



November 15, 2006

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

First Baptist Church of Fort Lupton Celebrates 85 Years of Ministry



In January 1921 Chapel Car "Grace" was parked at a siding in Fort Lupton, CO. A.C. Blinzinger was the minister who came to preach the message of salvation, and when he did, many responded. Thirty-one charter members organized the First Baptist Church of Fort Lupton, CO, on March 13, 1921.

With the help of the local bank, the members purchased property at 100 McKinley Avenue. Under the leadership of their pastor, James C. Matthews, a basement was dug and poured. The first worship service was held in that basement structure in December of the same year.

Due to the wonderful problem of increased attendance both at worship and Sunday School in the 1970s, the congregation conducted a feasibility study to determine whether they should enlarge their facility or build a new church building. As a result, a three-acre plot was purchased at the east edge of town for \$10,000 and an architect was hired. Worship was held in the current building, located at 1115 First Street, beginning in May 1977.

Today, Bob Garcia is the pastor in Fort Lupton. Teamed with lay leaders, he and Gretchen labor together to give glory to God. The men of the church meet monthly for

breakfast with emphasis on church business, helping the youth, and prayer. Women's activities not only include the annual Women's Retreat in the fall, but also the monthly Women's Brunch. They also meet to fill the White Cross Request for ABC Mission. Pastor Bob and Gretchen are also involved with the children's ministry of the church. In addition, Gretchen works with the children's choir.

Bob Garcia has served in the Region as well as the local church. Mostly recently, he chaired the Department of Evangelism, and was a member of the ABCRM Board and Executive Committee. He is also the author of *Can Anything Good Come Out of Saguache?* Read interview with author in November 2005 issue of *RMAB* at <http://www.abcrm.org>. Go to the Communication page and click on the 2005 archives.

*Information compiled from
FBC/Fort Lupton's
85th Anniversary Book*

If your church is preparing to celebrate a special anniversary, please notify your Ministry and Mission Coach. They want to celebrate with you!

Palabra de Féis Determined to Grow

It has now been eight months since Oscar and Vianey Lopez arrived from Miami, FL, to begin a new Hispanic church, *Palabra de Fé* (Word of Faith) with Aurora Community Baptist Church. Since that time Oscar has been preaching on the radio, Radio Victoria, 1220 AM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays at 10 AM. This has been a key to their growth.

On November 5 they had 130 people at their 2:00 p.m. service. They also have around 40 who come to their Wednesday evening services. Oscar recently held a leadership conference, and invited a friend who is a pastor in Miami to lead a group of 20 people on a recent Saturday. Oscar's goal is to train lay people to take up the tasks of ministry so that he can go out and start several satellite churches along the Front Range. He has a vision about reaching out to the thousands of Spanish-speaking people in Colorado. Also, Vianey led a women's conference, and she had 24 women who joined her for the day.

In addition, they have seven cell groups that meet: four men's, two women's, and one youth cell group. They envision growing this church and others by starting cell groups that will multiply and reach out to people in their community.

On the evening of October 18, *Palabra de Fe* sponsored a concert featuring three musical groups at Calvary Baptist Church. Over 600 men, women, and children attended. That night, Calvary rocked with

some great music and an enthusiastic audience! This kind of event is another way that they reach out to people with the gospel. Oscar preached and shared the Good News of Jesus Christ during the concert.

The church, *Palabra de Fé*, and the members of Aurora Community Baptist Church will be working together to decorate their church for Christmas and to have a combined Christmas Eve service. It is a joy to see how these two congregations share not only a building, but also their love and determination to see this new church grow in numbers and in their witness to their community.

This new church plant is funded by National Ministries of ABC-USA, ABCRM, Calvary Baptist Church, and Aurora Community Baptist Church. If your church would like to share in this ministry and outreach to the Hispanic communities in our Region, please contact the Region office. This would be a great way to share your mission money with a fast growing ministry! Also, if you have time and space in your church building for a satellite church, call the Region office! *Palabra de Fé* is determined to grow!

John Pipe
Chair, Support Committee
(pictured below on the right)



'Tis the Season. . .

Fort Morgan Baptists Participate in Operation Christmas Child



Esther Christopher first heard about Operation Christmas Child on radio station KPOF in 1982. She has been a part of packing boxes for children in need ever since. Many churches in the Fort Morgan area pack boxes which, when added to others, add up to millions of boxes filled with school supplies, personal hygiene articles, clothing, and toys.

