



CB NORTH CENTRAL

Connecting Churches Who Love God and the Gospel

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION



From the Regional Director

New Year's Resolutions??

You did it Pastor! You made it through another year. By the time you receive this newsletter, 2013 is in the history books. 2014 will be one more year full of possibility which has 12 months; 52 weeks; 365 days; 8760 hours; 525,600 minutes; and 31,536,000 seconds. What will you do with all this time?

This is typically the time of year people want to make resolutions. In the dictionary resolution is defined as "a course of action decided upon; a fixed purpose." We resolve to do things differently like lose weight; exercise more; be a better person; spend more time with the family; or read more books. The resolutions just keep coming.

We can even quote the scripture from Ephesians 5:15-17, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Then there is Philippians 3:13b-14, "but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Ok, I confess, "I am not a New Year's resolution kind of guy." I personally think they set us up for failure or at best it is an open door to make unobtainable commitments we never intend to keep. In the midst of all that New Year's rhetoric, I am all about looking ahead to the future. After all, is that not what good leaders do? God looked ahead before He sent His Son Jesus (Galatians 4:4-5). Jesus looked ahead before He chose His disciples (John 15:16), prepared them for a place called heaven (John 14:1-4), and then eventually prepared them for His death, departure (John 16:17-20), and soon coming.

As one of the regional leaders, I am very excited about 2014. Yes, we have had our challenges this last year and the evidence of CBNC ministry change still lingers. We are in the middle of Ministry Mapping or "extreme makeover" in the region and you will see much more of that this year. As I travel and get among our CB churches, the Biblical mandate (not suggestion) in Matthew 28:18-20 remains heavy upon me. We are deeply committed to the intentional disciple making process as a Board, as we offer support to our churches. The newly written CBNC mission statement resonates in my ears, "CB North Central exists to nurture and connect a community of churches toward passionately loving God, loving each other and a commitment to making disciples of Jesus Christ."

"Do you mean to say we are summarizing the entire purpose and goal of the region in 2014 into this one simple statement?" That is correct! Everything we desire to do as a region, flows from this overriding commitment to make effective life-changing disciples that will both glorify God and build His church to full spiritual maturity. This intentional disciple making process is close to my heart, as I have meditated on Philippians 3:10; Ephesians 4:12-13; James 1:2-4 and Luke 6:40.

It is my observation these past three years as a director that while most CB churches believe the mandate to "make disciples", very few effectively make them. Did you know that the average "evangelical" church in America wins less than 2 new converts a year per 100 attenders? That is astonishing! Only 11% of church members have shared the gospel even once in the last year. 33% have never shared the gospel with anyone. How about this one. One-third of church member's state their greatest needs are not being met by their own church. Shall I stop? From a survey of 6,000 church members, there was absolutely NO correlation between church attendance and spiritual maturity. And finally, less than 50% of church members pray for 5 minutes at least twice a week.

What I have just said clearly defines our regional passion for this New Year. Our newly written CBNC values says it all . . . We value spiritual healthy

churches that accomplish the mission of making disciples. We value the mentoring or coaching of younger next generation pastors. We value the reproduction of believers that bring about Christ-likeness in the church. We value the reproduction of servant leaders that bring greater maturity in leading the church. We value the reproduction of missional churches that impact a community with the Gospel. We value pastoral development that ensures training and resourcing for missional impact. We value ministry clusters with peer-to-peer training, support and accountability. We value healthy pastoral transition where decisions are based on values, mission and vision. We value a peace making culture that brings about healthy interpersonal relationships. We value the interdependence and connection among all churches. And we value Biblical orthodox theology that unites churches on the relevancy of Scriptures.

I ask for your prayers as we continue the all-important Mapping of our region and when we are done, you will enjoy the long anticipated "reveal". God knows our heart, but we will look different.

Pat Phinney, Regional Director



From the Office of CB North Central

The CB North Central office has now been in Minnesota for three months and we are looking forward to the fresh start of a new year and all that God has instore. In case you missed it our new contact information is as follows:

CB North Central

PO Box 490441, Blaine MN 55449

Office Phone: 763-205-9330

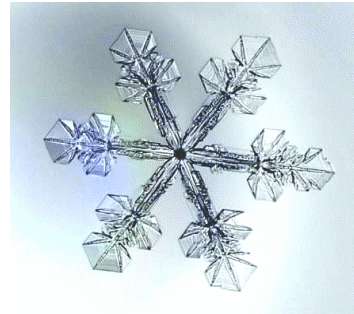
NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.cbnorthcentral.org

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES:

CB North Central Office: wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org
Pat Phinney, Regional Director: patp@cbnorthcentral.org
Pat's Home Office: 952-322-7173
Pat's Cell: 952-500-3743

At a meeting I recently attended the scripture verse we centered on was *Philippians 4:8*. "Whatever is *true*, whatever is *noble*, whatever is *right*, whatever is *pure*, whatever is *lovely*, whatever is *admirable*, if anything is *excellent*, or *praiseworthy* think about such things." What will each of us focus on this year?



Wendy Jonasen

Administrative Assistant



Pastor's Wives . . . New For You

Happy New Year!

I pray that 2014 will be a year filled with more blessings that you can imagine!

Last month we shared that the newsletter is going to include a section specifically for pastor's wives. Well..... here it is! It's still a work in progress and I am certainly open to suggestions and ideas.

Most of our 10 state region has been experiencing a colder than normal winter so far this year. As I'm writing this it is -11 degrees with a wind chill of -45. It's on days like this that we can certainly enjoy something hot to drink. I thought I'd share this recipe with you. If you were at the Pastors/Wives Retreat a couple of years ago you may remember this.



