



# • The Communicator •

Published by Mid-American Baptist Churches  
Dr. Marshall Peters, Executive Minister  
Issue 1, 2018

**You're Invited!**

**Retirement Reception for  
Marshall Peters**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
of Greater Des Moines  
8250 NW 62nd Ave.  
Johnston, IA  
Short program at 3:00 p.m.

## INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES REQUESTS YOUR INPUT

International Ministries is looking for input on ways to improve their approach to funding for missionaries. They have set up a survey to that end. If you are able, please fill out this survey, paying special attention to the "Other/Comments" blocks and the space to share final thoughts at the end of the survey. The survey is set up to be anonymous, but you may enter your name in one of the comment blocks if you wish.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXLS39P> to fill out the Missionary Personalized Support Funding Model Survey.

## MID-ABC EXECUTIVE MINISTER SEARCH

Mid-American Baptist Churches (American Baptist Churches in Iowa and Minnesota) is in the process of selecting a new Executive Minister. Rev. Dr. Marshall Peters, who has served the position since 2002, has announced his retirement effective May 31, 2018. We are seeking applications from persons interested in this position.

Letters of Interest, resume or ABPS profile from applicants are due March 20, 2018.

Send questions, letters of interest with resume or ABPS profile to Coleen Remick at: [midabcapplicant@gmail.com](mailto:midabcapplicant@gmail.com)

The Region profile and position announcement can be downloaded at <https://sites.google.com/a/mid-abc.org/search/>.

## MEET THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Jeff Haggray, Executive Director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, will be available for coffee and conversation on Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the narthex at First Baptist Church, located in Johnston, Iowa. Please feel free to bring any interested members of your congregation, including those who serve on your missions committee. An RSVP would be appreciated, but is not necessary. You may call 515-

243-8161 or email [tim@fbcdsm.org](mailto:tim@fbcdsm.org).



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER . . .



The last event of the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, Korea, was the 30k mass start cross country race. All was going well for Austrian skier Teresa Stadlober and she seemed to have easily clinched the silver medal with only 7 kilometers remaining in the race.

However, then something happened that caused her medal hopes to vanish. The woman in the gold medal position was so far ahead that Stadlober had lost sight of her. When she came to a place where the course veered to the left, she veered to the right onto a downhill slope. By the time she realized her mistake and turned around, it was too late. She finished the race in ninth position. The head of the Austrian team said that Stadlober “simply took her eyes off the track and lost her orientation”.

Eugene Peterson records the words of the Apostle Paul saying ‘By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus’ (Philippians 3:14). The question we must ask ourselves is whether we are keeping our eyes on the goal or are we being distracted and operating on autopilot. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve left my house in the

morning and realized further down the street that I had been thinking about something else and was not sure whether or not I had closed the garage door. Unfortunately, the same thing can happen in our individual lives as Christians and in the life of our churches.

I’m afraid it is all too easy for us to operate on autopilot. We have done things the same way for so long that sometimes we don’t even think about what we are doing or why we are doing it. This can be as simple as saying the Lord’s Prayer every Sunday but not thinking about its meaning. Or it can exhibit itself in the way that we interact with our communities. It is easy to fall into the trap of just coasting along and not really considering what it is that Jesus would have us understand and do in this particular moment in time.

As we continue on through this season of Lent, let us keep our eyes on the goal that is ours because of that first Easter. We need to recommit ourselves to not being distracted or just going through the motions. Instead, we need to stay engaged and keep our eyes open so we can have new understandings and see the new directions that God has in store for us.

In Christ’s Peace,  
Marshall Peters



**Keep your eyes on the goal!**

**Prairie Pastors Conference**  
**Leading Across Generations:**  
**Church Ministry Today**  
**That Will Thrive**



**Speaker: Dr. Jolene Erlacher**  
Author of Millennials in Ministry

April 16-18, 2018  
Sunset Hills Baptist Church  
Omaha, NE



## MID-ABC MINISTERS COUNCIL



You are invited and encouraged to sign up as a 2018 member of the Mid-American Baptist Minister's Council. One immediate benefit

of membership is that Ministers Council members who sign up for the Prairie Pastor's Conference will receive an additional \$40 travel reimbursement, in addition to having the registration fee fully covered (available to all clergy).

