



# CB NORTH CENTRAL

*Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel*

## THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

June 2014



### From the Director *"Back to the Future"*



*Pat Phinney  
Regional Director*

In 1985 an American science fiction comedy film was made depicting a teenager who was sent back in time to 1955. Surprisingly he meets his future parents in High School. With the help of a scientist, he attempts to repair the damage to history regarding the romantic relationship of his parents.

I got to thinking. What if someone today was sent to the future in 2024 to look at the health of CB North Central? What would they see? Would they attempt to repair the damage of history in order for CBNC to have a greater spiritual impact to the churches in the region?

In ten years, I want pastors and church leaders to look back in time to 2014. I want them to clearly see how the completed CB North Central Ministry Mapping evaluation has significantly changed the region of churches for the kingdom of God. If you were able to travel to 2024 and look at history, this is what I want you to see.

**VISION** that enables CB North Central to serve regional churches and encourage them towards spiritual health. "The vision of CB North Central is to serve local churches as a respected catalyst sparking spiritual health."

**MISSION** that reflects the power of the Great Commission and supports churches in producing disciples of Christ. "CB North Central exists to nurture and connect a community of churches toward passionately loving God, loving each other and a commitment to making disciples of Jesus Christ."

**CORE VALUES** that guide CB North Central in uniquely helping shape the culture of all regional churches towards the mission of making committed followers of Christ.

1. We value the reproduction of healthy churches that make passionate disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. We value the reproduction of servant leaders within the church.
3. We value the reproduction of missional churches within a community.
4. We value the interdependence and connection among all churches.

**CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS** that describe how CB North Central is resourcing regional churches towards church health, leadership development, church multiplication, and community networking.

1. A success factor that empowers leadership in the church to grow towards Christ-likeness.
2. A success factor that provides a spiritual gift-based ministry that allows Christians to operate in His power.
3. A success factor that enables passionate spirituality within the church by all people.

4. A success factor that support effective structures that empower department leaders for church ministries.
5. A success factor that allows God's people to be inspired in their worship with Him.
6. A success factor that encourages Christians to be involved in a holistic small group in order to serve.
7. A success factor that helps all Christians participate in the responsibility of sharing the Gospel to the lost.
8. A success factor that promotes the true expression of Christian love towards one another in the church.

**LEARNING COMMUNITIES** that will provide greater connection of churches, involve next generation pastors, enhance pastoral communication towards regional vision, mission, values, and identity and provide effective networking.

Learning Communities are a coalition of pastors and churches that are successfully living out the Biblical values of spiritual reproductive health within their churches. Learning Communities are made up of spiritually healthy churches that will have the ability to reproduce, disciple or mentor believers towards Christ-likeness; develop current and next generation leaders; multiply or reproduce missional churches or other successful community outreach; live out the current values defined in the new regional identity and paradigm; and network with other churches within the region.

When we all look back from the future in 10 years, we want to see spiritually healthy churches that are accomplishing the mission of making passionate and committed followers of Jesus Christ. This type of healthy growth is a process that will require obedience, intentionality, risk taking, lifestyle changes and on-going evaluation. Will you join us?

*Pat Phinney, Regional Director*

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**Pastor's Wives. . . Just for You**

## "Do I Have My Love Priorities Straight?"



Over the years as a mom, a kindergarten teacher and now as a grandma I have learned so many spiritual lessons from children. It always amazes me how God uses simple things to teach me profound truths. Our grandson Lincoln (yes - the same one from last month's newsletter) recently learned in Sunday School that we are not supposed to love anyone or anything more than we love Jesus. He has really taken that lesson to heart. Every time we talk on the phone and are saying goodbye the conversation goes like this - "Grandma, I love you so so so much! I love you more than anything in the whole universe.....( slight pause)....except for Jesus." I wish there was a way you could hear the excitement in that little boy's voice. It makes me think. Am I that quick to apply truth to my life? Do I have my love priorities straight? Am I living a life of obedience?

This month as we pray for our husbands let's pray that they (and we) will be obedient to God and His Word. Here are some verses to get you started -

I pray that my husband never forgets that to obey is better than sacrifice.

I Samuel 15:22

I pray that my husband will heed Your commandments, O God, so that his peace will be like a river and his righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Isaiah 48:18

I pray, God, that my husband knows that he ought to obey You rather than men.

Acts 5:29

I pray, O God, that my husband will obey Your voice, and You will be his God, and he shall be Your child. And that he will walk in all the ways that You have commanded him, that it may be well with him.

Jeremiah 7:23

I recently came across this cute idea for the 4th of July. It sounds simple. I'm planning to give it a try. You simply frost sugar cookies with white frosting and then decorate the frosting with blue granulated sugar and red pop rocks. My plan is not to tell anyone about the pop rocks and let them be surprised when they take a bite. It will be like having fireworks in your mouth. I think it will be fun! I pray you will all have a fun and safe time celebrating the 4th.



*Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director*

## #SPOTLIGHT

### Getting to Know You

Finding out a little more about others in the CB North Central Region is a good start at being connected. . . and that's our goal. The following is a brief interview with Pastor George Osborn. He is a new pastor for First Baptist Church in Plainwell, MI.

George grew up in Coldwater, Michigan where he was born. He graduated from the Coldwater High School in 2002. He and his wife Aimee have three children. Their son Kyle is 10, their daughter Elli is 2 and they have a baby daughter Emma who is 10 months old.

After graduation from high school George went off to college and eventually graduated from Western Michigan University in 2006. While he was there he attended Cherry Creek Community Church. That first summer he taught 4th and 5th graders for VBS. In George's words, "One of the students placed their



*Pastor George & Aimee Osborn,  
and their children Kyle, Elli and  
Emma*

faith in Christ that week and it was exhilarating for me. I could not believe that God really used me to bring someone to faith in Christ. The next summer the pastor asked me if I wanted to direct VBS. I accepted and after that summer I believed God was calling me into ministry. When I expressed that to my pastor he began to mentor me for the role. His name was Brad Belcher."

In January of 2007 George was brought on at Country Christian Evangelical Free Church as the associate Pastor with a youth emphasis. He pastored there for 4 and a half years. At that time he took a year off to finish seminary (MA New Testament), and then taught Bible at Granger Christian School for 1 and 3/4 years. George then accepted the call to First Baptist in Plainwell.

In his free time, George enjoys learning about history. All kinds of history are fascinating. He also plays a lot of games such as Settlers of Catan; Dominion; 7 wonders; and many others. When he's had a long day he likes to relax by hanging out with Aimee watching a movie on TV.

During the Osborn's recent transition to First Baptist in Plainwell the people have been such a blessing. They have been welcoming and have done whatever was needed or wanted by George's family.

George believes God is bringing a new atmosphere to the church - a fresh breath of air. People are getting excited about ministry again.

*Information Submitted by Pastor George Osborn  
First Baptist Church, Plainwell, MI*

## **How Has CBNC Helped You?**



**Pastor Eldon Carlson**

CBNC has brought many good things to us at Bloomer Baptist Church. As a pastor I have enjoyed our local cluster. It is made of guys in ministry committed to each other and committed to reaching their communities. It has provided great prayer support and mentoring of ideas. Attending the Pastor's Conference at Moody provided a great time to be spiritually refreshed. Dialog with our CB guys and other pastors gave me a renewed spiritual awakening to the task of reaching our community.

Our lay leadership has benefitted from our church's involvement with CBNC. Our local cluster has for several years now had a lay leader's get away. These gatherings are meant to challenge lay leaders to articulate their church's ministries while hearing what other churches are doing. Our board has learned valuable lessons on growing personally and corporately in becoming like Christ.

Pat Phinney our Regional Executive Director came to Bloomer Baptist to speak and share with our Board. His challenges to our church and Board have provided a wonderful step toward growth in our fellowship. The weekend he spent with us spurred us on to love and good deeds.

*Eldon Carlson*  
Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI

## **Church Law and Tax**

### **Constitutions, Bylaws and Charters**

Should proxy voting be recognized in congregational business meetings?

- by Richard R. Hammar [Read More](#)

### **Church Business Meetings**

Ambiguous wording in a church constitution or bylaws frequently leads to internal disputes. - by Richard R. Hammar [Read More](#)

### **Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:**

#### **SENIOR PASTOR**

- Mason Township Baptist Church - Cassopolis, MI
- First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL
- First Baptist Church - Streator, IL
- Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
- First Baptist Church - Elmhurst, IL
- First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI
- First Baptist Church - Long Prairie, MN
- First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN

#### **STAFF POSITIONS**

- Bethel Baptist Church- Jackson, MI *Director of Family Ministries*
- First Baptist Church - Spring Lake, MI *Associate Pastor*
- Oak Grove Church - Golden Valley, MN *Associate Pastor*

### **CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups**

#### **North Dakota/Northern Minnesota**

Thursday, July 17

10am - 12pm, Skype

Steve Daggett

Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

701-265-8989



#### **Central Minnesota**

Monday, July 14, 10am - 12pm  
Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

### **Southern Minnesota**

To Be Determined  
Doug Noonkester, First Baptist Church, Sibley, IA  
712-754-3310

### **Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Cluster Group is on break. Planning meeting will be in August with group meetings up and running in September. Calvary Baptist, Eau Claire, WI

Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI  
715-723-1054

### **Iowa**

To Be Determined  
Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA  
319-396-3233

### **Illinois**

Tuesday, September 9th 10:30am - 1:30pm  
Meeting at Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL  
Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL  
309-633-0028 [art@livinghopecentral.org](mailto:art@livinghopecentral.org)

### **Michigan**

To Be Determined  
Mike Wetzig, Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI  
213-853-96021

For a Pastor Cluster Leader in your area, [click here.](#)

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**Pat Phinney, Regional Director**

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Website: [www.cbnorthcentral.org](http://www.cbnorthcentral.org)



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