



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

### O'Dells Give Lead Gift for Central Baptist Theological Seminary Sustainability Campaign

When President Marshall visited with Jim and Jeanne O'Dell about the need to sustain Central's future, they were eager to help. She asked the O'Dells to consider endowing Central's Global Christianity initiatives, which include the collaboration with Myanmar Institute of Theology, a global immersion experience for students, and ongoing instruction of resettled persons from Myanmar.



"You can't help everybody, but if you can help a few do what their passion is – what they feel God is calling them to do, we would like to do that," said Jim about their decision to make a gift to the seminary. He continued, "[With the recent sale of Valley Bank and Trust in Brighton, CO], we got more than we expected. We have more than we need, our kids are doing fine, so we simply would like to share with Central to do some things they need to have done."

Mr. O'Dell said the first gift he gave to Central was when he stopped by to visit the old campus in Kansas City, KS and saw a computer lab with no computers. He bought the computers for the lab. He recounted that his connection with Central began when he was in high school and his father became friends with then President Paul Losh. His father thought so much of Losh that Jim has had a soft spot for the school ever since.

Although Jim's father was a farmer in western Kansas, and Jim farmed with him for about five years after completing his college degree, O'Dell built his career in banking. In the mid-sixties he and a partner purchased the First National Bank of Otis, CO. In 1971 he moved to Brighton to start Valley Bank and Trust, which the O'Dells owned for forty years.

More recently, the O'Dells have watched with interest as Central moved its campus to Shawnee, KS as well as made other strategic changes under the leadership of President Molly T. Marshall. They have been impressed with how the seminary has turned around and would like to help the seminary keep moving forward.

Jim observed, "There will still be a lot of changes that will take place in the next 10 years. If we can be just a little part of that, we would like to do it. We wish we could do more."

The O'Dells were recognized and honored in the recent Commencement service at Central Seminary. President Marshall said about them, "They care about Christian educa-

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tion, global mission, and the church. They love good music (Jeanne is a violinist), travel, and their family. Thankfully, they also love Central, along with Ottawa University, their alma mater. We celebrate their generosity and give thanks for their lead gift for the Sustainability campaign. They believe in the global initiatives of Central, and they have given to that focus of our mission."

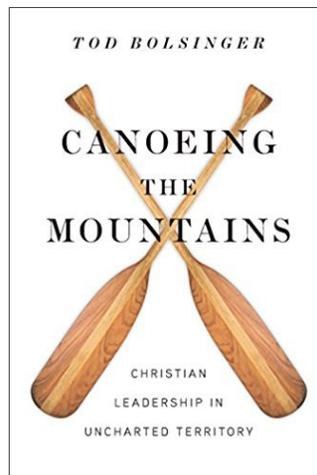
To view this article online and to give to Central, click [here](#).

## Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory

### Book Review

It was my first regional meeting as a brand-new ABC pastor. At the banquet, my wife and I sat next to a recently retired pastor, and I remember thinking, "I cannot let this opportunity pass." I asked this retired pastor if he had any advice for a brand-new guy just fresh in the pulpit. He smiled and said, "I have absolutely nothing for you, son. The world in which you minister is a whole different planet than the one God called me to. But don't take that wrong. I'm actually a bit jealous of you. The opportunities ahead of you are profound, if you know where and how to look." That was more than 15 years ago.

The landscape of ministry continues to change rapidly. For many of us in ministry, when the old systems and paradigms cease to produce positive results or when they appear to produce negative results, the temptation to give up or see the church as slowly dying becomes very real and debilitating. Dr. Tod Bolinger tackles this challenge head on in his book, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. Trained in traditional seminaries and in the trenches of a very successful church of the last century, Dr. Bolinger now holds the position of Vice President for vocation and formation at Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been charged with and embraces the call to help both experienced and inexperienced ministers navigate the uncharted territories that lie ahead in ministry. His book is both optimistic and practical in helping churches and church leaders find those profound opportunities ahead.