You can join the Minister's Council online at [ministerscouncil.com](http://ministerscouncil.com) or download a mail-in form from <http://tinyurl.com/yd2mhs9s>.

Registration is open at [www.prairiepastors.org](http://www.prairiepastors.org). This conference is FREE as registration cost will be covered by a Palmer Grant from the American Baptist Foundation.

# BEHAVIOR YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR PASTORAL LEADERS

*A series by the Reverend Dr. Joe Kutter, Interim Executive Minister of the Central Region  
Joe Kutter has served American Baptist churches in Michigan and Kansas. He is a past Executive Director of the American Baptist Ministers Council.*

Dear American Baptist Friend,

Your pastor has personally embraced a variety of disciplines, each of which contributes both to personal vitality and vocational integrity. This is the sixth bullet point in “The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Ministerial Leaders of American Baptist Churches.”

**I will maintain a disciplined ministry in such ways as keeping hours of prayers and devotion, endeavoring to maintain wholesome family relationships, sexual integrity, financial responsibility, regularly engaging in educational and recreational activities for ministerial and personal development. I will maintain good health habits.**

“Hours of prayers and devotion”: Your pastor has made a sacred promise to sustain an ongoing personal relationship with God.

“Wholesome family relationships”: Family relations require both time and attention, and your pastor has promised never to neglect this vital dimension of life.

“Sexual integrity”: In relationship with all members of the congregation and community, your pastor will conduct himself or herself according to the highest ethical standard. Relationships at home will be marked by fidelity and love.

“Financial responsibility”: Often this simply means “living within one’s means.” But financial responsibility also means doing, within the structures of integrity, that which is necessary to care for those family members who have been entrusted into the pastor’s care.

“Educational...activities for ministerial and personal development”: Not only must the pastor be relationally vital with family, congregation and community, in order to faithfully sustain ministry over the span of a lifetime, your pastor must engage the habits of life-long learning. The first great commandment says that we, including your pastor, are to love God with all of our mind. An intellectually stale pastor will soon become an obsolete pastor.

“Recreational activities for ministerial and personal development”: Genesis says that on the seventh day, “God rested.” The practice of a sabbath, engaging in activities and relationships that renew the soul and body is essential for a strong and wholesome ministry over time.

“I will maintain good health habits.” Too often honored in the breach, your pastor has made a sacred promise to attend to the only body and mind that God has given. Diet, exercise, appropriate rest – your pastor has promised to sustain the habits that generate good health.

**I will recognize my primary obligation to the church employing group to which I have been called, and will accept responsibilities only if they do not interfere with overall effectiveness of my ministry.**

For the person who seeks to serve the Kingdom by making this world a better place, the opportunities for involvement are nearly unlimited. Community organizations and denominational committees can absorb countless hours in the process of doing good work. In affirming the primary obligation to church or employing group, the pastor simply promises to put first things first.

**They’ve Moved!**

In February, the domestic personnel of **International Ministries** (IM) made a half-mile move to a new office space. Please make note of IM's new contact information, which took effect on February 5:

International Ministries  
1003 W. 9th Ave., Ste. A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210  
Receptionist: 610-768-2168  
Fax: 610-768-2115



If callers wishing to reach IM dial the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) receptionist at the toll-free number, 800-222-3872, they will be prompted to dial 4 to be connected with the IM receptionist. Note that the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary and the other denominational partners will remain in the current office building until further notice.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Did you know that the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board hosts free webinars on a regular basis? Here are two of the next webinars that may be of interest to you:

### **Webinar: College Planning**

March 21, 2018 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Learn ways to save for college, and understand the various kinds of financial assistance you may be eligible to receive.

