



July 1, 2019

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Servant Offering

Summit By the Sea Held...

The 2019 Mission Summit of ABC-USA was held in Virginia Beach, VA with activities commencing on Thursday, June 20 and finishing on Sunday, June 23. The Rocky Mountain Region was well represented with over 20 people attending and at least 8 churches represented.

Beyond being in attendance, we were also very active in the programming of the Summit as well. Rev. Anne Scalfaro, pastor of Calvary Baptist Denver and Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing, pastor of New Hope Baptist, were asked to share about the relationship the two churches have developed over the past several years at the American Baptist Home Missions Society luncheon. While the relationship began as a result of the Region's "Crosswalking" emphasis, the two congregations continued to work on developing deeper relationships including sharing worship and finding ways to do community ministry together.

On Saturday the 22nd, ABCRM was also represented by Melody Prentice Lynch (pictured), member and music director of Faith Community Baptist Church, who shared her musical talents. In addition to performing two sessions of worship in the Exhibit Hall, Melody shared the special music in the Saturday Evening Worship Service in advance of the Keynote Speaker. Melody battled airport travel delays and little sleep but sang powerfully and blessed the congregation.



I was privileged along with my Executive Minister colleagues and ABC-USA staff to serve communion on Sunday Morning. And during the Sunday afternoon business session, Rev. Bryan Roberts, pastor of Chapel Car Church in Rawlins, WY was elected to replace Rev. Kay Farley as our representative on the ABC-USA General Board (Bryan's term will begin January of 2020)

While the "official" purpose of the event is to conduct business for ABC-USA and other organizations of the ABC family, the real value of these times are learning more about the many ministries in which our family is involved. From Missionary reports to learning about how MMBB (Minister's and Missionary Benefit Board) is helping young ministers gain and maintain financial security, our ABC

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family is making a difference in our communities, our country and our world. ABC is a broad and diverse family that consists of 1.3 million members and over 5,000 churches in the US and Puerto Rico. For that reason, the Biennial Mission Summit is a great place to meet not only new friends and acquaintances from the family, but to also make many new friends and acquaintances that truly make our work a shared experience world-wide.

The next Mission Summit will be held June 25-27, 2021 in Puerto Rico. That summit will celebrate the work ABC-USA and The American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico have done, are doing and will do to help the island recover from Hurricane Maria.

For a more complete account of the Summit, visit the website at: <https://www.abc-usa.org/2019/06/american-baptist-churches-summit-by-the-sea-meets-in-virginia-beach-va/>

*In Christ,
Steve Van O*



*Joe and Shelby Greemore were part of the Biennial Mission Team:
Joe formerly served on Pastoral Staff at Calvary Baptist Denver*



*Rev. Kimberly Salico-Diel, pastor of American Baptist Church of
Fort Collins and one of her numerous friends!*



Melody Prentice Lynch

Camp Dates 2019

Front Range Camp @ Quaker Ridge July 21-27

Register online at app.campdoc.com/register/abcquaker. For more information (costs, deadlines, etc.), visit www.frontrangecamping.org.

Camp Wyoba

Post High Retreat — July 5-7

Senior High Camp — July 7-13

Junior High Camp — July 14-20

Junior Camp — July 21-27

Primary Camp — July 28-31

Women's Retreat — August 9-11

For registration forms, more information (costs, deadlines, etc.), visit www.wyoba.org.

Please pray for Camp Wyoba:

That campers and volunteer staff will be safe physically, emotionally, and spiritually as youth camps start this month.

That our paid staff receives grace upon grace from the Lord as they work extra hard this month.

That God is glorified and His Kingdom is built this month at Camp Wyoba.



Darren Stroh

Front Range Camp Pastor

Meet Darren Stroh. He will be one of the high school camp pastors for Front Range Camp this Summer. Darren has a passion for bringing up the next generation of leaders. Here is a little of his story of how he came into ministry and why he is choosing to be a camp pastor this Summer.

I was privileged to be born into a family who loved the Lord with all their hearts. My parents were a part of a church start in Loveland, Colorado where my younger but far bigger brother and I grew up. As soon as we were old enough for camp, we were there...every year. I'd like to say that every year in camp was an amazing experience. Most of them were. One wasn't. One camp in particular left permanent scars on my soul. Through it all—the good and the bad—I believe God was cultivating in me a heart for ministry and a heart for people who suffer because of the actions of others.