Dr. Bolinger uses the historical journey of Lewis and Clark and their team as they sought a waterway passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean as a similitude to the current state of the church. There is a point in which the Corp of Discovery believed with all their hearts that they had passed the hardest part of the journey, only to discover the Rocky Mountains over the next ridge. They had to give up their training and expertise, along with their canoes, and ride horses in uncharted, unknown territories. Dr. Bolinger's ability to tell the story and weave within it both solid Scriptural teaching and practical advice makes this an easy read, but it is far from comfortable in content. Dr. Bolinger challenges many things that many ministers—this one included—hold tightly to as our personal "sacred cows." Every minister knows that God values both our integrity and our humility. Dr. Bolinger takes both of those values to new and very practical depths that can sting significantly. Although the message of the Gospel hasn't changed and remains the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, Dr. Bolinger points out that we are faced with the challenge of how best to share the message in a world that operates post-Christendom. To these challenges, Dr. Bolinger states, "They are challenges that cannot be solved through compromise or win-win scenarios, or by adding another ministry or staff person to the team." These are challenges that require the ability to sell the canoe and buy a horse. These are challenges that require us to put aside traditional answers and a sense of mastery and to actively listen to people whom we may have written off previously as those who had nothing to contribute.

How does the resident church expert stand before his or her congregation and say, "I don't know what to do?" How does one lead where there is a biblical map for faith and morality, but no cultural or strategic map? Where does a church turn when what worked even five years ago to fill the pews now runs people away? These are questions that Dr. Bolinger hits head on with grace and clarity.

The book prepares its readers for the reality of various types of loss that happens for those in the midst of navigating uncharted ministry territories. It explores what Dr. Bolinger calls "off-the-map" skill sets necessary for leaders and churches to have and hone. I was personally impacted by Dr. Bolinger's paradigm shift regarding sabotaging behaviors and how to embrace them, rather than seeking to attempt to head them off.

That said, this is not a book full of formulas and models to follow. It is not a call to arms as much as a call to the mirror. It is a book designed to challenge paradigms and sacred cows. It is a book that encourages both the professional and the lay minister caught in the midst of this cul-

tural tempest that: (a) you are not crazy, (b) you are not on the losing side, and (c) there is much personal and corporate work to do if we are to be faithful to the Great Commission in modern times.

--Written by Darren Stroh  
Pastor, FBC Lamar

Bolinger, Dr. Tod, Canoeing *the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books).

Digital ISBN: 978-0-8308-9940-1

Print ISBN: 978-0-8308-4126-4

Audience: Pastors/Church Leaders

Pages: 257

PS. It is with profound gratitude that I submit this book review, due to the generosity of the region, I was able to attend the Fresh Expressions Conference in Washington DC this last March with some fellow ABCRM ministers and staff. It has and will have an impact on me and my ministry. I hope to share all that I can from what I've learned and from what that sparked within me. Thank you again!

## A Garden Gala

"A Garden Gala", a fundraiser, will be taking place on August 25, Saturday night, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on the Courtyard of Gardens of Divine Hope Church. The church is located at 1955 E. Arizona Ave. in the heart of the Washington Park Area of Denver.



Food will be served, entertainment will be provided, and music will surround the Courtyard of beautiful flowers. A flute, guitar, and electric guitar will be some of the musical instruments playing Gospel, your favorite hymns, and blues while you enjoy the late summer breeze only our Lord can provide. Prizes and gifts will also be included.

Tickets for the "GARDEN GALA" will be \$20.00 per adult person, and \$10.00 per child.

Reserve your tickets now, they will go fast. Contact Rev. Karen Schneider at [reverendkarenwschneider@yahoo.com](mailto:reverendkarenwschneider@yahoo.com) or call her at 720.308.8418 to reserve your tickets. Cash or credit cards are accepted.

Rev. Karen Schneider  
Gardens of Diving Hope

[What's in this RMAB?](#)

# THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Thursday-Friday, August 9-10, 2018

Save the Date  
August 9-10, 2018

### Region Sites:

- Casper, WY (Highland Park Community Church)
- Cheyenne, WY (Cheyenne Hills Church)
- Colorado Springs, CO (Woodman Chapel)
- Denver [East], CO (Elevation Christian)
- Denver [North], CO (Crossroads Church)
- Fort Morgan, CO (First Baptist Church)
- Grand Junction, CO (Vineyard Church)
- Loveland, CO (Crossroads Church)
- Albuquerque, NM (Fellowship Miss. Baptist Church)

Join 380,000+ 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 [www.willowcreek.com](http://www.willowcreek.com). 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'd prefer.

