



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel



October 2015

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

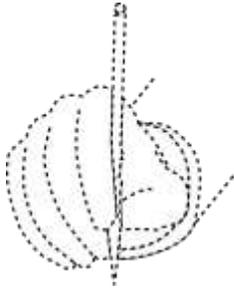
"We are an organization of churches that is committed to the mission of Christ to multiply disciple-making churches through evangelism, leadership training, and connection with other like-minded churches."

From the Director

"Connecting the Dots"

I recently came home from a trip to Chicago and was warmly greeted by our eight month old puppy, Molly. Sometimes I wonder why in the world we decided to get a puppy. I will not go there. She was out of control with excitement. All she wanted to do was play. One by one, she began to bring all

of her favorite toys. I soon discovered my role with this dog . . . her play toy. Nothing new there I guess because when the grandkids come over, I'm another play toy. The games come out with a shout, "Come on grandpa. Let's play."



One of the games we like to do together is the "dot-to-dot" worksheets. You have done them. You see a vague picture with a series of numbered dots. When the "dot-to-dot" connections are complete, you have a beautiful picture that makes sense.



I just had a wonderful "dot-to-dot" connection in Denver, CO on September 8-11. I was invited to attend a special meeting with the new WorldVenture President, Jeff Denlinger. Along with five other church leaders from the North Central region, we had a marvelous time dialoging with their five member GO Team (Global Operations Team). Unfortunately in years past, there has been somewhat of a disconnection between WorldVenture and regional CB churches. I have seen this disconnect for many years. I was so happy to meet with the WorldVenture Team to discover positive ways to rebuild our partnership with our churches.



It was no surprise to discover that the entire WorldVenture family is deeply committed to the same mission, vision and values of our churches. They are committed to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. They are committed to the spiritual health of local churches. They are committed to encouraging local churches to impact their community with the Gospel, so they can plant churches locally and beyond. They are committed to the importance of developing strong relationships within a community and culture. They are committed to seeing lost souls and societies transformed by the power of the Gospel. They are committed to God's plan for changing the world through the church. The similarities continue.



In order to keep the "dot-to-dot" connection going with Worldventure, I have asked Jeff Denlinger and his GO Team to share their vision with the CB North Central family. In the coming months, you will hear from Dennis Vogan (VP of Personnel); Marty Shaw (VP of International Ministries); John Benza (VP of Finances and Administration); and Dougg Custer (VP of Mobilization). Together we make strong partners in the proclamation to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Unengaged, the Unreached, the Unchurched, and the Unwanted. Like me, I know you will enjoy hearing the hearts of these leaders as they step out to obey the mission of making disciples.



Pat Phinney
CBNC Regional Director

Pastor's Wives . . . Just for You

"And Our Puppy Adventures Continue....."

For those of you who may not know, we recently added a puppy to our family. Molly is an 8 mo. old shih-poo. The energy this dog has is unbelievable. I'm not kidding - I don't think she ever gets tired. We are working on getting her to obey some simple commands - sit, down, stay and a few others. We have a varying degree of success. It depends on the day and whether she is in the house or outside. When she's outside it's like she forgets everything she's ever learned. (She starts an obedience class tonight!) A couple of weeks ago when I reached out our

front door to get the mail out of the mailbox, she bolted. Not only is she energetic, she is fast! She headed down the hill in our front yard while I'm trying to call her back. She completely ignored me. The chase was on! All the while I'm thinking about the possibilities of where she is headed. Once she would get out of our cul-de-sac, she would be on a fairly busy street. No matter how often I called her name or offered her a treat she was determined to enjoy her new found freedom. Fortunately for me, after she



had gone about three houses away she needed to go to the bathroom. That pause was just enough time for me to catch up to her. What a relief! She now has a microchip with all of our information. That way if she happens to get away from us, we have the security to know that we will be identified as her owners. That got me thinking about the security that is ours. We belong to Jesus! No matter how far we may wander at times, our identity is secure. We have something even better than a microchip - we are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Now that is security!

