



CC North Central

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel



**THE  
CENTRAL CONNECTION**

July 2019

*"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."*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR**  
**"United in Community"**



The beauty about being a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world is that God uses everyday experiences to remind us about Truth. I had such an experience on July 2. The place was floor ten (cancer level) of the Gonda Building of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Why

Mayo? Karen has been invited to participate in a clinical trial for the immunotherapy drug Keytruda. As we were waiting to receive the first treatment, I had this incredibly warm sense of community come over me. As I looked over the vast room, there were at least 50 cancer patients waiting for appointments. I felt so safe. You could give eye contact to those battling the dreadful disease to say, "I don't know you, but I understand your journey." We were all there collectively with a unified purpose in seeking our own miracle. It was powerful. I wanted to hand out hugs and say, "It's going to be ok. We are all in this together." [Read More](#)



*Pat Phinney  
CB North Central Regional Director*

## **Our Update**

Famous western author Louis L'Amour said, "Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you." Every one of us is living out a "book of life" that changes from chapter to chapter. In the book for Pat and Karen Phinney, there have been so many wonderful things written during our journey of forty-three years. They are things like a wonderful marriage, beautiful children and grandchildren, the best calling ever in serving the church, great friends, amazing experiences, disappointments and now the battle against cancer. You have followed us along so faithfully in seventeen monthly updates about the progress and challenges of Karen's illness. This month, we begin a new chapter in our book of life. [Read More](#)



*Pat and Karen Phinney*

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## **CLUSTER GROUP DIRECTOR**

### **"The Value of Association"**

I recently took a road trip to Windom, MN to speak at First Baptist's worship service. My wife & I arrived on Saturday and had the privilege of staying with a lovely retired couple—the Nickels. They had been a part of the church for over 25 years and as we talked Saturday evening, we discovered many overlapping relationships—even though we had never met before.

Mary Alice told her story. She grew up in Ogallala, Nebraska and at an early age was taken to the Berean Church by folks. Her folks and 7 siblings never did attend. My interest sparked because my brother married a girl from Ogallala at the same church some 8 years after Mary Alice and Rodney were married. They hadn't met my sister-in-law, but she too had a similar experience. A nameless person from the church had picked her up too and taken her to Sunday School. Was it worth it? In hindsight I would say a resounding yes. Two extended families were forever changed by the sacrifice of a person or persons who left early for church to pick up a small child.



An interesting follow-up: we had to leave early for Sunday School that morning because Rodney and Mary Alice were picking up a child that needed a ride to Sunday School.

*Pastor Eldon Carlson*  
*CBNC Regional Cluster Group Director*

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## **AROUND THE REGION**



**2019 Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Winners**

It is again the privilege of CB North Central to award the Henry C. Spicer Scholarship to several of our graduating high school seniors. All graduating high school seniors from our region's churches are eligible to make application for the one-time non-renewable scholarship. The scholarship aims to help with the costs of continuing education. The proposed area of study need not be ministry related, as past recipients have declared future plans in a diversity of fields. We rejoice that our Lord desires to use our young people in any chosen vocation.

This year's scholarship committee has selected four graduating students that excelled in many areas. Selection is made based on a number of items, 1) personal testimony and church recommendations, 2) academic performance, 3) servant leadership, both church and community related, 4) extra-curricular activities, 5) future pursuits, and 6) financial need. This year's applicants were all outstanding and the committee was encouraged by reading through testimonies and future plans of each student.

A special thank you to the 2019 Scholarship Committee: Pastor Andrew Powell, Grace Church, Mahomet, IL; Pastor Gerad Hall, future church planter for CB NC; Pastor Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL. Thank you for your gift of time and commitment to help further the education of these fine young students.

The following are the 2019 Henry C. Spicer Scholarship recipients:



**Hannah Bennett**



**Sophia Kylo**

New Life Church, Wanamingo, MN  
Attending University of Northwestern, St Paul,  
MN

Bethany Community Church  
Washington, IL  
Attending University of Texas at Dallas,  
Richardson, TX



**Jack Lucas**

Morrison Baptist Church, Mpls, MN  
Attending University of Northwestern  
St Paul, MN



**Alexa Schroeder**

Bethany Baptist Church, Edwards, IL  
Attending Trevecca Nazarene University  
Nashville, TN



**WELCOME** *Pastor Conner McMakin,*  
new pastor of First Baptist Church, Spring  
Lake, MI. Pastor McMakin began his new  
ministry on 6-30-19. Please pray for him  
and the congregation at First Baptist  
during this time of transition.





### **NEW CHURCH PLANT-**

*Gerad Hall is a pastor in the Quad Cities area (Iowa cities Davenport & Bettendorf; Illinois cities Rock Island, Moline & East Moline) who is planning a new church plant. For more information [click here](#). If you would like to contact Pastor Hall you can email him at [Gerad.hall@gmail.com](mailto:Gerad.hall@gmail.com).*

### **Overcoming the Fear of Starting**

**No. 1**

Have you ever climbed a mountain? Perhaps you've stood perched in starting blocks as a starter's pistol raised into the air. If you have, do you remember the sensation in your gut? The one where the anticipation of what is seconds away causes life to slow down to a timeless moment. For some this moment is one where you feel most alive, because you have a drive to compete. The adrenaline and endorphins from competition followed by the satisfaction of completion at the finish line makes for a good day. [Read More](#)



*Pastor Gerad Hall*



### **theStone Church**



"In a small town not more than 50 miles west of the Mississippi River sits a church. A church that is filled with folks, young and old, who love the Lord. In just a short amount of time, theStone Church has not only gone through a name change, lead pastor change, as well as a management restructuring, but they have increased in attendees by over 150 people, and that number is growing."