### ABCRM REGISTRATION COSTS

**\$120.00 per person through June 16, 2018**  
(registration and payment must be received by June 16)

**\$140.00 per person**  
(Late/if available) after June 16, 2018

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

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

# Front Range Camp

**July 8-14, 2018**

**Register online today!**

**[www.fronrangepcamping.org](http://www.fronrangepcamping.org)**

**Theme: Exponential Love**



## **Camp Fees:**

REGISTRATION FEES — Deadline is June 22, 2018			
Camp	Grade Completed	AB Rate*	Non AB Rate
Elementary	2-5	\$320	\$345
Middle School	6-8	\$335	\$360
Sr. High	9-12	\$335	\$360



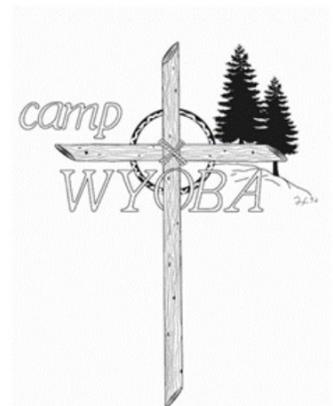
## **Youth Camps at Wyoba Summer 2018**

**Registration Deadline is June 15**

### **Costs:**

Senior High Camp	June 24-30	Cost \$290
Junior High Camp	July 8-14	Cost \$290
Junior Camp	July 15-21	Cost \$290
Primary Camp	July 22-25	Cost \$175
Mini Camp	July 1-3	Cost \$60

For more information, and registration materials, go to [wyoba.org](http://wyoba.org).



## Don't Forget... Family Camp at Wyoba

We are offering a Family Camp this year at Wyoba. The camp will be led by Pastor Aaron Sprock and his wife Kristle. The theme is 'Growing as God's Family' with Ephesians 5: 15-16 as the focus scripture.

What kind of family would enjoy a long weekend at Camp Wyoba? Could be a family with children. Throw in grandparents for even more fun. Or cousins.

Family could also be a 'family' of friends who want to have a godly weekend together.

The other particulars are:

- Family Camp will begin Friday, July 26 with dinner at 6 pm. Families are encouraged to get to camp anytime in the afternoon to get settled in and look around. The camp will end on Monday with breakfast. If your family would like to attend but needs to leave earlier, we can make that work.
- Mornings will include chapel devotional time.
- Afternoons will include a time of cooperatively making an item for the home, craft time, game time.
- Lots of Free Time to hang out as a family and enjoy activities at Camp Wyoba on your own.
- Fantastic meals that everyone can just enjoy with no shopping, cooking or cleaning.
- Hiking.
- Vespers and campfire in the evening.
- On Sunday, the camp will go into Casper to worship, and they might stay in town to do other fun things.
- Families who are picking up a kid from Primary Camp can stay overnight for free. No reason to run home.

Registration deadline is July 1st. The cost of the camp is \$295 for a family of 5. If the additional family members are children under 5 they are free. If they are an adult, the cost will be \$50. Registration forms can be found at [wyoba.org](http://wyoba.org).

*Jenita Calton*  
Wyoba Camp Director




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## Grand Mesa Camp Dates

**Family Camp, June 15-17**

**High School Camp, June 17-23**

**Middle School Camp, June 23-28**

**Elementary Camp, June 28-July 1**

For additional information, visit [www.grandmesabaptistcamp.org](http://www.grandmesabaptistcamp.org).



## Church Expands Arts Ministry with New Gallery

On Sunday, May 6th of this year, the Pine Street Church (PSC) of Boulder, CO expanded an already vibrant arts ministry with the transformation of its narthex into an art gallery space. The church celebrated the gallery opening with the inaugural exhibit “Fresh A.I.R. – Artists in Recovery”.