Since 2002, Patsy Howard has been the Operation Christmas Child coordinator for FBC/Fort Morgan, which packed over 100 boxes last year. This year's filling crew at First Baptist Church included: Virginia Patterson, Daniece Drew, Evelyn Sagel, Clarine Tormohlen, Nancy Wheeler, Patsy and David Howard, and Esther Christopher.

Many persons in the church family donated articles for the project. Local dentists also donated toothbrushes and toothpaste. Individuals and businesses gave ink pens, hand-sewn bags, head scarves, and marble bags. An anonymous donor gave 200 T-shirts with the words "God Loves You" on them. Others donated money or miscellaneous items. The group sent off over 160 boxes this year.

*Submitted by Tom Wheeler
Pastor
FBC/Fort Morgan, CO*

Pictured on this page:

Upper left: Jean Tucker assisting Cody Schiedt in wrapping a box.

Upper right: Daniece Drew and Virginia Patterson filling boxes

Right: Patsy Howard, program coordinator and Esther Christopher.



Operation Christmas Child is part of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization led by Franklin Graham. To learn more about OCC and Samaritan's Purse, visit <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>.

Coming in August 2007: ABW Ministries Mission Encounter to Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Republic of Georgia

Travel with American Baptist women to experience mission in these three countries. The tour will include hands-on mission activities, meeting Baptist women and national leaders, as well as American Baptist missionaries. The tour is co-sponsored by AB Women's Ministries and ABC International Ministries. Departure city is Philadelphia, and the anticipated cost is \$3000. A few spaces remain! Application deadline is January 8, 2007.

Questions? Call Phyllis Brown at 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2285.

Application forms are available on the AB Women's Ministries website: www.abwministries.org/upcoming_events.

Healthy Congregations Leadership Training

For the first time, Facilitator Training is being offered for those interested in building healthy congregations. This experience will enable the trainee to be able to offer this “systems based” approach to congregational dynamics to one’s own congregation or any group.

This training will give participants an overview of systems processing in a congregational setting, and familiarity with the six study guides. Those six sections include “A Systems Assessment of Healthy Congregations,” “Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change,” “Leadership in Healthy Congregations,” “Building Relationships in Healthy Congregations,” “Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People (stewardship),” and “The Spiritual Care of Healthy Congregations.” All include a theological foundation and application.

Dates

February 18-20, 2007. This is a two-and-one-half day workshop.

Leaders

- Gordon J. Kieft, M.Div., M.A., Pastoral Counselor, American Baptist clergy, Licensed Professional Counselor and Congregational Consultant.
- Bill Behrens, Healthy Congregations Consultant to the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Both have trained with Peter Steinke, developer of this program.

More Information

For more information and to register, contact: Gordon Kieft at (303) 741-5588, ext. 37 or Bill Behrens at (303) 424-6111.

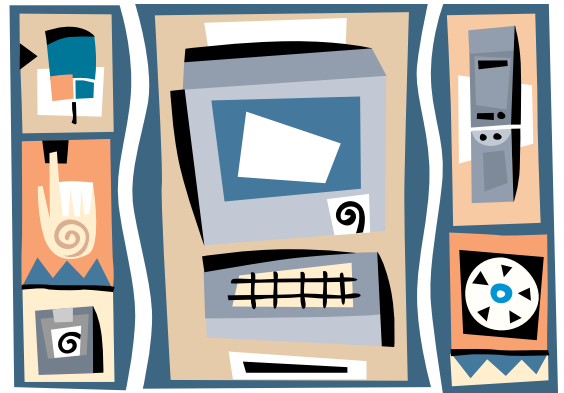
Looking for Assistance with Your Church’s Website?

Michael Byrne wants to help! Michael and his wife Brenda recently moved to Fort Collins from Vermont. He works as the Supervisor of Online Services at Group Publishing in Loveland, CO. Michael and his family are becoming increasingly involved at the American Baptist Church in Fort Collins, CO. Brenda’s father, Rick Cederholm, is the pastor of FBC/Torrington, WY.

Recently, Michael has been working on two websites in his free time: www.abcfortcollins.org and www.firstbaptisttorrington.org. He says, “I have yet to experience such a joyful assertion of my God given skills. I believe in the ability of the web to work as an effective outreach tool, and not just an online bulletin board for the existing church body.”

Before moving to Colorado, Michael worked as the Online Director at the Burlington Free Press, and volunteered his time at North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington, VT to develop a number of creative solutions, including a 2006 Directory design.

Michael has spent the last 11 years in the creative marketing/advertising industry working for the likes of GM, multiple webfirms, and Gannett (newspaper company). But he says, “I have only spent the last three years of my life with God, and what an amazing three years it has been. Ultimately, I’d like to build web



solutions and creative art work for more ABCRM churches.”

