



September 1, 2017

# The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

## Eclipse in the Lodgepole

On August 21, almost 400 people from around the world gathered on the athletic field at Camp Wyoba on Casper Mountain in central Wyoming. At 11:43 in the morning, the sky got dark, the sun disappeared, and the faint, pearly corona of the sun shone brightly as the moon covered the face of the sun. The weather was near perfect with clear blue skies and some faint cirrus clouds that stayed away from the sun until well after totality. As the last bit of the bright sun disappeared and the resplendent corona appeared as if by magic, there was an audible gasp from the crowd followed by an awed silence. For about two and a half minutes, the full attention of the watchers was focused on the heavens. Then all too soon, a bright spot appeared on the western edge of the sun, quickly brightening into the “diamond ring” and the total eclipse was over.

Camp Wyoba was directly in the path of the 2017 Great American Eclipse, only a few miles from the centerline. The high altitude, clear skies, and beautiful surroundings in the lodgepole pine forest made it an ideal spot to watch one of nature’s rarest and most beautiful sights. The camp graciously opened its facilities to our Baptist constituents, scientific observers, journalists, and eclipse enthusiasts from as far away as Florida, Minnesota, and California. The camp cabins were nearly full and almost a hundred campsites were provided at the west end of the property. The night before the eclipse, Bill Mankin gave a talk about solar physics, eclipses, and suggestions of what to look for. Four scientific experiments from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder clustered along one side of the field. Amateur astronomers had set up telescopes near the experiments, and lawn chairs and sheets were scattered across the field. During the partial phase before the total eclipse, people visited with friends and stared through protective glasses at the advancing moon crossing the sun. Telescope owners shared

views of the lunar edge crossing a large sunspot group near the center of the sun. An international crew from the



European Space Agency live-streamed the event back to Europe.

When the precious two and a half minutes of totality finally arrived, people removed their dark glasses, stared at the luminous corona, looked for stars and planets that became visible, sensed the darkness and temperature drop, took photographs, made sketches, and absorbed the spiritual experience. After sunshine returned, people talked

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*Photo by Jeff Lindberg*

to each other, shared observations and impressions, asked "Did you see...", asked the experimenters how their experiments worked, and watched through protective lenses again as the moon progressively uncovered the dazzling solar disk. It was an experience none who were there will ever forget.

The staff and volunteers from Wyoba were great—registering guests, providing directions and information, resolving difficulties, serving great meals, and keeping everything running smoothly. The guests unanimously expressed admiration for how the camp hosted such a large and unusual gathering; there were no problems. Wyoba Board chair Jenita Calton and Region administrator Karen Van were tireless in their efforts. Brenda Schladweiler, Shauna Roberts, and Maggie Harrop welcomed guests; several others also provided various services.

The Wyoba site was featured in the NOVA special about the eclipse; Lisa Grossman published articles from Wyoba in *Science News*. The eclipse experience left everyone wanting more. It will be centuries before another total eclipse graces Wyoba, but there is another American eclipse in 2024.

*Bill Mankin  
Ministry and Mission Coach  
Wyoming Cluster*

## Another Inspiring Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit

Forty-five people took advantage of obtaining discounted tickets through ABCRM to this year's Global Leadership Summit. The Summit was held at seven sites in our Region including Crossroads Thornton campus.

Here are some key takeaways from this year's speakers:

- ◆ Bill Hybels - Don't just tolerate - seek to understand.
- ◆ Sheryl Sandberg - Hire the person who will get you where you need to go.
- ◆ Marcus Lemonis - A leader's role is to make others successful.
- ◆ Fredrik Haren - An idea is combining two known things in a new way.
- ◆ Bryan Stevenson - Effective leaders get close to the problem.
- ◆ Andy Stanley - You need to be "uniquely better" / be a student not a critic / replace How? with WOW!
- ◆ Laszlo Bock - Need a mission that matters / Hire and keep the best people.
- ◆ Juliet Funt - Need for "white space", a strategic pause between activities - time to reboot.
- ◆ Marcus Buckingham - People want to feel part of something bigger and that matters.
- ◆ Sam Adeyemi - Transform minds by starting with their heart.
- ◆ Immaculee Ilibagiza - The importance of forgiveness / complaining doesn't help.
- ◆ Angela Duckworth - Grit: sustained passion and perseverance over a long period of time.
- ◆ Gary Hugen - Leadership begins with a dream / fear gets in the way.

Mark your calendars for next year's Leadership Summit on August 9-10, 2018. As Bill Hybels says, "everyone gets better when a leader improves".