An arts ministry is part of PSC’s mission and outreach to one of the most socially progressive and secular communities in the United States. The church had already founded the Off-Broadway Pre-school of Fine Arts which opened its doors the beginning of 2015. In addition, the church hosts several concerts throughout the year and, recently, became the home for The Boulder Fringe Festival. The church also supports a weekly arts and spirituality group affectionately called the Front Range Art Asylum which now meets in the new gallery. Led by member Waverly Matthews, the group discusses such topics as “The Message of Mary Magdalene in Art”, “Michelangelo as Theologian”, and “Art as Therapy”. Matthews worked closely with the church’s Director of Music Ministries, David L’hommedieu, to manage the transformation of the narthex and reception area into a gallery space.



Before joining this church, Mr. Matthews had spent time as an art gallery manager, independent art broker and an art appraiser. But his true passion was not in the commercial side of art but in what he saw as the greater message of art, a spiritual message. “The arts have a unique power to bring awareness to ideas and issues important to our church. Music, drama, and the fine arts can transform because they tell stories in powerful ways that inspire us and connect us to ideas and issues. Our gallery ties our ministry and mission together in a way that visitors to our church immediately sense and understand without having to ask.”

L’hommedieu has actively campaigned for an expansion of the church’s arts ministry and was an early supporter of the idea of an art gallery within the church. “Religious buildings have been tied closely with art since the beginning of time,” he said. “From the cathedrals and temples across the globe to the imagery held within those spaces, art and sacred space have been one and the same. We are beyond inspired to be able to continue that tradition in our own sacred space in downtown Boulder.”

While Matthews and L’hommedieu oversaw the construction of the gallery, they knew they needed a compelling opening exhibit to gain broad support. They turned to their already existing ministries for ideas. The church supports many recovery groups throughout the week and so a marriage with Artists in Recovery was a natural expression of its missions and ministry. Matthews used his contacts with the recovery community to help organize the opening exhibit. “Choosing a partnership with Artists in Recovery for our first exhibit was an easy choice,” said Matthews. “Michael Hamers, a local artist who founded the group, had already organized three previous Fresh A.I.R. exhibits. He brought the excellent artists, the organization and marketing. This allowed the church to focus on the structural transformation of the space.”

PSC’s pastor, the Rev. Andrew Daugherty, championed the concept of an art gallery from its beginning inception. He worked closely with the church’s Council of Ministries to gain the necessary backing for the project. “Our members, friends, and guests will be able to enjoy our reception area in a fuller, richer way,” Daugherty said, “by connecting with each other and at the same time enjoying great artwork that reflects the missions and ministries we care about. These missions and ministries include hospitality, creativity, spiritual growth, recovery, homelessness, creation and the environment, peace and justice, the intersection of secular and sacred, and other spiritually relevant issues of our time. Our sacred space will now more fully reflect our spiritual values.”

The current exhibit runs through June 3rd. The church is already planning its next major exhibit to coincide with hosting the Boulder Fringe Festival in mid-August. Ultimately, the church would like to host three or four major art exhibits per year accompanied by concerts, lectures and symposiums related to a particular mission or ministry. PSC has

also joined two of its church neighbors as a member of the North Boulder Arts District which promotes art exhibits and initiatives in downtown and north Boulder. More information on Pine Street Church's exhibits and art-related ministries can be found on the Church's website – [www.pinestreetchurch.net](http://www.pinestreetchurch.net).

*Submitted by Waverly Matthews*



**Save the Date**



## **2018 Annual Gathering**

**September 28-29, 2018**

**PreGathering**

**September 27, 2018**

**Theme:**

## **Gospel in an Age of Disconnection**

**Keynote Speaker**

**Skye Jethani**



Skye Jethani is an author, speaker, consultant and ordained pastor. He also serves as the co-host of the popular Phil Vischer Podcast, a weekly show that blends astute cultural and theological insights with comical conversation. Between 2004 and 2015, Skye occupied numerous roles at Christianity Today, a leading communications ministry launched by Billy Graham. He served as both the managing and senior editor of Leadership Journal and as the Director of Mission Advancement for CT. Skye will be with us for a five-hour workshop on Thursday, September 27, and then present two key-note addresses on Friday the 28th.