My parents tell me that I asked Jesus into my heart when I was four years old. I apparently asked 18 times to make sure He was in there good and solid. It wasn't until my 18th birthday, though, when I stopped playing church and took both grace and my relationship with Christ very seriously. That became a huge turning point in my life.

After graduating from Colorado Christian University, I became a residential counselor, then therapist, then the director for adoptions and family crisis intervention for a residential treatment center for abused children in Idaho Springs, Colorado.

God called me to full-time ministry in 2001 through my best friend who was ministering in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. I was his associate pastor in charge of Youth and Finances. (They were obviously desperate in the finance department). In order to make that calling work, I also had to preach in the small neighboring town of Bridgeport. A year later, God had blessed the small church to the point



in which they could support a full-time pastor and my wife and I accepted their call. While there, I was the camp pastor for two different camps—one year for the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska and several years for a local independent camp called Camp ROCK. I was licensed and ordained in that church. We were in Bridgeport for eight years before God called us to Holdrege, Nebraska across the state. We were there for almost eight years

before God called us to Lamar, Colorado. We've been here now for three years this July.

While in Nebraska, I served on the Board of Directors as the Vice President, the President and the Past President, spanning six of those years. I also served many years in leadership of what we would call "clusters" here. Serving both the local church and the region are very important to me. I take those roles seriously. I have also served in the leadership of local ecumenical capacities in each placement and have found ways to connect to the communities at large in intentional ways. I currently serve in the leadership of the local Lions Club as well as volunteer at the local pregnancy center, working with future dads as they prepare for parenthood.

My beautiful bride and clearly the better half of the two, Monique, and I have been married now for almost 30 years. God has blessed us with six children, ranging from ages 7 to 24. Last year, we saw our first-born join in marriage to his lovely bride. This summer, we watch as the next one does the same. We love spending time with our kids and making memories with them. Dad jokes are my favorite hobby. Not so much for my wife and kids, although they seem to be catching on. I hate exercise, but find myself having to do it anyway, so I guess that's kind of a hobby. I do enjoy restoring furniture, gardening, reading, and exploring new places. I also like quiet times in what the early Church Fathers called "thin places" feeling the warmth of the sun, the whispers of the breeze

or listening to the babble of a brook. Oh, and I love to eat, but my Doctor isn't so pleased with that hobby.

My decision to be a part of the ministry team for camp this year started with Mike Oldham asking me two years ago and then again and then again. Normally, I don't have a problem saying, "No," but I have noticed more and more that the decisions that young people make when they are young, the knowledge that they gain when they are young WILL make a huge difference in the rest of their lives. Our young people can make a split-second reactionary decision that can impact their lives negatively for the rest of it. If they don't have the tools and the relationships to help them respond rather than react, they are at a huge disadvantage. I love how camp takes them out of their comfort zone but keeps them safe. I love how camp can take them from their places of growing up and give them an opportunity and encouragement to embrace those growing up family values as their own. It's independence that is safe and encouraging with the values they have at home and at church being held high. It also gives an opportunity to see other Christians their own age who have the same valleys and mountaintops of faith. It gives enough distance to be real, yet enough structure to be a fertile ground for growth.

Darren will be one of the high school camp pastors for Front Range Camp. Darren stated "My favorite part of ministry is the transformation I see in people as a result of God's love, Christ's sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit's indwelling. I love to see God's fingerprints in people's lives. I love to see that light bulb go off in people's faces when they get it. I love that goose bumpy feeling when the Holy Spirit is on the move and others feel it, realize it, and embrace it. I always love to see it and experience it, but there is a special spot in my heart when God moves among young people.

Front Range Camp is very excited to have Darren Stroh as part of the team this July.

*Submitted by
Lauren Parliament
Region Camp Intern*

The Global Leadership Summit Thursday-Friday, August 8-9, 2019

Fresh, actionable and inspiring leadership content from a world-class faculty at a convenient location near you.

**August 8-9, 2019
Register Now!**

Region Sites:

- Albuquerque, NM (Fellowship Miss. Baptist)
- Canon City, CO (Vineyard Christian Fellowship)
- Casper, WY (Highland Park Community)
- Colorado Springs, CO (1st Presbyterian)
- Denver (Aurora), CO (Elevation Christian)
- Denver (Thornton), CO (Crossroads Church)
- Estes Park, CO (YMCA of the Rockies)
- Fort Morgan, CO (Elevating Life Church [aka FBC])
- Grand Junction, CO (Vineyard Church)
- Pueblo, CO (Fellowship of the Rockies)

Join 405,000+ of your peers for two days of **fresh, actionable and inspiring leadership training** from a world-class faculty at a location near you.