This month let's pray that our husbands will live each day rejoicing in that security. Here are a few verses to get us started

"I pray that my husband is persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate him from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus his Lord."

Romans 8:36-39

"I pray that surely goodness and mercy shall follow my husband all the days of his life and that he will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Psalms 23:6

"I pray that You, God, who have begun a good work in my husband will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

Now that the days are beginning to get cooler, we enjoy sitting around the fire pit in our backyard. When our grandkids are over that means s'mores. For those of you who don't have a fire pit (and even for those of you who do), here is a recipe I tried recently. I think you'll like it - it was a hit at our house!



Peanut Butter S'mores Oatmeal Cookie Bars [click here to print](#)

1 ½ sticks butter, melted	1 Tbsp. cornstarch
2 cup light brown sugar	2 ½ tsp baking powder
½ cup creamy peanut butter	½ tsp salt
2 eggs, room temperature	1 cup Reese's peanut butter baking chips
1 Tbsp. vanilla	7 full-size Hershey's chocolate bars
1 ½ cups flour	7 oz jar marshmallow fluff
¾ cup graham cracker crumbs	1 cup chopped Reese's miniatures
1 cup old fashioned oats	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9 X 13 pan with parchment paper. Cream butter and sugar together in a large mixing bowl. Add peanut butter and continue mixing. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each egg. Add vanilla.

Combine flour, graham cracker crumbs, oats, cornstarch, baking powder and salt in a small mixing bowl. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture, slowly stirring until well combined. Stir in the peanut butter chips. Refrigerate cookie dough for at least 30 minutes.

Spread 2/3 of the dough on the bottom of the pan. Top with Hershey's bars, breaking apart as needed. Spread marshmallow fluff on top of Hershey's bars.

Stir chopped Reese's into remaining cookie dough. Drop the remaining dough on top by the teaspoon. It doesn't have to be perfect and it won't cover the all the marshmallow fluff.

Bake for 25-30 minutes. Let cool completely before cutting.



Karen Phinney
Wife of Regional Director

Upcoming

"Developing Healthy Congregations" Seminar

Is it your desire to have a spiritually healthy church that is able to make committed disciples of Jesus Christ? Do you desire to have a church that is able to experience a level of reproduction that will impact your community for Jesus Christ? Come to a "Developing Healthy Congregations" seminar in your area. Here is your opportunity to take the first step to developing spiritual health in your own church. For more details and how to register [click here](#).



What is Really Urgent and Important?

"Developing Healthy Congregations"

Grace Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA
Saturday, October 17, 9am-2pm

Friday, October 9th is the sign-up deadline. REGISTER TODAY!

Presented by CBNC Regional Director Pat Phinney

*"Sing praises to
the Lord, O you his
saints,
and give thanks to
his holy name."
Psalm 30:4*



A wonderful worship service was held at First Baptist Church in Elmhurst, IL, Sunday, September 13. The installation and celebration of new pastors, Brandon Cooper and Kyle

Bjerga took place with the charge by Regional Director, Pat Phinney.





NEW STRATEGY TO REDUCE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS!

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Finances Made Simple, LLC
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"Healthcare costs are growing at an alarming pace for families! The financial stress caused by increased premiums, paying deductibles, and covering indirect costs, those items your health insurance DOES NOT cover, is destroying family savings and assets."

#ShareTheStories

"Energizing Our Faith"

Summer Miracles:

This past summer and fall have been fantastic here at Oak Grove Church! My Associate, Grant Willett took a handful of youth to South Dakota on a summer mission trip. Two of our own Junior High kids and one High School student accepted Christ on that trip. We baptized four kids because of the decisions made on that trip. I had the chance to baptize another young man soon after and one of our Sr. High came to our Associate after a morning service and invited Christ into her life. We then baptized four more other kids since then. Another one of our young ladies received Christ at Camp Lebanon will be baptized in the near future.