## More Than We Can Imagine: Sufficient Water for Chileans

Imagine, for a minute, that your family lives in a rural Mapuche community in southern Chile. Your home is 15 miles from Panguipulli, the nearest big town. You own a five-acre farm where you raise crops and livestock. Your only source of water are the springs that are found in the foothills of the Andes Mountains surrounding your community. Water. You need it for everything. To drink, for cooking and household chores, to water crops, and for the animals. You don't have the money to dig deep wells and even if you did, underground water sources are scarce due to the largescale planting of eucalyptus and pine trees by the lumber industry. The effects of climate change are also noticeable.

It used to rain sporadically, but enough to maintain crops and livestock. Now, there is a drought each summer and four to five months you don't get enough rain even to keep the crops alive.

To assist, the local municipality brings in water on trucks for 20,000 families. Each family gets just 265 gallons a week. It is very expensive and 265 gallons a week is not enough for your family, plus the crops, animals, washing machines and bathroom.

What if there was a way to have a reliable source of water system year-round? It turns out, there is. One Great Hour of Sharing is helping make it a reality. It's called a rooftop rainwater harvesting system.

When rainwater isn't captured in tanks, ponds, or the soil itself, most of it flows on to the sea. If you build a structure with a flat roof and gutters around the edges, you can create surface area to collect rainwater. When those gutters connect to water storage tanks, suddenly you have a real way to store water to get through the dry season. If the water in the tanks is also chlorinated or purified with other filter systems, the water remains safe to drink.



*Irma and Juan store rainwater in these tanks so they can continue to grow vegetables and ornamental plants year-round.*

It is a simple system, but one that is incredibly effective. Eighteen functioning systems for families and schools in 12 rural Chilean communities are now providing sufficient water for families throughout the critically dry summer months.

Imagine the millions of cups of water these systems will provide to communities who need them. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing made this possible.

For more information and to give, visit [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org).

**One Great  
HOUR  
OF SHARING**

June is One Great Hour of Sharing offering month. OGH gifts provide disaster relief and development assistance in the United States and overseas. Give by designating this line on your mission giving remit form. For more information visit [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org).

## Space for Grace

Building on the highly successful Los Angeles Space for Grace national gathering in 2015, American Baptist Home Mission Societies will sponsor **Space for Grace 2018: "Thy Will Be Done,"** Nov. 14-16, 2018, in Philadelphia, featuring author and theologian Walter Brueggemann as keynote presenter.

Faith leaders, community service leaders, social justice advocates and others seeking God's leading for creating social transformation are invited to the national conference, which will span 2½ days at Loews Hotel in the heart of one of the top 10 largest cities in the United States.

In this urban setting, "Thy Will Be Done" will provide opportunities for refreshment and renewal, along with opportunities to connect with passionate speakers, workshop leaders and fellow participants, around critical issues facing Christians today—mission engagement, discipleship, and worship and church transformation—through discussion, sharing and hands-on participation. For information, visit <http://abhms.org/resources/events/s4g/s4g-phl2018/>.



Space for *g*race 2018

**THY WILL BE DONE**

**November 14 – 16, 2018**

Loews Hotel, Philadelphia

www.abhms.org | 800.222.3872, x2394

 American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
Connect. Cultivate. Change.



## Calendar

### June

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Month
- 8-9** ABW Colorado State Conference  
Calvary Baptist Church
- 15-17** Grand Mesa Family Camp
- 17** Father's Day
- 17-23** Grand Mesa High School Camp
- 23-28** Grand Mesa Middle School Camp
- 24** FBC, Torrington 100th Church Anniversary
- 24-30** Wyoba Senior High Camp
- 28-July 1** Grand Mesa Elementary School Camp

### July

- 1-3** Wyoba Mini Camp
- 4** Independence Day (*Region office closed*)
- 7** Taize Saturday at Camp Wyoba
- 8-14** Front Range Camp at Quaker Ridge
- 8-14** Wyoba Junior High Camp
- 15-21** Wyoba Junior Camp
- 22-25** Wyoba Primary Camp
- 23-31** Chiapas Mission Trip
- 26-30** Wyoba Family Camp





*Sunday, May 13*

*Celebrate all the special fathers and men  
in your life.*

*The Rocky Mountain  
American Baptist*  
is published by the  
American Baptist Churches  
of the Rocky Mountains  
[www.abcrm.org](http://www.abcrm.org)

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*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](mailto:akeys@abcrm.org)*

*Reprint permission is granted  
to ABCRM churches.*



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