For a list of speakers, additional information and additional sites, visit <https://globalleadership.org>. If the site that you would like to attend is not listed above or on our registration form, just let us know, we can get your ticket(s) for whichever site you would like.

ABCRM REGISTRATION COSTS

Registration Deadline: July 20

\$140.00 per person

If you are a member of an ABCRM church and purchase your ticket through ABCRM your price is greatly reduced.

Register online at www.abcrm.org under events or click [here](#).

Registration forms are available on our website at www.abcrm.org (under resources/forms), by calling our office at 303.988.3900 or click [here](#).

ABCRM 2019 Gathering



**Central Baptist Church Denver, CO
Friday & Saturday, September 27-28**

Save the Date for the ABCRM Family Reunion!

Come together for Special Guest Speakers, Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary of ABCUSA and Sharon Koh, International Ministries Executive Director.

**Join in *The Gathering University* on Thursday, September 26, 2019
for a day of inspiring
workshops.**



**A wonderful evening and
dinner is planned to thank all
our clergy and their guests,
Jazz included.**



**Steve Cuss, author of *Managing Leadership Anxiety: Yours and Theirs*
will lead a workshop on Thursday and another session, Saturday morning.**

Registration Information

Early Registration Deadline: August 23, 2019

Thursday Pre-Gathering Workshop

Gathering University

(includes lunch) \$50

Clergy Appreciation Dinner

(TICKETS REQUIRED AND MUST BE OBTAINED IN ADVANCE)

ABCRM Clergy & Spouse \$0

free with paid Gathering registration

Non-clergy individuals \$30

and persons not registered for the Gathering

Gathering Registration:

(cost to attend Friday and Saturday)

Church Delegate (voting member) \$80*

Church Member (non-voting member) \$80*

August 24 thru September 13

Thursday Pre-Gathering Workshop

Gathering University

(includes lunch) \$70

Clergy Appreciation Dinner

(TICKETS REQUIRED AND MUST BE OBTAINED IN ADVANCE)

Same as early registration

Gathering Registration:

(cost to attend Friday and Saturday)

Church Delegate (voting member) \$100*

Church Member (non-voting member) \$100*

Cancellations must be received by September 20, 2019, and are subject to a \$10 non-refundable processing fee.

Cancellations after September 20 are non-refundable.

* Cost includes snacks and refreshments, Gathering materials, and three meals — Friday lunch & dinner & Saturday Lunch

Registration forms are available from our office.
Call 303.988.3900 for more information.

Who Should Attend

Pastors, Lay-Leaders, Youth Leaders, and anyone wanting to learn more about the Region are welcome to attend this Annual Gathering of churches and people from around the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains.

Church Scholarship Funds

*Your church may qualify for church scholarship funds.
Information will be available late July.*

Multi Region Corporation Palmer Grant Cycle Goes Live

Applications for ministry grants from the Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust of the American Baptist Foundation are available as of Saturday, June 1st at

<https://abfgrants.communityforce.com/>

The application deadline is July 15, 2019

This grant cycle is sponsored by the Multi-Region Corporation, the cooperative organization by which your ABC Region joins with other Regions to strengthen the ministry of our churches.

The theme for this year's grant is: *GOSPEL IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY: Forming Faithful Disciples for a Future Beyond the Traditional Church—Fostering innovative, creative & experiential forms of ministry*

The place of the church in American society and the lives of Americans has shifted dramatically in the last 30 years. Churches must identify and respond to changes in American culture, and then equip disciples, both clergy and lay, to foster innovative, creative or experiential forms of ministry. This grant encourages churches to respond to these changes.

What are some examples of projects the grant might fund?

1. Evening gatherings in a restaurant or coffee shop for Bible study and discipleship.
2. Region-level theological training and pastoral internship program for pastors and lay people sorting out a call to ministry who are not candidates for traditional seminary training.
3. Orientation program and support groups for millennial and generation Z pastors and church leaders.
4. Ministry to welcome people newly arrived to the United States and get them settled, such as a yearlong schedule of interfaith meals or language training for church members or new arrivals.

These are simply some examples to get you thinking.

