brought greetings from the Region to a full house! They reflected during the Sunday school hour, Pastor Gary Simon preached from Genesis 24 on the theme, “Faithful to Every Generation,” and there were games, a catered meal, and ice cream in the afternoon. Below you can see a few pictures from the day.



Sod Church

1887 April-August



FBC Paola Installs New Pastor

First Baptist Church of Paola installed Rev. Dr. Joel Schroeder as their new pastor. Jennifer gave the charge to the pastor and congregation. This is a photo of Dr. Joel sharing his message, “Christ is the Center.” We are excited for FBC and for Joel and his wife Bethany.





# Child Dedication at FBC Parsons, KS

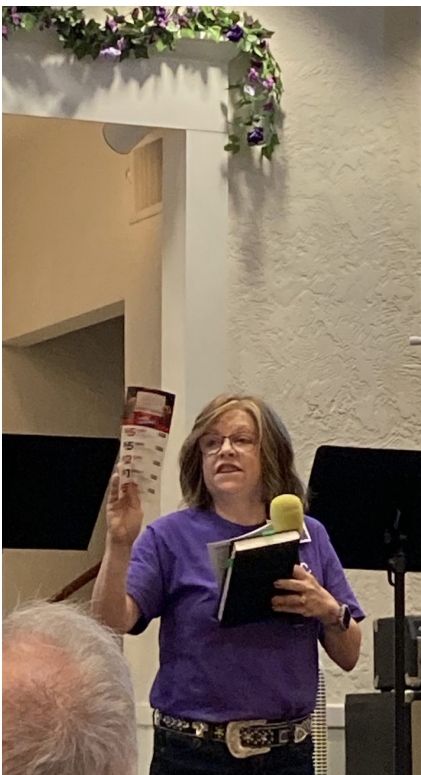
On Sunday, June 12 Jennifer Schenider was honored to be part of the dedication of four children at FBC Parsons. Pastor Travis Ball invited her to come and dedicate his daughter, Brooklyn, and three other children. The church had just finished a week of VBS and some of the children played instruments for the prelude. It was wonderful to see so many young families in worship.

**“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”**  
Proverbs 22:6



# First Baptist Church Louisburg, KS Celebrating their 150th Anniversary... All Year Long!

First Baptist of Louisburg is celebrating their 150th Anniversary all year long. In May they celebrated the signing of their charter with a family reunion. Here are a few pictures from that event! Happy Anniversary FBC Louisburg! Pastors Jesse Smith and Kami Minor lead the congregation in Louisburg.





2022 ABCCR Annual Gathering Registration Form  
September 30- October 1, 2022, Bacone College and Muskogee Civic Center

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag.)

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration (postmarked by Sept. 10th) \$40.00  
Registration (postmarked AFTER Sept. 10th) \$50.00                      **Total Registration** \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDCARE

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children (0- Kindergarten)    \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children (1st- 5th grade)    **\$30.00 ea.**

(Registration fee includes programing for Friday and Saturday, Friday meals, and snacks.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$8 Thursday night Clergy Dinner**

Please submit completed Childcare Form with your registrion                      **Total Childcare** \_\_\_\_\_

MEALS

\*Meals may not be available for those who register after Sept. 10th

Thursday, September 29, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ *BBQ for Clergy & Spouse Dinner:* (free)    Non-Clergy: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_    Kids: \$8 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, September 30, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$11 ABW Boxed Lunch (sandwich, chips, cookie)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$11 ABMen Boxed Lunch (sandwich, chips, cookie)*

Choose Sandwich option:    \_\_\_Turkey    \_\_\_Tuna Salad    \_\_\_Club    \_\_\_Chicken Salad

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$13 Fried Chicken Dinner* (fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, and dessert)

**Total Meals** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL MONEY ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

(registration, childcare, and meal totals)

Please mail registration forms and fees to ABCCR Office 5889 SW 29th St Topeka, KS 66614

ABCCR Office Use

Ind Ck# _____	Ch Ck # _____	Date Recd. _____
Ind Amt \$ _____	Ch Amt \$ _____	Receipt # _____

CHILD CARE REGISTRATION-Please fill out one per child/youth

We are so glad you are including your whole family in this year’s Annual Gathering! Childcare will be provided during all scheduled events. **(Pick up times will be provided to you prior to the event).** Please fill out the information below and don’t hesitate to ask any questions you may have by contacting Morgan Bandy at (785)-272-7622.

Total # of Children (nursery-5 grade)\_\_\_\_\_                      Total # of Youth (6-12th)\_\_\_\_\_

Put an X next to the meals your child will be eating:  
Thursday Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Lunch\_\_\_\_\_ Friday Dinner \_\_\_\_\_  
**(not included in registration)**

Put an X next to your child’s age category:

Nursery Care (0-3 yrs)\_\_\_\_\_                      Pre-K (3 yrs and potty-trained up to Kindergarten)\_\_\_\_\_

Elementary (Kindergarten—5th grade)\_\_\_\_\_                      Youth (6th-12th grade)\_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

What ese should we know \_\_\_\_\_

Permission is granted to seek Emergency Medical Care until I/we can be reached:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**Mail to: ABCCR, 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka KS 66614**