### **Webinar: Social Security**

May 23, 2018 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Learn the basics of Social Security and how to maximize your Social Security benefit.

To register for either of these webinars, or to find out about future sessions, go to [www.mmbb.org/financial-planning/webinars-and-seminars/](http://www.mmbb.org/financial-planning/webinars-and-seminars/).



Did you know that the American Baptist Women's Ministries is also hosting a free webinar, scheduled for March 10, 2018, at 8 p.m. Central Time? **Legacy of the Prophets: A Dialogue about Scripture from Baptist and Muslim Perspectives**, is a one-time, free one-hour webinar as Muslim and Baptist women consider together the concept of prophecy and its similarities and differences between Islamic and Christian perspectives. Go to [www.abwministries.org/events](http://www.abwministries.org/events) for more information about this event.



Did you know that the American Baptist Home Mission Societies publishes their magazine, **The Christian Citizen**, online? You can read "Star Wars: The Last Jedi and a spark of true hope" by Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, or "Ash Wednesday: Showered with Stars" by J. Mary Luti, or "Shouldn't Praying the Lord's Prayer Make a Difference?" by Rev. Dr. Alice Burnette Greene. To read these and many other articles by American Baptist leaders, go to <https://medium.com/christian-citizen>.



Did you know that there is a new opportunity to connect with sister churches in Puerto Rico? Churches throughout our country are invited to sign up to participate in the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico - ABCUSA Sister Churches Initiative. The **Sister Churches Initiative** offers U.S. mainland churches the opportunity to befriend and express solidarity with Puerto Rican American Baptist congregations. Churches will be matched primarily by congregation size (up to 100, between 101-200, and over 200). The sister churches will be invited to join in friendship-building through prayer support, moral support and encouragement through written communications among pastoral leaders, church members and children. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/yag3k5fz>.

## AMERICAN BAPTIST GIRLS

The national leadership team of AB GIRLS (NLT) is comprised of four high school age girls and one adult from all across the country. The NLT works together to plan events, programs, and resources for ministry with girls. It's exciting service in Christ's name that provides a tremendous opportunity for leadership, spiritual growth, and developing deep friendships that last!



Youth members of the NLT serve a two-year term. There are two youth positions open beginning with the 2018-2019 year (in other words, starting in September, 2018).

Please prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to submit an application--or ask God to reveal to you girls or adults that you could encourage to apply.

Applications should be received by April 30. Submission information is included in the application packet at the link below.

Visit [www.abwministries.org/NLT](http://www.abwministries.org/NLT) for eligibility requirements, information about serving on the team, parent's newsletter, and a downloadable application packet.

## Save the date for the Region Youth Event 2018!

**November 2-4**

**The Church on Northland, Cedar Rapids, IA**

**Speaker: American Baptist Missionary and Global Consultant, Kristy Engel**



**Worship band: Temple Veil**



**Look for registration details soon!**

# 2018 CAMP SCHEDULES

## DAYTON OAKS

<b>Paintball Camp</b> June 17-22	Ages 11 and up \$345 before April 15; 370 after
<b>1-2 Cabin Camp</b> June 24-26	Entering Grades 1 and 2 \$135 before April 15; \$160 after
<b>3-4 Cabin Camp</b> June 26-29	Entering Grades 3 and 4 \$160 before April 15; \$185 after
<b>Fishing Camp</b> July 8-13	Entering 4 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$270 before April 15; \$295 after
<b>Horse Camp</b> July 8-13	Entering 4 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$335 before April 15; \$360 after
<b>Mission Work Camp</b> July 8-13	Entering 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$160 before April 15; \$185 after
<b>Camp on the Rock Jr.</b> July 15-20	Entering Grades 5 and 6 \$265 before April 15; \$290 after
<b>Camp on the Rock</b> July 22-27	Entering 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$265 before April 15; \$290 after

For more information or to register online  
[www.daytonoaks.org](http://www.daytonoaks.org)