Any ABCUSA church, Region, Association, or organization may apply for this grant.

A single organization can receive a grant of \$5000 to \$25,000, and two or more partnering ABC-related organizations can receive a grant of up to \$50,000. One of the partnering organizations will apply for the grant and the other partnering organization will be asked to certify their participation in the project.

For more information and to apply for a grant go to <https://abfgrants.communityforce.com/>

Reconcile at Rifle

Reconcile means to restore friendly relations. That is the goal of Pastor Thom Jones and the new church plant in Rifle, Colorado. He along with a couple other families have been meeting together since January 2018. Their vision is to be

used to reconcile people to the Lord Jesus Christ. When asked why? Pastor Thom says that God gave him instruction in the Word of God from 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Thom said, "We are called to live reconciled lives as ambassadors of Christ Jesus." This is the third new church plant that Pastor Jones has plunged into. He is making connections in the community by working and volunteering in a variety of paths. He is the Executive Director of Reach Out Colorado, Inc., (ROC) a local non-profit with a vision of "Working together to help each other." Reach Out Colorado was established in 2012 as a community resource and referral center to help people living in Rifle and Parachute connect with appropriate services. In addition, Pastor Jones is working with the local Hospice area team as a part-time chaplain. This is new territory for this veteran of church planting.

Yet, he believes these positions are complimentary. Thom shares the story of a retired couple that he helped through Reach Out Colorado, Inc., to pay a bill. That led them



to volunteer with the weekend backpack program sending food home with kids. Then, they started attending Reconcile. Other members of Reconcile cross over and volunteer with ROC too.

Reconcile is unique in that Pastor Thom and the founding elders rotate the weekly preaching. He usually leads the worship singing and enjoys teaching both new and old songs of faith to the church. By the way, Thom also leads worship at a church "up-county" in Basalt, Colorado on Sunday mornings. Along with planting churches he loves leading the church in worship to the Lord.

Rifle, Colorado is a growing community. The U.S. Census indicates that Rifle grew from a population of under 6,500 in 2000 to almost 9,400 in 2010. There are plenty of unchurched in the area for this plant to draw from. They meet on Sunday nights with limited small group activities at present. The other elders are available to preach in other churches on Sunday mornings. The church recently (April) moved to the old high school building on Railroad Avenue, or Colorado highway 13 that runs through downtown Rifle. This building also houses the ROC program. They meet in the gymnasium and set out rugs, soft lighting and other dimensions of worship to bring a warm cozy nature to the service.

Pastor Thom hopes that people who visit Reconcile will come away with the sense that "We really care for our community." He believes the scriptures and the simple gospel message is what they hope comes across. They share a kid talk weekly and emphasis the larger kingdom beyond the local church.

Pastor Thom has been a fixture on the Western Slope and with American Baptist Churches since

coming to Apple Tree Church in New Castle, Colorado, to serve as pastor in the 1990's. Under his leadership the Apple Tree Church and First Baptist Church of Glenwood Springs launched New Hope Community Church in 2001. He remained the pastor of New Hope until 2010 when he resigned and moved to Suzhou, China to pastor Suzhou International Fellowship until 2014.

He returned to the area after that stint and began exploring the idea of planting a church. He discussed the possibility of Reconcile with Steve Van Ostran, Executive Minister of ABCRM and the churches on the western slope. Pastor Thom has also served on the church planting committee with ABCRM in the past.

*James Conley, Pastor
FBC, Delta*

Introduction to Video Workshop

Tuesday, August 20, 2019, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Learn the basics of how to shoot a good video, no matter what kind of camera you are using. Spend time learning about



lens, lighting, white balance, depth of field, and more. Work with a team to create your own video, and learn as you do it together. Utilize standard video editing tools on your PC or Mac to put together your video. No prior experience necessary.

The Episcopal Church in Colorado - Office of the Bishop

1300 N Washington Street Denver, CO 80203

We will eat lunch together nearby; paying separately.

Parking is available in the shared Saint John's Cathedral lot as well as via street parking and the Saint John's Cathedral Lot at Argonaut Liquor & Wine (Please follow lot directional signs for designated spaces).

Presenter: Jeff Riley, director of photography, Jeff Riley Cinematography, Denver

Register online at caffeinatedchurch.org

Big Dreams, Small Budget?

ABCRM might be able to help. Revised Pueblo Legacy Grant Applications are now available on the website. Click on Resources then Grants, then Pueblo Legacy Matching Grant application (or click [here](#)). You are there!