During his first eight weeks at Group, he redesigned their site structure. As a result, the company has seen strong growth in page views unique visits. While he does not wish to compare Group to a local church, nor does he promise the same immediate results, Michael Byrne is available to work with local churches to increase their online exposure. He is willing to act as consultant and developer to ABCRM churches to increase their appeal to the many who currently use the internet to find everything in their local community including places of worship. His intention is to work to build a custom solution for each church, to train volunteers, continually support new technologies, photo galleries, streaming video, and many other strategies.

A well-designed and presented website makes a big impact. If you would like to contact Michael Byrne, e-mail him at sstressfl@hotmail.com, or call him at (970) 282-9505 or (802) 310-8954.

Paul Brigham Installed as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Greeley



Paul and Barbara Brigham

Paul Brigham was installed as the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Greeley, CO, on Sunday, November 12. Brigham began his ministry in Greeley on September 27.

Delivering the installation message and charge to the pastor and congregation was Wayne Dvirnak, Ministry and Mission Coach for the Northern Front Range and Wyoming. Also assisting in the service were former pastor, Don Lambert and interim pastor, Richard Delleney. Moderator Leo Weaver presided over the installation service. Barbara Brigham played the pipe organ.



Wayne Dvirnak, Ministry and Mission Coach

In 2004, when Richard Delleney began as interim pastor in Greeley, the congregation was asking, "Do we really have a future?" During the six months of Delleney's leadership and the subsequent interim ministry of Larry VanSpriell, the people at First Baptist Church concluded that God was not finished with them as a congregation. During the past two years, they have experienced renewal and are poised to move forward in a dynamic way.

Xtreme Team Applications are being accepted now!

We would like to Xtend a challenge to you! Can you identify two young adults (ages 19 - 29) who are outstanding, bright leaders? Young adults who are Xtreme for Jesus? Men and women who would rise to the challenge of the Xtreme Team next summer? Send them to www.xtremeteamonline.org to find out more about Xtreme Team and to apply. This year, teams will either be with Ray and Adalia Schellinger-Gutierrez in Mexico or Pieter and Nora Kalkman in the Czech Republic. Either of these Xperiences will take team members to the Xtreme!

Outreach Opportunity for Worship Teams in Denmark

Worships teams are being sought to help lead a week-long evangelistic outreach being organized by a church for 2007. This church is part of the Baptist Union of Denmark, an organization that consists of 50 churches throughout the country. For more details, contact Angela Sudermann, Associate Coordinator of Volunteers in Global Mission, Angela.Sudermann@abc-usa.org.

Centennial Celebration Tours

American Baptist Churches celebrate its 100th year of mission and ministry in 2007. Special tours are being planned to India, Japan, Africa, and China. Go, serve, and be amazed by what God is doing around the world! A full list of opportunities is available on IM's website at <http://www.internationalministries.org>. Go to the section designed especially for Volunteers.

Colorado ABW Ministries Winter Retreat

January 19-21, 2007
at Sylvan Dale Ranch,
Loveland, CO
(See the ranch at
<http://www.sylvandale.com>)

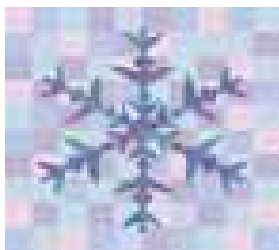
Finding the Gold in Your Life

Guest Speaker: Jan DeWitt

Jan is a well-known retreat leader who has a conversational style connecting biblical teachings with everyday life. She has been active for years in American Baptist Women's Ministries and looks forward to speaking to women who are open to growing spiritually and personally.

Jan DeWitt began her professional ministry as director of Christian Education at FBC in Sioux Falls, SD. In 1976 Jan started the Center for Women at Sioux Falls University where she served as its first director. The Center focused on helping women in the community discover their gifts and do life planning. These themes are very much a part of Jan's life and are her passion as a speaker and retreat leader.

Jan will be using Job 23:10 and Luke 15:8-10 for her Bible texts.



Registration forms are on the ABCRM web site at <http://www.abcrm.org/ministries/women.htm> or you may contact Jackie Arnold at (970)231-3697 or jaloveland@comcast.net.

Are You and Your Church Ready to Go to the Next Level?