## FOREST LAKE

<b>Camp Kickoff</b> June 2, 10:30 a.m.	Everyone invited <b>Free</b>
<b>Senior High Float Trip</b> May 18-19	Entering 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$60
<b>Deep and Wide</b> June 28-30	Entering 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades \$100 before May 11; \$110 after
<b>Collide</b> July 9-14	Entering 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$250 before May 11; \$275 after
<b>Encounter</b> July 16-21	Entering 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades \$250 before May 11; \$275 after
<b>Impact</b> July 23-28	Entering 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades \$250 before May 11; \$275 after
<b>Contact</b> July 30- Aug. 4	Entering 7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades \$250 before May 11; \$275 after

For more information or to register online  
[www.forestlakecamp.org](http://www.forestlakecamp.org)

# All for One and One for All

## Ephesians 4:4-6



# CHURCH NEWS

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**David Russell**, pastor of **First Baptist, Ames, IA**, took part in a recent mission trip to Costa Rica organized by the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region. The nine participants were American Baptists from across the country. (Homer Ford, former pastor at Indianola and now pastor in Franklin, Indiana, was also a member of the mission team.) The group had the opportunity to visit a wide variety of churches that are part of the Federation of Baptist Churches of Costa Rica, meeting with pastor and lay leaders in communities near the capital of San Jose and along the Atlantic coast. This included English speaking churches in Limon that were founded by Jamaican Baptists. The group also attended a pastors' cluster meeting and the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer gathering.



Most of the churches visited were potential sites for future work groups. The churches in Costa Rica face many of the same challenges and dynamics as our churches in the U.S., and the trip was an opportunity for American and Costa Rican pastors and leaders to connect and learn from each other and encourage one another.



Rev. Ruth Yeaton was honored with a retirement reception on Sunday, January 7th at the First Baptist Church of Charles City, IA. Ruth served in Mid-American Baptist churches for 32 years; 19 in Charles City and 13 in Indianola, IA.

God Whispers, a book of devotionals, scriptures, and poetry, has been self-published by Rev. Nancy J. Wheeler, and is available for purchase from Nancy (at a reduced cost), from Amazon, or as an e-book. For more information, call 515-360-3520.

## Forest Lake Spring Work Week

Monday, April 23 through Saturday April 28, 2018

Workers and tools are needed to get the camp ready for a new season. Some jobs are replacing linoleum, cutting wood, clearing trails (skid steer needed), putting in a woven wire fence, and updating and improving the disc golf course.



The usual "spring cleaning" projects on structures and grounds will also be needed, and some new improvements have been made since last spring.

Come see, come help, come serve.

*Gary Morrison*



We extend our sympathy to the family of the Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Rathbun, who passed away on January 5, 2018. He served as pastor of churches in Kansas and Missouri, as well as being pastor of First Baptist Church of Dubuque, IA from 1966 until 1969. He later served as Interim Minister of First Baptist Church of Ottumwa, IA in 1991.

In addition, Bill also served as Area Minister for our Region and later as a representative of the Foundation of the Region. He also was deeply involved in the ministry of Forest Lake Camp and Conference Center.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Jeanne Miller, who passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 24th. Jeanne served in a variety of positions with the Mid-American Baptist Women, most recently as secretary and treasurer.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Rev. Larry Graves, whose mother passed away in February. Larry is the pastor at First Baptist Indianola, IA.

# MID-AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



*Feel/Siente*

AB Women's Ministries in Minnesota and Iowa continues to evolve and change in order to encourage and empower women and girls and support vital ministries. Recently, our region underwent a change from five areas to three. Minnesota North, Iowa West, and Iowa East are the new

names of the areas in which we can gather for rallies and small group events. In April, we are planning Spring Rallies in all three areas to host missionaries, Wayne & Katherine Niles.

We are grieving the loss of two wonderful women who volunteered for many years to hold positions on the AB Women's Ministries region board. Our long-time treasurer, Donna Liscum, passed away late last year and we lost our board secretary, Jeanne Miller in January. Please keep both families in your prayers as well as our region board as they search for women to take up the vacant positions.

