



March 1, 2015

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

10 Churches Awarded Curtis Park Grants

In February, ten churches were awarded grants from the Curtis Park Fund for community service projects. So far 23 community service grants have been awarded to 14 ABCRM churches with the grants averaging \$3,050 per grant – a total of over \$70,000! The original intent of the community service grants was to enable ABCRM churches to try new projects in their local communities. It is very exciting and encouraging that over the past three years the impact of the Curtis Park Community Center has been able to continue by providing matching funds to ABCRM churches.



The ABCRM Finance Committee, who evaluates the requests, received community service grant applications totaling \$38,500. This is 350% more than any other application cycle! It is fantastic that so many of our churches are reaching out in their communities. In the past with only 2 or 3 requests per application cycle, the Finance Committee, stretched the guidelines in some cases and were very generous when awarding grants. This time the committee spent more time discussing how each request measured up to the intent of the original criteria and limited some of the awards.

The Finance Committee also reviewed the criteria for future Curtis Park Community Service grants. The following changes have been made to the criteria for the next round of applications:

- Individual community service project grants can range from \$500 to \$3,000
- The community service projects should be a new outreach for the church and impact the local community
- The applying American Baptist organization would supply over half of the costs of the project

To see a copy of the revised guidelines for the next grant cycle (July 31, 2015), go to: www.abcrm.org / Resources / Grants / Curtis Park Grant Application Instructions.

There is still \$24,864 left of the Curtis Park Fund to support future community service projects. Look around your community for ways you can make a difference. Fill out a grant request and your church could be one of the fortunate grant recipients when grants are awarded in August.

*Karen Van
Region Administrator*

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America for Christ Offering **2015**



Grace Experienced: Turning Lives Around



By supporting various community ministries through grants, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) touches countless lives. Take, for example, Kevin Wilson, 27, of Washington, D.C. His life was turned around by the National Center for Children and Families' Men-in-Motion (MIM) program, which received an ABHMS Children in Poverty grant in both 2013 and 2014.

Approximately 75 men participate yearly in the program, which was founded in 1999 as a court-ordered counseling program for males returning to the community after incarceration. In 2009, MIM was opened to all males at least age 18 and, more recently, a component was added for high school males.

Most of the program's participants reside in D.C.'s wards 7 and 8, where they are exposed to high rates of poverty, crime, drug abuse, domestic violence, inadequate housing, substandard medical services, unemployment and hunger.

MIM activities include resume writing, job search assistance, job interview techniques, educational/vocational training and referrals, financial literacy instruction, parent and family rights legal advice, fatherhood training and peer mentoring.

Wilson now participates in a sheet metal apprenticeship program through the HVAC Union Local 100. For being an exemplary single father to his 5-year-old son, Kevin Jr., Wilson was recently named "Father of the Year" by 100 Fathers Inc. and Concerned Black Men, both Men-in Motion partners.

"The program has helped better me as a person, and it's an opportunity for me to give back to try to help other guys who feel like they're going through things—hardships, hard times," Wilson says. "Everyone needs help to get through things in life that we all go through."

Your support of the America for Christ (AFC) Offering aids organizations that change individuals' lives throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. For more information about AFC, visit www.abhms.org and click the AFC logo.

America For Christ Offering Sunday is March 1, 2015

Festival of HOMILETICS

MAY 11-15, 2015
DENVER

This year's Festival of Homiletics will be held in Denver May 11-15, 2015. To register and for more information (speakers, schedule, venues, etc.) visit their website at <https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/>.

Single registrations are \$285.00, cost for two or more is \$270.00 per person. Your Region office is offering \$150.00 scholarships to Region senior pastors who would like to attend. For information, contact your Region coach.

MLC Systematic Theology Online Course

April 1-30, 2015

Instructor: Rev. Daniel M. Schweissing

Cost: \$100.00

Registration Deadline: March 20, 2015

This course will examine the major areas of systematic theology: nature of inspiration, Christology, salvation, and the nature of the church, as articulated by a variety of voices within the American Baptist denomination. It will culminate with the writing of a major theological reflection paper. This paper will prepare the student for writing their ordination paper for the ABCRM ordination process.