*Karen Van  
ABCRM Region Administrator*



## Philippines Mission Trip

I've been the pastor of Laramie's First Baptist Church for four years now, and over that time Steve Van Ostran has asked me to go on several different mission trips. Each time, I've thanked him for the offer and have declined for various reasons. These reasons have been either philosophical, bad timing, or because I didn't have a good handle on my anxiety. Fortunately for me, he persisted in asking and I finally agreed to go with him and five other people to the Republic of the Philippines to speak at Central Philippine University's Christ Emphasis Week (CEW).

Here's what I expected. I would spend a couple of grueling days traveling. Then spend a week or so preaching to 7th-10th grade students, enjoy a day of rest before the grueling trip back. I expected to see lots of things I haven't seen before and I expected to have lots of cultural surprises. Beyond those things, I didn't know what to expect. I've only traveled outside the US to briefly cross both the northern and southern borders. What I experienced exceeded my expectations in every way.

Arriving in Iloilo City in the afternoon; we rode through the streets to CPU with our eyes feasting on the abundance of new sights. Jeepneys and motorcycles with sidecars loaded down with passengers paid little attention to lanes, lines or most other western rules of the road. Everywhere you looked; people had shops and stands selling snacks, fruit, cell-phones and anything else you can imagine.

Each of us preached over the weekend, some in the university church and others in local churches. I had the distinct honor to speak at Community Christian Church, where they asked for me to share my faith journey, rather than preach a traditional sermon. Next, Pastor Adeil Caspe moderated a time of questions and answers as the congregation asked about the state of American Christianity and Politics. They were particularly curious about how American Baptists are handling the issues of Homosexuality, Separation of Church and State, and our relationships with groups like the Jehovah's Witnesses and LDS Church.



*Jeff with some of Community Christian Church*



*Jeff Preaching on Tuesday*

Unlike most of the team, I preached to the same group of students each day. Every morning at 8:00 a.m., I worshiped and preached to more than 2000 7th-10th grade students (the Junior High school) on the theme "Rooted." Two different praise bands made up of Junior High students lead our worship time. Frankly, I wish I could have brought them home with me! They were all talented and soooooo enthusiastic for Christ!

I found it to be a pleasant challenge to preach to such a large crowd of kids, as compared to preaching to my normal congregation of under a hundred people. It took far more energy than I expected, but was also easier than I anticipated. Their energy and enthusiasm fed me, hopefully as much as I could feed them in my preaching and teaching. One specific area of challenge for me was found in CPU's request that we have altar calls throughout the week. In my home

church context, I don't do that very often, because I know everyone. In this instance, it was more like a "Billy Graham Crusade" context. I'll confess that I botched it horribly on the first day. The kids were frozen in place by my lack of comprehension about how these things are done there. After talking with Pastor Cris, of CPU's University Church, we tweaked things and improved over the next few days.

In the middle of the week we had dinner with Rev. Dr. Jerson Narciso, General Secretary of the Philippine Baptist Con-



vention. He shared with us how their Convention is doing. I was particularly pleased to hear about their Church Camp and the ministries they are using it for, including a camp specifically for Pastor's Kids.

And while the sights and sounds were exciting, the real blessing in this trip was found in the people. Now I've "welcomed" brothers and sisters in Christ to different events in my time, but this was different. I don't know if it is a Filipino thing, or a non-American thing, but we were welcomed as brothers and sisters (without the distance of "in Christ"). I keep reflecting on the idea that there is such a distance in the family of God. Why does "in Christ" mean a greater emotional distance? Shouldn't it be the opposite? Why do we do that? Is it because we don't trust that those who claim our faith are worth greeting as family? Is it because we are simply not connected enough to others in general? Or perhaps it is due to our own unwillingness to fully surrender control to God. I don't know, but I do know that I'll continue to ponder this for quite some time to come.

I'm now eagerly trying to figure out how I can return to visit my Filipino family, and bring my wife and kids along! My thanks go out to the Region and my congregation for making this possible, and specifically I'd like to thank Steve for persisting in asking. I'm very grateful that I finally said yes!

*Jeff Lundblad  
FBC, Laramie*



*ABCRM Team and our Filipino family*

## Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church Hosts Community Back-to-School Extravaganza

For decades, the Black church has served as an unparalleled force for good, providing community members with many things they need from food to social services. The Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church congregation is dedicated to keeping that legacy alive, and that was shown through their two-day back-to-school extravaganza. The event was designed to support families and set students up for success during a critical time in their lives.

The festivities began on Saturday, July 29 with a block party, complete with food and games, in front of the church located at 3880 Elm St. in Denver. Senator Rhonda Fields was their special guest who announced the winners of the church's student essay contest. Fields read and scored the essays that were written based on the topic "God is With Us." Solomon Temple awarded two laptops to essay contest winners, one high school student and one college student.