FIRESIDE COFFEE

Mix Together:

2 cups instant hot chocolate mix

2 cups non-dairy creamer

1 cup instant coffee

1 ½ cups sugar

1 ½ tsp cinnamon

½ tsp nutmeg

Place 2-3 heaping teaspoons in cup and pour in hot water. Enjoy!

PRAYING TOGETHER

I wish we could all get together and pray for our husbands. Because that isn't possible, I thought we would focus on a specific area each month. This month I want us to pray that they will be encouraged as they remember how much God loves them. Many of your husbands may be going through some difficult times and they could use this reminder and reassurance. Even when things are going great it is wonderful to remember God's unconditional love for us! This is my prayer for each of you as well.

Here are just a few verses to get you started - -

I pray that You, Christ, may dwell in my husband's heart through faith and that he, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know Your love which passes knowledge; that he may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:17-19

I pray that my husband never forgets that You, God, demonstrated Your own love toward him, in that while he was still a sinner, Christ died for him.
Romans 5:8

I pray that my husband knows that You, God, have loved him with an everlasting love and with everlasting kindness You have drawn him.
Jeremiah 31:3

I pray that my husband realizes that You, God, will rejoice over him with gladness. That You will quiet him in Your love and that You will rejoice over him with singing.
Zephaniah 3:17

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. I thought I'd share an idea with you
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A few years ago I decided to keep Valentine's Day going all year long. Every month on the 14th I did something special to remind Pat how much I love him. Some months it was just a note. Other months I made his favorite dessert or cooked his favorite dinner. There are so many possibilities. Go somewhere he really likes to go (Menards) or to the movie of his choice. You can be as creative as you want to be. It was fun for me to come up with ideas and I know that Pat enjoyed the year as well.

We are still trying to get all the email addresses for pastors' wives so we can get this to them. (Men, if you are reading this please make sure we have your wife's address.) You can send them to Wendy at the office wendyj@cbnorthcentral.org or to me at kjphinney@gmail.com.

Karen Phinney, Wife of Regional Director



Thoughts From A Cluster Leader

Body Blows

Have you ever been through a time when, out of the blue, people start finding fault with just about everything that you do? In the last couple of months I've taken some shots, some real body blows to my ego. My leadership has been questioned. My preaching has been criticized. My character has been maligned. One person went so far as to comparing me to Jim Jones. (For you younger readers, Google him. He's the cult leader of the late 70's, not the rapper.) [\(click here to read more\)](#)

*Pastor Stephen Schoenwald
River of Life Church, Hastings, MN*



Youth Pastor to Youth Pastor

Encouraging Students as They Welcome a New Youth Leader

Perhaps you've heard the statistic quoted that the average stay for a youth pastor in a church is 18 months. Read *Nate Miller's* article that lists six simple points to encourage students to pursue as they welcome their new youth leader. [\(click here to read more\)](#)

*Nate Miller, Youth Pastor
First Baptist Church, Sycamore, IL*



CBAmerica Chaplaincy

In the military prison where a number of men sit on death row chaplains are required to visit them on a daily basis. The senior CBAmerica chaplain in one of those prisons takes a chair, places it in front of the inmates cell and will ask the inmate, "So how is it going for you today?" Some of these are Muslim men waiting to be put to death. Usually the conversation turns to who is Jesus and how is He different than Mohammed? [\(click here to read more\)](#)

*Allen Russell
CBAmerica Chaplaincy*



Church Law & Tax

Starting a New Church?

Church Law & Tax unveils "Starting a New Church?" a free, step-by-step infographic on key legal and tax issues. It contains a comprehensive list of to-do items, plus links to resources and more information. It's perfect for any church or denomination involved with planting, or any church planter trying to get started. [Read More](#)

Top Ten Church Management Articles

A number of acts and legal developments in 2013 significantly affected churches, pushing three articles toward the top of the list of this year's top 10 most popular articles on ManagingYourChurch.com. Richard Hammar and Frank Sommerville dove into the many details of these developments and provided answers to common questions related to them. [Read More](#)



CB North Central Pastoral Cluster Groups

North Dakota/Northern Minnesota

Thursday, February 20, 10am - 12pm

Skype

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

Central Minnesota

Monday, February 10 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

Saturday, February 1 9am - 1pm Leadership Training

Calvary Baptist, Eau Claire, WI

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

To Be Determined

Mark Friday, First Baptist Church, Pekin, IL 309-347-5965

Michigan

To Be Determined

Mike Wetzig, Ravenna Baptist Church, Ravenna, MI 231-853-6021

For a Pastor Cluster Leader in your area, [click here](#)

**Please Pray For the Following Churches in Transition:****SENIOR PASTOR**

- Mason Township Baptist Church - Cassopolis, MI
- First Baptist Church - Plainwell, MI

- First Baptist Church - Bradford, IL
- First Baptist Church - Streator, IL
- Delavan Baptist Church - Delavan, IL
- First Baptist Church - Elmhurst, IL
- Calvary Church at Village Green - Moorhead, MN
- First Baptist Church - Whitehall, WI

STAFF POSITIONS

- Bethel Baptist Church - Jackson, MI DIRECTOR of FAMILY MINISTRIES
- First Baptist Church - Spring Lake, MI ASSOCIATE PASTOR
- Oak Grove Church - Golden Valley, MN ASSOCIATE PASTOR



PO Box 490441 Blaine MN 55449 · 763-205-9330
Regional Director: 952-322-7173

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website: www.cbnorthcentral.org