Systematic Theology (Course Outline)

Week 1: Theological Method/Doctrine of Scripture (Bibliology)

Week 2: The Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

Week 3: The Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

Week 4: The Doctrine of Church (Ecclesiology)

Required Text

Jones, Beth Felker. *Practicing Christian Doctrine: An Introduction to Thinking and Living Theologically*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014.

Rev. Dr. Larron Jackson
ABCRM Academic Dean
ljackson@abcrm.org
303-988-3900 / office
303-594-3941 / cell

New Visions Training

A Training Program for Congregational Leaders

March 6-7, 2015

Littleton, Colorado

\$225 per person for groups of 3 or more*

\$100 per person for student or seminarian*

www.newvisions.us

New Visions is a congregational training program by Peter Steinke focused on establishing a mission environment within congregations that raises awareness, enhances mission vitality, increases mission activity, and explores the dynamics inherent in change & transformation. This 2-day training, led by Peter Steinke, is open to all denominations, clergy & laity.

For more information on New Visions and a listing of the topics to be covered by the training, visit

www.newvisions.us.

Front Range Camp

at Quaker Ridge

July 5-11, 2015

Don't miss the fun!

Our registration process is changing. Beginning this year, all registrations must be completed online. More information and the registration process will be sent to our churches and campers soon.



Poof A Church Disappears

We have a small restaurant near our home. It serves... er... ah... food. Its name doesn't contain any descriptors to let me know what kind of



food it does serve. Occasionally, they post a poorly-made handwritten sign boasting the special of the day. I seem to see the sign when I don't want to stop for food.

Don't get me wrong, I obviously get hungry and I eat out more than I should, so I should stop in. When I drive by though, I rarely see cars in their parking lot. That screams something to me. Oh wait! They went under. As I drove by them this morning, they had their doors closed and their sign taken down.

Poof. The restaurant's gone.

I wonder what'll go into that location next. I hope they'll have something I'm looking for.

Wait! This is a Church Communications blog — why am I writing about restaurants?! The scary truth is that I could be writing about the local church.

Everyday a person from your community drives by your church, looks in, and realizes that you are a... er... ah... church. Your church sign says so. You probably even look like a church. But they don't know what you're serving. Or if they do, they suspect it's hatred, intolerance and crazy religious rules.

Mmmmm. That's appetizing, eh!?

Communities are growing while almost 80% of churches are in stagnation or decline. Several polls have shown that less than a quarter of our communities go to church regularly. According to a Pew [study](#) a couple of years ago, almost a quarter of our population has no affiliation with ANY church (and that's increasing every year). I guess that's why about 4000 churches are closing their doors every year in America.

Poof. Who cares?

And the community drives by and wonders what'll go in to the empty building. Hopefully something that they'll need.

This is the reason for effective church communications. Except for a few churches that want to change perception of "church", the community doesn't know why anyone

would want to go into that building they pass daily. They don't "need" anything they think you're offering.

Our signs don't tell them, our websites are confusing with internal church words and acronyms, and our social media bombards people with announcements and religious material that the community wouldn't want. Or we're not consistently communicating. Some stuff is great, others are lacking.

Maybe we need to think wildly different. Maybe we need to go in our communities and serve them. Give them things they do need. Maybe they'd consider going to a meeting and engaging with a group of kind people who have loved on them for awhile. Maybe we need to fix our communications so that they'll know.

If you're a church communicator who wants to do it better, bravo! Let's start doing church communications effectively so we can reach our communities and reverse the crazy numbers of disappearing churches. Let us [know](#) if we can play a part in it.

Mark MacDonald

*Senior Brand Strategist, Creative Director, Blogger
BeKnownForSomething PinPointCreative*

This post originally appeared on the [Church Marketing Sucks](#) blog. Mark MacDonald is a regular writer for this and other national publications about effective church communications, church websites and digital hubs (social, web, email).

Originally published at [BeKnownForSomething.com](#) (who holds the copyright); an organization dedicated to effective church communications while helping individuals and ministries become known for something influential; so they'll point to Christ. Printed with Permission.

2014 Annual Reports

It is that time of year again to collect your church data to update our Region office data and National registry. We know that this process takes some time to complete, but the information is useful to assess the health of our denomination. It helps us plan for future mission and ministry, so your reports are important!

2014 Annual Report's were mailed to each church in February. Please take the time to complete your report and send it in early.

We thank all of you for your support to our Region.