[Read more about theStone Church](#)

*Pastor Joe Camp  
theStone Church, Manchester, IA*



## **CBAmerica Chaplaincy**

### **"Change of Mission: When Two Doors Open Simultaneously"**



*"Solomon wrote, "The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9."*

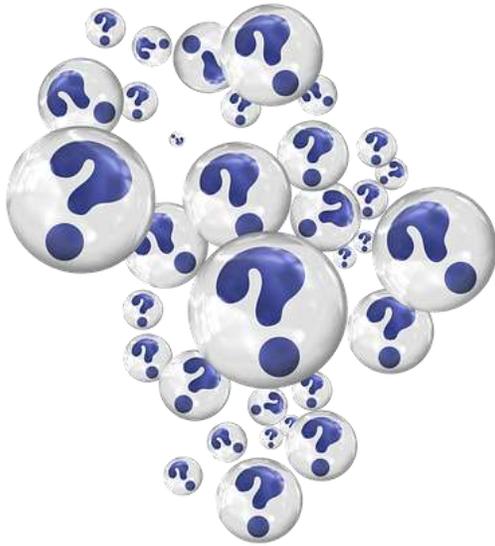
*"Even though we may not always understand why the mission gets changed, we can trust Who is changing the mission, because, again, it is His mission and not ours." [Read More](#)  
-by Chaplain Joshua Van Vlack, Oregon National Guard / Canyon Bible Fellowship, Lyons, Oregon*

*Rev. Andy Meverden  
Director of Chaplaincy  
[CBAmerica.org](http://CBAmerica.org)  
3686 Stagecoach Rd, Unit F  
Longmont, CO 80504  
[ChapAndy@cbamerica.org](mailto:ChapAndy@cbamerica.org)*



### **Atheist Organization Opts Not to Appeal Housing Allowance Ruling**

*"The atheist nonprofit group challenging tax-free housing allowances for qualifying ministers says it is ending its fight for now." [Read More](#)*



- by Matthew Branaugh,  
*ChurchLawandTax.com*

### **5 Practices of a Peaceful Home**

"It's so much easier to share God's peace from the pulpit if you experience God's peace at home."

[Read More](#) -by *SermonCentral.com*

### **Is Your Leadership the Moses Model or the Jesus Model?**

"He was the shepherd, they were the sheep—and sheep do not morph into shepherds." [Read More](#) -by *Ray Hollenbach, SermonCentral.com*

### **Should You Support Your Spouse When You Disagree With Them?**

"God calls married couples to live in unity, but unity does NOT always mean uniformity. A husband and wife should be unified in their commitment to each other and their core convictions, but every couple is going to have different personalities, different perspectives, and different opinions. In those moments of disagreement, how should we respond?" [Read More](#) -by *Dave Willis, ChurchLeaders.com*

### **The Prayers of the Spirit**

"According to Paul we are weak and stand in need of the help of the Spirit of God. When we don't know how to pray, the Spirit of God helps us!" [Read More](#)  
-by *Dr. Josh Bruice, ChurchLeaders.com*

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### **PLEASE PRAY for the Following Churches in Transition**



First Baptist Church - Colfax, IA  
First Baptist Church - Detroit Lakes, MN  
Faithbridge Church - Park Rapids, MN  
Cavalier Baptist Church - Cavalier, ND  
Faith Fellowship Church - Cincinnati, OH  
First Baptist Church - Shelby, OH

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## CB North Central Cluster Groups

### **Central Minnesota**

Monday, July 15, 10am to Noon

Meeting at River of Live Church, Hastings, MN  
*Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN*

651-437-3965 [sdschoenwald@gmail.com](mailto:sdschoenwald@gmail.com)



### **Wisconsin**

Thursday, July 18 11:30am

Meeting at Pizza Ranch in Eau Claire, WI  
*Eldon Carlson, Bloomer, WI*

715-568-1979 [ecarlson@bloomer.net](mailto:ecarlson@bloomer.net)

*Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI*

715-723-1054 [Wljc12@hotmail.com](mailto:Wljc12@hotmail.com)

### **Iowa**

To Be Decided

*Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA*

319-396-3233 [office@calvarycr.org](mailto:office@calvarycr.org)

### **Michigan**

To Be Decided

Eldon Carlson, CBNC Regional Cluster Group Director

715-568-1979 [ecarlson@bloomer.net](mailto:ecarlson@bloomer.net)

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## SERVICES & INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CB NORTH CENTRAL

Below you will find a partial list of the many services provided by CB North Central, click on any image for more information.





Background Check  
Resources



Retirement  
Information



**Pat Phinney**  
**Regional Executive Director**

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

Office: 952-322-7173

Cell: 952-500-3743

**Wendy Jonasen**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
[wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org](mailto:wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org)

763-205-9330

Administrative Office Hours:

Tues. thru Fri. 8am - 1pm

Stay Connected

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



