



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

January 2015

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION



From the Director

"What Is Really Urgent and Important?"

All of us in leadership spend too much time doing ridiculous things that are a complete waste of time. In many cases, we do so because we are trying to avoid going outside our comfort zone. Stephen Covey explains that all of our time is spent in one of four quadrants.

1. Important and urgent
2. Important but not urgent

3. Not important but urgent
4. Not important and not urgent

I cannot speak for you, but it seems that most of my life is spent in quad 1. Question. What comes to your mind when you hear the word church? Some will picture simple things like wooden pews, crosses, singing, baptisms, potlucks and more. For me it is a little more complex. As a regional leader, I can summarize church with two words. SPIRITUAL HEALTH.

Did you know that between Latin America and China, there are 60,000 converts daily? That is 2,500 converts per hour or 42 converts every minute. What is going on in America? 3,500 - 4,000 churches close their doors each Sunday. That is 71 churches each week, 10 churches each day or 1 church closure every 2 ½ hours. Growing churches make up only about 20% of all U.S. churches and the rest (80%) have reached a plateau or are declining. SPIRITUAL HEALTH. That is what is on my mind every time I enter a church.

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 a Healthy Congregation" seminar that will be in your area in 2015. The cost is only \$25 which includes materials and lunch. The first seminar will be in Wisconsin.

Developing a Healthy Congregation
"What is Really Urgent and Important?"

February 7, 2015, 10am-2pm
Calvary Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI

You can register by contacting our CB North Central regional office. Remember what I said regarding doing things that are important and urgent? Here is your opportunity to take the first step to developing spiritual health in your own church.



Contact us at 763-205-9330 or wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org if you have further questions. Please act upon this *urgent and important* event by registering now.

Pat Phinney
CBNC Regional Director

Pastor's Wives. . . Just for You "Refocus Your Focus"

Happy New Year to you and your family! I'm guessing by now most of the Christmas decorations have been safely packed away until next year. I always think that is kind of sad. Everything looks more beautiful with all the lights and decorations. Even though we are now well into January please allow me to share one more thing about Christmas. We have three nativity sets that I put out in different places in our home. Every time our grandkids would come for a visit I would find those figurines all rearranged. It was very interesting. They would always place them so they were all in a circle around the manger. The Wise men, Mary, Joseph, the camels, the donkey, the shepherd and his sheep were all looking at Baby Jesus. I would put them back to what I thought was a better arrangement. You know - more aesthetically pleasing. When they came back they would rearrange once again so that everyone was focused on Jesus.



As I was packing up those nativity pieces, I couldn't help but reflect on that. It made me think. How many times am I more concerned about how things look than keeping my focus on Jesus? It is so easy for those of us in ministry to get side tracked by the busyness of ministry. I want to be like one of those sheep that my grandkids repositioned to be looking at the manger. Let's begin this year by refocusing our focus!

This month let's pray that our husbands will be able to keep their focus on Jesus in the midst of their busy schedules and all the things that come their way each day. Here are some verses to get us started. . .

"I pray that my husband's eyes will always be on the Lord, for only He will release his feet from the snare."

Psalm 25:15

"I pray that my husband will lift up his eyes to You, to You whose throne is in heaven."

Psalm 123:1

"I pray that my husband will fix his eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 2:18

"I pray that my husband will fix his eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of his faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that my husband will not grow weary and lose heart."

Hebrews 12:2&3

This time of the year nothing tastes better on a cold, cold night than a hot bowl of soup. Here is one of our favorites.

Mushroom Barley Soup

1 1/2 pounds boneless beef chuck, cut into 3/4 inch cubes
1 tablespoon cooking oil
2 cups finely chopped onion
1 cup diced carrots
1/2 cup sliced celery
1 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1 can (14.5 ounces) beef broth
1 can (14.5 ounces) chicken broth
2 cups water
1/2 cup medium pearl barley
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
3 tablespoons fresh parsley



In a Dutch oven or soup kettle, brown meat in oil. Remove meat with a slotted spoon and set aside. Saute' onion, carrots and celery in drippings over medium heat until tender, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms, garlic and thyme; cook and stir for 3 minutes. Add broth, water, barley, salt and pepper. Return meat to pan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until barley and meat are tender. Stir in parsley. Makes about 10 servings. Enjoy!