2011 Annual Report		ABC of the Rocky Mountains	
<p>CHURCH INFORMATION</p> <p>Church Name: _____</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____</p> <p>State: _____</p> <p>Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Fax: _____</p> <p>Website: _____</p> <p>Other: _____</p>			
<p>CHURCH MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Current Membership: _____</p> <p>Active Membership: _____</p> <p>Family Membership: _____</p> <p>Other: _____</p>			
<p>NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>Number: _____</p> <p>Gender: _____</p> <p>Age: _____</p> <p>Other: _____</p>			
<p>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</p> <p>Worship: _____</p> <p>Offering: _____</p> <p>Other: _____</p>			
<p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>			

2015 Save the Dates

Camp Wyoba

Wyoming Men's Retreat
June 5-7

Survival Camp
June 28-July 1

Junior Camp
July 5-11

Junior High Camp
July 12-18

Senior High Camp
July 19-25

Primary Camp
July 26-29

Young Adult Weekend
July 31-August 2

Wyoming Women's Retreat
August 7-9

Registration packets for Camp Wyoba Junior, Junior High, Senior High and Primary camps were mailed to last year's campers and our



churches in January. If you did not receive a packet or if you need more packets, please call our office at 303-988-3900. We look forward to seeing all of you at camp this year!

Front Range Camp @ Quaker Ridge
July 5-11



Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit
August 6-7



For more information, visit <http://www.americanbaptists2015.com/>

Wyoming Men's Retreat



June 5-7, 2015

Location: Camp Wyoba, Casper Wyoming
Time: Friday at 5:00pm -Sunday afternoon
Cost: \$20 to cover meals

Men, you are invited to come to Wyoba for a men's retreat weekend full of fun, food, fellowship, and freedom from the city! Pastor Jason King from FBC Cheyenne is hosting this retreat and will be planning the Bible teaching and worship. On Saturday the group will be completing projects to prepare the camp for the season. If you are looking for a chance to do manly things like sleep in a cabin, build things, eat lots of food, and use your pocket knife, than this weekend is for you!

Contact Jason at jason@cheyennefbc.com or Amber at wyoba@abcrn.org for more info



For a registration form, [click here](#).

For a registration form, [click here](#).

Wyoming Women's Retreat Theme

*"Rock Solid Living: The Foundation of the
Sermon on the Mount"*



August 7-9, 2015

**The retreat begins promptly at
5:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner
and will end after lunch at 1:00
p.m. on Sunday*

Women, we hope you will accept this invitation and join us for a mountaintop experience where we will learn principles for leading a rock solid life for Christ!

Contact Jenita with questions at mjmipack@vcn.com or 307-321-4681



Please send registration form and payment to:
ABCRM
9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite #170
Centennial, CO 80112

Location:
Camp Wyoba
9350 Casper Mountain
Road, Casper, WY 82601



Back by popular demand

Who Killed the Church?

*An Original Gospel Play
Written by Angela Faison*

A Musical Dramatization reminding us that...“maybe it’s not everybody else’s fault,” and challenging all of us to take a deeper look within.

Sponsored by
Colorado Sisterhood Crusade



Net Proceeds Benefit the
CSC Scholarship Fund

**Featuring National
Recording Artist
for Sunday Performance**



Maurette Brown-Clark

Denver First Church of the Nazarene
3800 E. Hampden Ave.
Englewood, CO 80113

Friday - March 13th - 7:00pm
(Doors open at 6:15pm)

Sunday - March 15th - 4:30pm
(Doors open at 3:45pm)
Admission: \$15.00

Concessions & Vendor Shopping Available

Ticket Sales:
The Word Bookstore
Landmark Ministries
Living Hope Baptist Church
Denver First Church of the Nazarene
www.coloradosisterhoodcrusade.org
720-273-2472

Christian Community Credit Union Offers \$50,000 in Scholarships!

Do you or someone you know need money for college? Christian Community Credit Union's "Scholarships for Success" Program can help students pursue their dreams. In

2015, we are awarding \$50,000 in scholarships! To qualify, applicants need to be members of the Credit Union with an active Checking Account and enrolling for Fall 2015 taking 12 units or more for undergraduate students; six units or more for graduate students per semester/quarter at a college, university or seminary.

