



# CB NORTH CENTRAL

*Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel*

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



March 2015

## THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

### From the Director

#### *"... Then Came Easter"*

Death is a grim reality in every home. Each time we Google the headline news, we see deaths of people, famous personalities, acquaintances, neighbors and people we don't know. A few days ago I received an email from a friend who said his 93 year old dad passed away peacefully. He said, "Within moments of

his death, the sun shone in the window as if to give us a tiny glimpse of heaven." Hebrews 9:27 says, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once. . ."

The word "death" is a word that we fear. It is a word that that seems almost unnatural when we apply it to ourselves, but very natural when we apply it to others. It is a word that reduces us all to the same rank. It is a word that strips the rich of their wealth and the poor of their rags. It is a word that no one is too old to whisper. It is easy to think of other people having to keep this appointment with death but difficult for us to understand that we too must keep the appointment. The Scripture says, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12) Death became universal. The universal effect demanded a universal cause and it was sin. All people were doomed to die, but then came Easter.

On this earth 2,000 ago years lived a Man who went about doing good. He was a friend of the poor and needy. He made the blind to see. He made the deaf to hear. He made the dumb to speak. He made the lame to walk. And at the age of 33, Jesus was tried before the courts and was condemned to death. His followers watched Him die on the cross. Jesus bowed His head and said, "It is finished." He kept an appointment with death. He died on a Friday. One of His followers took the body down and laid Him in a grave.



If this was the end of the story, we would be most miserable. There is another chapter. Upon the first day of the week Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Salome made their way to the tomb where the body of Jesus had been laid. Matthew 28:6-7 tells us what the angel said, "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead . . ."

I simply love Easter. Christ defeated death for all. A new Armistice was signed and peace had been declared. It was the dawn of new hope. The resurrection is the hope of salvation for all who believe in the Son of God. It is the hope of our own bodily resurrection. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."



There seems to be a world-wide fear of what ISIS can do. Here is the hope. Because of what Christ did on the cross and because of the resurrection, He has robbed death of its terror. At the empty tomb, sin and death have passed away in Christ. The stronghold of death is broken beyond the grave.

It is true. The appointment of death may soon be upon each of us. All of humanity is faced with a decision. Easter, with its message of Resurrection power, brings us face to face with the living Christ. We must decide how we are going to live for Him. This Easter, let us proclaim the HOPE that is beyond the grave.



*Pat Phinney  
CBNC Regional Director*

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

### *"Renovations"*



*Pat and I are in the midst of remodeling our laundry room. It all started many, many months ago when a pipe in the wall broke. To get to the broken pipe we had to cut through the sheetrock. Then came the dilemma - "Do we JUST fix the wall?" This happened while our daughter and her family were living with us. The best decision at that time was "let's put it off until later". (You can't really be without the ability to do laundry when you have six people living in the house.)*

*It was time. We had to make a decision. You know how the story goes. What began as a hole in the wall has turned into a complete renovation of not only our laundry room but the surrounding area. We ripped out lots of stuff (old wall board, old carpet, and old lights), we removed wallpaper from walls and scraped popcorn ceiling. We sanded and painted all the old trim to take it from a dark stain to a fresh bright white. We spent much of a day on our knees tiling and grouting the floor. We still need to install the countertop and tile the*

*backsplash. Even though we are not completely done the end is in sight and what a transformation has taken place!*

*It is amazing to me how after we lived with that hole in the wall for a while we didn't really notice it anymore. It just began to blend in. We got used to it being there. I can't help but wonder how often that happens in my life (maybe yours too). We have that "blind spot", that shortcoming, that sin. After a while we don't even recognize it anymore. We have become accustomed to it. It just blends in. Isn't that really what Easter is all about? Jesus gave His life for our renovation. We were broken and damaged and God sent His Son so that we might be whole. I pray that even though we are still a work in progress we can be thankful for the transformation that is taking place!*

*This month let's focus on spiritual growth as we pray for our husbands (and ourselves). Here are some verses to get us started .....*

"I pray that my husband will be careful to not forget the Lord his God, failing to observe His commands, His laws and His decrees."