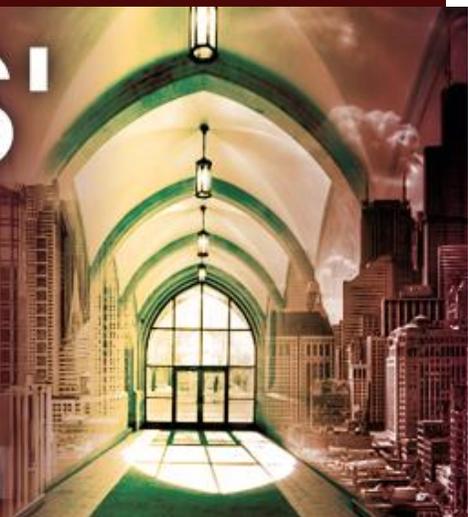
Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director

PASTORS'

CONFERENCE



MAY 18-21, 2015 · CHICAGO



It's time to start planning for the next Moody Pastor's Conference. Yes it's a few months away, but before you know it you'll be wishing you had registered early!

For more information about speakers, musicians and the 2015 schedule [click on the picture above](#) to go directly to the site.

Register by **February 28, 2015 through CBNC** for the Early Bird discount.

Conference Registration

\$200 per person. Includes all sessions and breakout sessions.

Early Bird through Moody is \$230.

x

Conference Registration with Meals

\$300 per person. Includes all sessions and breakout sessions and 10 meals and evening snacks.

Early Bird through Moody is \$330.

x

Conference Registration with Housing and Meals

\$400 per person (double or triple occupancy). Includes all sessions and breakout sessions, a four-night stay in campus housing and 10 meals plus evening snacks.

Early Bird through Moody is \$430. Single occupancy is \$480.

As this event is designed for men in the pastorate, registration for housing and meals are available only to men. Pastors' wives may attend the general sessions (not breakout sessions) without charge or registration.

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. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1st.

Congratulations to two of our CBNC pastors who have recently retired. Both on the same day, January 4, 2015. Thank you for your many years of service.

Pastor DelRoy Johnson
Oak Park Community Church, Blaine, MN

Pastor Bruce Peterson
First Baptist Church, Big Rapids, MI

These men have served their churches well and we pray they would enjoy some sweet time apart from the busy schedules that they have known during their ministry. Time to relax, enjoy family and explore. Of course we all know that a pastor never truly retires.



Every note and card we receive from you at CB North Central is special and treasured. We so appreciate your kind and uplifting words. The following note was especially heart touching and we wanted to share it with

you. Thank you Kylie!

Dear Pat and Karen,

Thank you for the
work you do. Sharing
God's love is important

You have a great
job! I will pray for
you. Jesus' birthday
is soon!

May God bless you!

7 years old

Love,

Kylie

Church Law and Tax



Review the Basics of Benevolence

Plus four other trends, tips, ideas, and stats to help church leaders manage well this week.

- by Matt Branaugh [Read More](#)

3 Steps to Keep Criminals from Targeting Your Church

Property prep, community relations, and common sense can go a long way. -

by Matt Branaugh [Read More](#)

Create a Research and Development Fund

Budget for unexpected ministry opportunities. - by Joy Skjegstad [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

STAFF POSITIONS

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

CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern Minnesota

Thursday, January 15, 10am - 12pm Skype

and Thursday, February 19, 10am - 12pm Skype

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

Central Minnesota

Monday, February 9, 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

Attend "Developing a Healthy Church Seminar", Saturday, February 7, 10am-
2-pm
Seminar at Calvary Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI
*Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-1054*

Iowa

*Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA
319-396-3233*

Illinois

Tuesday, January 27, 10:00 - 3:30
Meeting at Bethany Baptist Church, 7422 North Heinz Ln, Edwards, IL
*Art Georges, Living Hope Community Church, Bartonville, IL
309-633-0028 art@livinghopecentral.org*

Michigan



To Be Determined

Mike Wetzig, Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI

231-853-6021



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Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

Stay Connected

Website: www.cbnorthcentral.org