If you have a friend or family member who's looking for college funds and is not yet a member of Christian Community Credit Union, now's a good time for them to join. Applications for scholarship and membership can be submitted at the same time.

Scholarship applications are due March 31, 2015.

Student Deals

Christian Community Credit Union offers Student Advantage Banking... a money-saving program exclusively for students ages 16-24.



Student Choice...a private loan solution

Christian Community Credit Union will be offering Student Choice—a private loan solution to help fill education funding gaps when federal aid isn't enough.

For details, visit: www.mycccu.com/scholarship



Calvary Baptist Church Denver has an opening for a custodian. The job description can be found at <http://abcrm.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/CHURCH-CUSTODIAN-0115.pdf>. Or, for more information, please call Calvary at 303-757-8421.

First Baptist Church in Colorado Springs is looking for a Financial Administrator. Inquires should be sent to office@firstbaptist-cs.org. For a job description visit <http://abcrm.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Financial-Admin-FBCCS-FEB-2015.pdf>.

These job descriptions can also be found on our website at [www.abcrm.org / resources / job openings](http://www.abcrm.org/resources/job-openings).



Pilgrimage to Taizé May 21-June 2, 2015

The focus of our pilgrimage will be a week at the Taizé Community. Each participant will join the community for sung prayer three times a day, meet the brothers for Bible study and belong to a small group made up of young people from around the world. You are invited to join us not as a tourist, but as a pilgrim.



Taizé, in the south of Burgundy, France is the home of an international ecumenical community founded by Brother Roger. The brothers are committed for their whole life to material and spiritual sharing, to celibacy, and to a great simplicity of life. Today the community is made up of over a hundred brothers. The brothers' background range from Catholic to various Protestant denominations and they come from more than 25 nations. At the heart of daily life in Taizé are three times of prayer together. This sung prayer sets the rhythm of the week.

This trip will be led by Rev. Brad Berglund, pastor of The Threshold. Cost: \$1,600 to \$1,750. For more information and to register, visit www.illuminatedjourneys.com or email brad@illuminatedjourneys.com.

*Rev. Brad Berglund
The Threshold and
Illuminated Journeys*



*A place for
prayer and
reconciliation*



Calendar

March

- 1** America For Christ Offering Sunday
- 1** Harvey Park Church Merge Celebration
- 8** Daylight Savings Time begins
Spring forward one hour
- 10-17** ABW Deborah House Mission Trip
- 27-28** Region Board Meeting
- 29** Palm Sunday

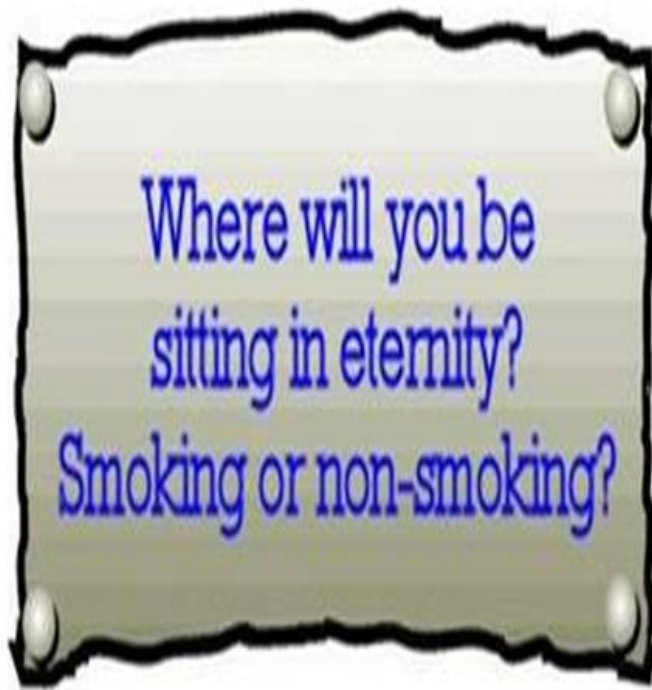
April

- 3** Good Friday
- 5** Easter Sunday
- 6-10** NLC Meetings, Green Lake
- 17-18** MLC Meeting
- 24** Far West AB Men's Retreat @
Camp Rock, Bridgeport, NE



**Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to
set your clocks ahead one hour
on Saturday night.**





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Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

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