Deuteronomy 8:11

"I pray that my husband has not forgotten the name of his God, or stretched out his hands to a foreign god. Would You, God, search this out? For You know the secrets of the heart."

Psalms 44:20-21

"I pray that my husband will look diligently so he won't fall short of Your grace, God; and so no root of bitterness springs up causing trouble."

Hebrews 12:15

"I pray that after my husband has escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he will not again become entangled in them and overcome."

2 Peter 2:20

Here is a quick, easy and yummy Easter treat that the kids, grandkids and adults will be sure to enjoy!

### Easter Mini Cheesecakes

1 cup graham cracker crumbs  
¾ cup plus 2 Tbsp. sugar, divided  
3 Tbsp. butter, melted  
3 (8 oz) pkgs. cream cheese, softened  
1 tsp. vanilla  
3 eggs  
1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. coconut speckled chocolate eggs



Heat oven to 325 degrees. Mix graham cracker crumbs, 2 Tbsp. sugar and butter; press in to the bottoms of 18 paper-lined muffin cups. Beat cream cheese, vanilla and remaining sugar with mixer until smooth. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Spoon over crusts. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until centers are almost set. Cool completely. Refrigerate for 2 hours.

Top each cheesecake with 1 Tbsp. toasted coconut shaped into a nest. Fill each nest with speckled chocolate eggs. For a printable version of this recipe [click here](#).

*I want to wish you and your family a wonderful Easter.*

*Karen Phinney  
Wife of Regional Director*

# PASTORS'

## C O N F E R E N C E



MAY 18-21, 2015 · CHICAGO

The Moody Pastor's Conference is fast approaching. *For information about speakers, musicians and the 2015 schedule [click on the picture above](#) to go directly to the site.*

Many of you have already registered, but for those of you who haven't there's still time. Even though the 'Early Bird' date has come and gone you can still get a [discount](#) by contacting CB North Central for details.

763-205-9330 or [wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org](mailto:wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org).

**April 1st DEADLINE! Don't Miss This Opportunity!**

**HENRY C. SPICER SCHOLARSHIP for High School Seniors**



The Henry C. Spicer Scholarship is awarded each year to high school seniors planning to attend college in the Fall. To qualify, an applicant must be a committed Christian and a regular attender of a CBNC affiliated church. The scholarships vary from year to year, but last year there were four \$500 scholarships awarded.

For more information and an application visit our [website](#) or contact our office 763-205-9330 or by email [wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org](mailto:wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org). Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1st.

### ***Upcoming Developing Healthy Congregations Seminar***



What is Really Urgent and Important?  
**"Developing Healthy  
Congregations"**

Lakeside Church, Worthington, MN  
**Saturday, April 18, 9am-2pm**

*Presented by  
CBNC Regional Director Pat Phinney*



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 in 2015. 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](#).

### **Thoughts From a Cluster Leader**

**"Living With The Shades Drawn"**



Awhile back, I was asked to make a call on a gentleman who had occasionally come to the church I pastored at the time. As I approached the house, I noticed that all the blinds were closed and that even the small square of glass in the door was covered by a dark towel. My knock produced an invitation to come in, and I found myself standing in a darkened living room, squinting just to make out the features of the man I'd come to visit. He seemed a bit uncomfortable, and I realized he was unaccustomed to having visitors. We had a brief visit, he assured me he was fine, and then walked me to the door. As I walked back to my car I was struck by the fact that I had never seen him out in public. Here was a man who had completely isolated himself. Looking into his eyes in that darkened house, I had seen the desperate darkness of depression.

Not long ago I traveled with a fellow pastor from our community to investigate the possibility of setting up a Christian Counseling center in our area. The man had started a counseling ministry in the Grand Forks area a couple of decades before. He recalled that in the early years he had worked part time, by himself. Now he had six full-time counselors on his staff, and another was soon to join the team. My friend and I asked the obvious question: "is there a greater need for professional psychological help now than there used to be?" He answered without hesitation: "The need is overwhelming, and growing every year."