### Region Project Money and Dues

Please send all dues and money collected for the region project to:

Mid-ABC

Attn: ABWM

2400 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 15

Des Moines, IA 50322-4306

### AB Women's Summer Conference

June 22-23, 2018 at FBC Fort Dodge, IA

All women and young girls are invited to attend the summer event featuring special guest speaker Rev. Sooji

Whitten Ford along with our National Young Adult Women's Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Yana Pagan. There will be activities for AB Girls, Young Adult Women, and AB Women of all ages. Mark your calendars, invite women and girls to attend, and stay tuned for more information to come.

### Region Project

The goal of \$3,500 will be received this year for the Women's Surgical Care Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. \$50 covers pre- and postoperative care for two mothers and their newborns. \$100 pays for the operating time for a C-section and \$250 pays for a C-section for two mothers. Please give generously to this project.

If you have any questions about AB Women's Ministries, please contact me at 319-215-5433 or email [waterloofbc@yahoo.com](mailto:waterloofbc@yahoo.com).

Susan Price  
Mid-America ABWM President

## Spring Rallies April 20-22, 2018

Friday, April 20 at Dayton Oaks Camp

Saturday, April 21 at Forest Lake Camp

Sunday, April 22 at FBC Woodbury, MN

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Spring Rallies with American Baptist missionary speakers, Wayne & Katherine Niles, who serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. More information and registration will be available soon. All women and young girls are invited and encouraged to attend whichever date and location works best for your schedule.

## ABWM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The national board of managers of American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) has announced that the Rev. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain has accepted its invitation and call to the position of Executive Director and will lead the national organization following the retirement of Virginia R. Holmstrom on March 1. Jacobs-Strain began her employment on February 1 as executive director-elect, providing a month-long period of orientation with Holmstrom and ABWM staff.

An ordained American Baptist minister, Jacobs-Strain served First Baptist Church -New Market (Piscataway, NJ) as its transitional pastor; is department chair of Division of Student Success at Nyack College (Nyack, NY); and supports women in ministry in American Baptist Churches of New Jersey as associate regional pastor for Women in Ministry. Prior to 2003, she was employed as senior credit deputy at JP Morgan Chase (Manhattan, NY), and for two years as assistant vice president of State Street Bank (Boston, MA).

Jacobs-Strain describes her call and transition into church-related leadership: "I am filled with awe and expectation as I join a sisterhood of women committed to build the body of Christ by intentionally following the movement of God, being fully engaged in the denomination's missional focus and by embracing the gifts and participation of all women and girls throughout the United States and Puerto Rico."



The **COMMUNICATOR**

## DEALING WITH ANXIETY

You are invited to attend *Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective*, a one-day workshop that looks at the challenges presented by the rising levels of anxiety being experienced in churches today. You will learn practical skills that will help you defuse anxious situations and maintain a non-anxious presence. This interdenominational workshop will be hosted by Minnetonka United Methodist Church in Minnetonka, MN (Minneapolis area) on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. Discounts are available for individuals and church groups who register by May 2, 2018. Please call the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center at 630-627-0507, email them at [Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org), or visit their website at [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

## SUMMER CAMPING JOB OPPORTUNITY

Dayton Oaks Camp is looking for energetic, God fearing, camp loving individuals to work at camp this summer. There are 4 positions open:

- Summer cook
- Male leader (2 positions available)
- Female leader

Please contact Matt Siebert at the camp right away if you are interested in working at camp this summer. You may call the camp at 515-547-2417 or email him at [mabcamp@lvcta.com](mailto:mabcamp@lvcta.com).

**Mid-ABC Quilters' Retreat**  
**May 4-6, 2018**  
**Lou Ann's Quilt Garden**  
**Oelwein, IA**  
**Go to [www.mid-abc.org](http://www.mid-abc.org)**  
**for more information and**  
**to register online**

### THE COMMUNICATOR

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