FBC, Pueblo

The Pueblo Legacy Grant Review Committee has awarded the remainder of the funds designated for camping to WYOBA and Grand Mesa for various building and support projects at the camps.

The committee then revised the existing application into two different applications with one being for Pastoral Resource grants and the second one for Community Service Project grants.

We ask questions on the applications to determine that the funds are being used in the spirit of the First Baptist Church of Pueblo (now closed but where the funds originated) and our Rocky Mountain Region.

Our Region is blessed with several different grant programs to help with matching funds for our member churches, pastors and individual ministries. If your application doesn't fit the Pueblo criteria then the committee may suggest other grants that might work. All this is done for the glory to God and the nurturing of these big dreams.

Deadline for this round of applications is July 31st, 2019.

Keep dreaming and trying out new things while being the hands and feet and voices of Jesus wherever you are. Please share what you are doing in the name of our Lord to help spark dreams in others. The Pueblo Legacy Grant Committee looks forward to reviewing your applications and hearing about your dreams realized to share the Good News.

Estelle Torpy, chair

COLORADO SISTERHOOD CRUSADE

FINEARTS CAMP

JULY 15 – 20 2019
10:00AM – 3:00PM
**>OPEN TO AGES
8 TO 14**

<CAMP ACTIVITIES>

- ~ PIANO LESSONS
- ~ BASS GUITAR
- ~ LEAD GUITAR
- ~ DRUM LESSONS
- ~ VOCAL INSTRUCTION
- ~ MIME DANCE
- ~ ARTS & CRAFTS
- ~ THEATRE
- ~ SET DESIGN

AT KING BAPTIST CHURCH
3370 IVY STREET
DENVER, CO 80207

**CAMP WILL CONCLUDE WITH
CAMP OF TALENT CONCERT
SATURDAY JULY 20, 2019 4:00 PM**

ONLY \$ 75.00 FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK INCLUDES LUNCH AND SNACK

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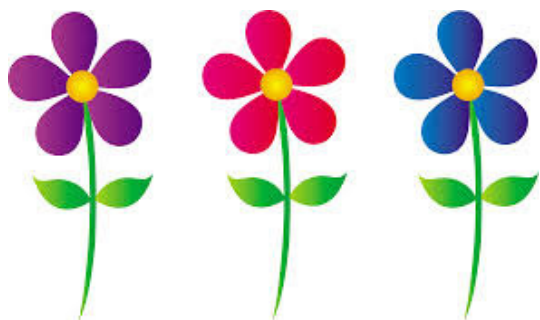
Cell: 917.209.9911
Email: augie.bau@mmbb.org

Devoted to Generosity Complimentary Stewardship Subscription Available

The American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) Office of the General Secretary is pleased to offer the 2019 Year-Round Stewardship Resource theme Devoted to Generosity, published by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center.

ABCUSA has purchased a quantity of licenses for American Baptist churches who would like to use this online subscription. Interested churches should send an email request to ABCResources@abc-usa.org to receive a subscription code for your church.

[Learn more.](#)



Calendar

July

- 4 Independence Day — Region office closed
- 5-7 Wyoba Post High Retreat
- 7-13 Wyoba Senior High Camp
- 12-13 MLC Committee
- 14-20 Wyoba Junior High Camp
- 21-27 Front Range Camp at Quaker Ridge
- 21-27 Wyoba Junior Camp
- 28-31 Wyoba Primary Camp

August

- 1-2 Region Board Meeting
- 2-3 Bear Trap Music Festival at Camp Wyoba
- 8-9 Global Leadership Summit
- 9-11 Wyoming Women's Retreat
at Camp Wyoba
- 9-12 Wyoba Family Camp
- 10-11 CommUNITY Blast 2019
Macedonia Baptist Church

2019 Annual Gathering
September 26-28, 2019
Central Baptist Church
Denver, CO

Optional Training: Thursday, September 26
Gathering University



***The Rocky Mountain
American Baptist***

is published by the
American Baptist Churches
of the Rocky Mountains
www.abcrm.org

Steve Van Ostran
Executive Minister
svanostran@abcrm.org

*This newsletter is published
on the 1st of each month.*

*The deadline for submissions
is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

*Reprint permission is granted
to ABCRM churches.*



American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite 170
Centennial, CO 80112
Phone (303) 988-3900
Fax (303) 988-0620