This should not come as a surprise to those of us in pastoral ministry. We see people in trouble in our churches and towns all the time. More and more of our neighbors and even church members are living with their shades drawn, either literally or figuratively. Isolation is both a symptom of the disease, and a cause. As pastors we must be ready to "invade" the homes of those who struggle in this area. "It is not good for man to be alone" is a rationale for marriage, but on a broader scale it is proving true in society as a whole. And if we pastors are to be any help to those in trouble, if we are to offer them living hope or joy or truth from God and His Word, then we too must fight against the tendency to become isolated and discouraged. As we encourage our people to "forsake not the assembly of believers", we pastors need to assemble as well, for mutual support, prayer, encouragement and challenge. Let's be sure that we, of all people, are living with the shades pulled up, not down.

Pastor Steve Daggett  
Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND

## ***# Celebrations***



Pictured left to right: Reverend Anthony Saul, Cheryl Saul, Janet

Kleeberger, and Reverend Michael Kleeberger all of Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, Iowa.

## **CONGRATULATIONS REVEREND ANTHONY (ANDY) SAUL!**

Andy underwent the ordination process and completed in February being ordained at Squaw Creek Baptist Church in Marion, Iowa. If you would like to congratulate him personally or send words of encouragement you can email him at [pastorandy@squawcreekchurch.com](mailto:pastorandy@squawcreekchurch.com).



First Baptist Church in Bradford, IL has went through some tough struggles in recent years. Declining area population, a nasty church split that took the youth & younger families, death & relocation claiming most of the church's active leaders, these are some of the things that those remaining had to overcome. The people focused on strengthening their



faith, hope, and love and the church moved forward with lots of prayer.

God brought a new lay pastor & his family to help the interim pastor. A new guitarist agreed to help and the Lord brought on an enthusiastic youth worker. God opened the heart of a parent from the children's ministry and through her outspoken faith and devotion the Lord brought others from her family to see what God was doing. The youth worker shared his testimony of victory over addiction and crime and others came. A handful of teens turned into 25 and new people were being saved and set free from addiction. Others have been set free from a lifestyle of sin and have a true desire to please God. In just one week in January, four people came to new faith in Christ, new visitors came to church, and mid-week ministries were at record attendance.



It's a privilege and a challenge seeking to disciple several new believers and move them into meaningful ministry. Bradford Baptist still needs prayer as we struggle with extreme poverty and a shortage of leaders, but we rejoice that God is active among us and people in the community are experiencing the love of Christ.

Pastor Steve Scott

First Baptist Church, Bradford, IL

***". . . Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

***Ephesians 5:19-20***

**Please send your celebrations to CBNC so that together, we can all give praise for the mighty works of our Father. Email [wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org](mailto:wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org).**

**Church Law and Tax**



**Q&A: Are Housing Expenses Paid Directly By a Church Non-Taxable?.**

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

**How Soon Is Your Offering Deposited?**

A church's recent experience underscores the importance of immediately bringing donations to the bank. - by Michelle Dowell [Read More](#)

**The Top 12 Tax Scams for 2015**

What church leaders need to watch out for this year. - by Michelle Dowell  
[Read More](#)



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

**SENIOR PASTOR**

Mason Township Baptist Church - Cassopolis, MI

Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL

First Baptist Church - Elmhurst, IL

First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI

First Baptist Church - Lake Crystal, MN

First Baptist Church - Pekin, IL

Palisade Baptist Church - Silver Bay, MN

Monona Oaks Community Church - Madison, WI

Cornerstone Community Church - Manchester, IA

Oak Park Community Church - Blaine, MN

First Baptist Church - Big Rapids, MI

First Baptist Church - Parkers Prairie, MN

**STAFF POSITIONS**

First Baptist Church - Spring Lake, MI *Associate Pastor*

**CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups**

**North Dakota/Northern Minnesota**

Thursday, March 19 & Thursday, April 16, 10am - 12pm Skype

*Steve Daggett, Cavalier Baptist Church, Cavalier, ND*  
701-265-8989

### **Central Minnesota**

Monday, April 13, 10am - 12pm  
*Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church,*  
*Hastings, MN*  
651-437-3965