Getting to Know CECL

Do you want to renew your joy in ministry and bring new life to your church? Green Lake's Center for Excellence in Congregational Leadership (CECL) is designed to help you do just that. CECL pastors and their leadership teams are leading their churches to an outward focus and health, while finding great personal and shared joy. They are experiencing growth through:

- Close relationships in pastor peer groups, with personal coaching and accountability.
- Leading-edge speakers who challenge, inspire, and equip them during five sessions at Green Lake Conference Center.
- Joint visioning and planning with their key lay leaders at Green Lake.
- Teaching and personal feedback in their preaching ministry.
- Renewal, fun, and learning with their spouse and children during one of the five sessions at Green Lake.
- Energized physical and emotional health.
- Awe of the Creation in a beautiful conference setting.

Are you and your church ready to go to the next level?

Enrollment is Open

Enrollment has just opened for Class IV, beginning April 2007 and running through spring 2009. Speakers already confirmed include George Bullard and Dan Southerland. More information on the speakers and the program is available at <http://www.cecl.glcc.org/>.

The total cost for CECL is over \$9,000 per church. However, through a grant from the Lilly Endowment, it is available for only \$600, plus \$100/lay leader for each of the two sessions they attend. Thus, a church bringing three lay leaders to Sessions Three and Four would pay \$600 for those lay leaders plus the base cost of \$600, bringing the total program cost over three years to \$1200. This includes room and board for the five sessions at Green Lake (including for the pastor's family in Session Two). It also includes books and program fees to cover the speakers' and peer team coaches' honorariums, plus free golf at Lawsonia!

Space is limited, so please contact Green Lake soon if you wish to secure a space. To register, go to the CECL website: <http://www.cecl.glcc.org/> or call (920) 294-7364. If you want more information about CECL, please contact Wayne Dvirnak at (307) 638-8247 or wdvirnak@abcrm.org. A promotional DVD and brief course information is available upon request.

Rick Bishop, pastor of Community Baptist Church of Glenrock, WY is currently enrolled in CECL.

Job Opportunity with National Ministries

National Ministries is currently seeking a qualified candidate to serve as **Staff Writer**. This position is open immediately.

Key Duties and Responsibilities: The Staff Writer is responsible for developing copy for online and print resources that include mission stories, press releases, and articles that advance the core message, ministry purpose and strategic ministry goals of National Ministries. As a member of the Communications Team, the Staff Writer contributes to the creation of media tools – such as newsletters, brochures, video productions, PowerPoint presentations, and Web site content – that communicate and promote the strategic mission and purpose of National Ministries. The Staff Writer is responsible for the oversight of the work done by freelance writers. The Staff Writer, working in a highly creative team environment, supports the communication needs of a multicultural and diverse organization. This position requires occasional travel to key conferences and meetings. Other duties may be assigned as needed.

Competencies and Skills Required: The successful candidate will be a self-motivated problem-solver, who is willing to work hard. The successful candidate will be proactive and creative with excellent writing and editorial skills, as well as exemplary communication skills. Proven competency in conceiving and preparing online content is required. Excellent organization skills and the ability to prioritize multiple projects with competing deadlines are crucial. The ability to build and cultivate relationships within a diverse context is essential. Knowledge of National Ministries and ABCUSA history and polity preferred.

Education and Experience: The successful candidate will hold a Bachelor's degree in English, communications, journalism, public relations or the equivalent experience. A minimum of 2 years experience in a professional context focused on communications, journalism or public relations is required.

National Ministries values diversity, integrity, stewardship, teamwork and collaboration. National Ministries offers employees the opportunity to grow in their personal and professional skills. Our compensation package is competitive, including participation in the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board retirement plan, healthcare benefits (medical, dental, vision, wellness program) and paid time off (vacation, sick leave, holidays).

If you are interested or know of someone who may qualify for this position, please submit a resumé and at least three professional references by **December 31, 2006** to: Laura Miraz, Staff Services, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851. You may fax materials to 610-768-2409 or send by email to LMiraz@abc-usa.org

National Ministries is an Equal Opportunity Employer
<http://www.nationalministries.org>

Announcement of Retirement



Richard Salcedo has chosen to retire from ABCRM and seek other employment opportunities

outside of church or Region ministry effective November 2, 2006.

He has served the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains since May 2001, serving in several positions, most recently as Finance Manager. Prior to his service in the Region, he served as Church Administrator at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver.

We wish him well, and may God bless him as he begins his new journey.

New Bulletin Insert Available



A new bulletin insert-sized flyer describing the ministry and mission of ABCRM is now available. You may download it from the ABCRM website. We encourage churches to use it as an educational piece in their bulletins or church newsletters.

View the flyer at
<http://www.abcrm.org>.
 Go to the communication page.
 Flyer is the last item on the menu.

Discover
Your Passion!

Realize
Your Mission!

Give Thanks Because. . .

If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. One-third of the world does not have access to even one.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even here in North America.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.



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