Experience Illusions:

We invited Adrian Van Vactor (World class Illusionist) here for our fall ministry launch on Wednesday, September 16th from Faith Search Ministry (a ministry committed to presenting the gospel with evidence) and we saw ten more people came to Christ that night. Several others made fresh re-commitments to Christ; the opportunities have been so exciting. It is amazing what God is doing. The Lord just keeps surprising us and bringing forth fruit as He draws these folks to Himself. How much this has energized our faith as we keep on seeking Christ in our ventures.

Experience: Community, Growth, Christ - Wednesday, Sept. 23 we launched our fall Ministry Launch for AWANA but it was AWANA with a new touch. We felt that we have been ignoring the needs of many families walking in our door so we have added to our Wednesday activities, a full community meal, life groups, food distribution, prayer team and continued our worship team practice too. We prepared for this through the summer and the launch was amazing: we had a significant number of people from the community attending our Authentic Manhood Group and Financial Peace University and our AWANA was overflowing with kids; almost as many as we finished with last April. The best thing is that we have a growing number of connections that we can cultivate and develop genuine relationships. The fall has started off very exciting as we take steps of faith for His glory and gain.

In His grace,

*Brad Little (Lead Pastor - Oak Grove Church)
Golden Valley, MN*

-CBAmerica Chaplaincy

"Chaplain for Life: Rev. Jim McMillan"

"I recall an interview where Evangelist, Billy Graham was asked when he would retire. The essence of his brief reply was, "Well, I don't find the word 'retirement' in the Bible." As I write this, Rev. Graham is still actively reaching others for Christ well into his 90s."

Andy Meverden
Director of Chaplaincy, CBAmerica

Read how Rev. Jim McMillan's path is parallel to this statement from Billy Graham since Jim's retirement from hospice ministry. [click here](#)



"Ten Signs a Pastor Is Becoming a Chaplain"

"Without a doubt, pastors should minister to church members. The danger is when pastors do little other than minister to the needs of church members, and the leadership of the church is neither equipping others nor leading the congregation to reach those who do not have a church home."

-by Thom S. Rainer, Sept. 7, 2015 [Read More](#)

"Five Ways Some Senior Adult Churches Became Younger"

-by Thom S. Rainer, Sept. 21, 2015 [Read More](#)

"5 Things NOT to Do in Times of Crisis"

"The way you respond (in a crisis) will almost always determine the quality of recovery from the crisis." - by Ron Edmondson, Churchleaders.com [Read More](#)



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Please Pray for the Following Churches in Transition:

Senior Pastor

Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL

First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN

First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL

First Baptist Church - Parkers Prairie, MN

First Baptist Church - Detroit Lakes, MN

Oak Park Community - Blaine, MN

First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI

Squaw Creek Baptist Church - Marion, IA

Bazetta Baptist Church - Warren, OH

First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern MN

Thursday, October 15th, 10am-12pm

Skype

Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist, Cavalier, ND

701-265-8989

Central Minnesota

Monday, October 12th, 10am

Meeting at River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

651-437-3965

Wisconsin

Friday - Sunday, October 9-11, 2015

Men's "Go MAD" (Make A Difference) Retreat, Arrowhead Bible Camp.

For all the men at First Baptist Whitehall, First Baptist New Richmond, Eureka Baptist St. Croix Falls, Crossroads Chippewa Falls, Calvary Eau Claire, Bloomer Baptist Bloomer, Palisade Baptist Silver Bay, First Baptist Taylors Falls and Valleybrook Eau Claire. Cost is \$89. We are hoping at least 5 men can come from each church. Brochures will be out by the first week of September. A head-count from each church is needed by Monday, October 5.

Illinois - Chicago Area

To Be Decided

*Leonard Harris, Grove Heights Baptist Church,
Chicago, IL*

773-731-8094 lendar@ameritech.net



Michigan

Thursday, October 15, 9am

Leo Cumings, Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI

517-416-1247

For more information on a Cluster Group in your area please contact the CBNC office.



CB North Central

PO Box 490441, Blaine, MN 55449

Pat Phinney, Regional Director

patp@cbnorthcentral.org

Pat's Office: 952-322-7173

Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant

wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org

763-205-9330

Office Hours: Tues. thru Fri. 8am - 1pm

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Website: www.cbnorthcentral.org



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