### **Southern Minnesota**

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



### **Wisconsin**

To Be Determined  
*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

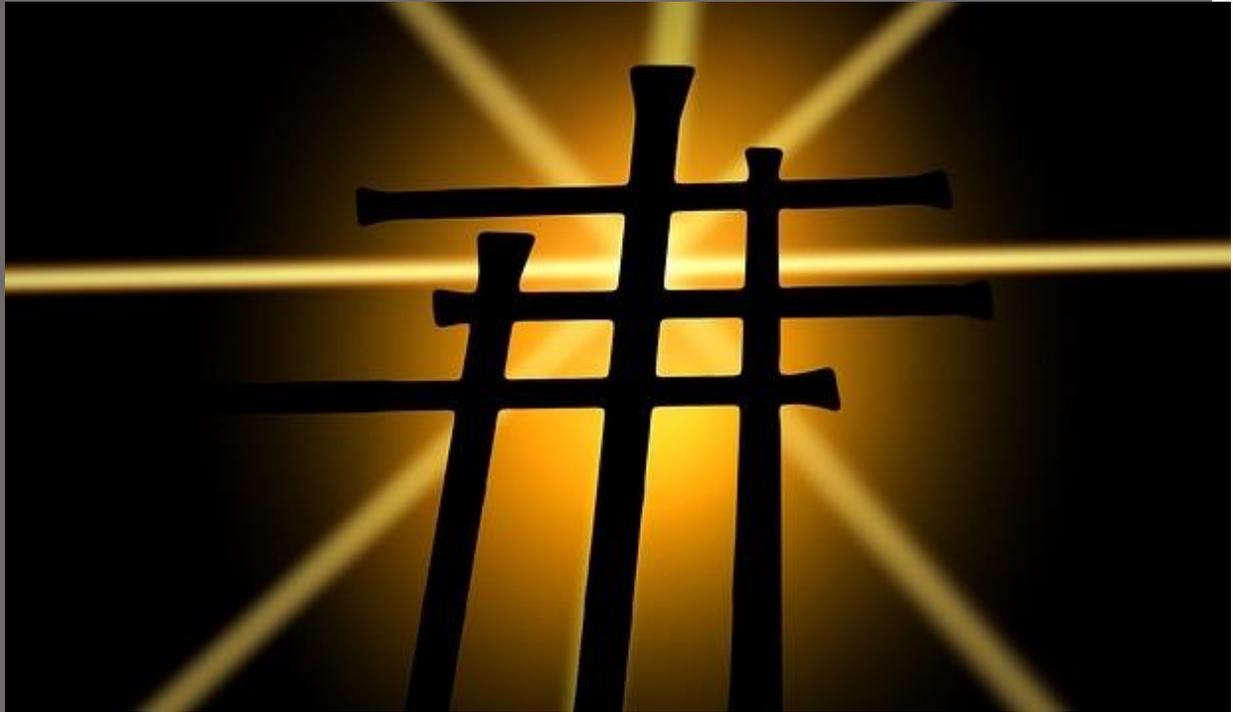
### **Illinois**

Tuesday, April 21, 10:30am - 1:30pm  
Meeting at First Baptist Church, 700 South Capitol St, Pekin, IL  
*Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL*  
309-633-0028 [art@livinghopecentral.org](mailto:art@livinghopecentral.org)

### **Michigan**

Tuesday, April 14th, 10am - Noon  
Meeting at Cornerstone University next to the cafeteria. \$10 to cover room cost and lunch.

*Leo Cumings, Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, MI*  
517-416-1247



## **CB North Central**

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Blaine, MN

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Wendy Jonasen, Administrative Assistant

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

### **Pat Phinney, Regional Director**

[patp@cbnorthcentral.org](mailto:patp@cbnorthcentral.org)

Pat's Home Office: 952-322-7173

Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

Stay Connected

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