*Senator Rhonda Fields  
scores student essays*

Fields along with Pastor Terrence Hughes, Alpha and Omega Ministries, and president of the Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance gave words of wisdom, encouragement and empowerment to the students and all in attendance.

The good time continued on Sunday, July 30 when Tay Alexander, the youngest candidate ever to run for the Denver Public School Board was the featured speaker at Solomon Temple's morning worship service.

He shared details of his own struggle as a student as well as his belief that by putting God first and believing in yourself, anything is possible. He acknowledged that academic life can be difficult but tasked the students to stay focused and not let self-doubt or pressure from others derail them from their God-given purpose.

On his journey, he refuses to allow naysayers who point to his youth and lack of experience to dismiss his candida-

cy. He implored other young people to raise their voices as well and participate in the major decision-making happening around them.

As part of the worship service, several students who are members of Solomon Temple spoke candidly about issues they faced at school; their problems ranged from middle school bullying to dizzying loads of college coursework. They also shared encouraging words about perseverance and meeting expectations.

After the service, Solomon Temple gave more than 150 backpacks filled with school supplies to preschool through college-aged students. "Receiving the supplies helped ease the burden of buying everything my children will need this school year," said one parent.

"It's in the best interest of all of us in the church community and beyond for our children to succeed," said Evangelist Mary Tellis. "And it's our responsibility to invest in them."

The next step in these students' journey will be the upcoming school year. With God, the support of their families and a place like Solomon Temple, the world is theirs. Pastor John and Evangelist Mary Tellis are grateful to be God-appointed stewards who could facilitate an event such as the extravaganza.

*Allan Christopher Tellis*



*Left: Tay Anderson*

*Below: Youth Choir*



[What's in this RMAB?](#)



*GMDMA President Terrence Hughes, Pastor John Tellis, Mary Tellis, Senator Rhonda Fields*



*Imani Andoh (9th grade, Kent Denver) and Malcolm Harrison (college student) — Laptop winners.*



*Tay Anderson with Devaughn Daniels*





9520 East Jewell Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80247

Phone: 303-873-9622

PO Box 200160  
Denver, CO 80220

*Faith Community Baptist Church  
Celebrating 10 Years of Faith*

*"For we walk by faith, and not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7*

*You are invited to celebrate with us*

*Saturday, October 7, 2017*

*10th Anniversary Luncheon, 11:00am (\$40 per ticket)*

*Park Hill Golf Club*

*4142 E. 35th Avenue*

*Denver, Colorado, 80207*

*Our Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Eugene Downing, Jr.*



*Sunday, October 8, 2017*

*10th Anniversary Worship, 8:30am*

*9520 East Jewell Avenue*

*Denver, Colorado 80247*

*Our Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Dr. James D. Peters, Jr.*

*Desiree Guy, Chair  
Rev. Katherine Farley, MDiv., Co-Pastor*

*Deacon Terry Anderson, Co-Chair  
Rev. Douglas Farley, MEd., Co-Pastor*

# ***Pre-Gathering Workshop***

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## ***The Story Narrative Preaching***

**Open to clergy and lay persons**

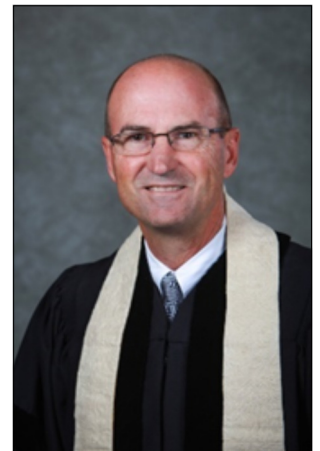
**As we preachers know full well, sermons need to have substance, something worthwhile for people to hear on Sundays. But sermons also need to be creative and interesting. In this interactive workshop we will explore the merits of narrative preaching, sermons that are both substantive and engaging. Participants are encouraged to bring notes from a sermon-in-progress so that we can work on what it means to preach narratively.**

**Workshop Leader**

**Rev. Mike Graves, PhD**

**Wm. K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship  
Saint Paul School of Theology**

**Mike Graves is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), whose primary ministry has been teaching in seminaries. He has previously served on the faculty of Central Seminary. He also served a number of churches as interim minister and held two pastorates in Missouri and Texas.**



MIKE GRAVES

**Cost: includes book *The Story of Narrative Preaching* and lunch**

**Registration Deadline: September 15, 2017**

**\$60.00 (book in hard copy)**

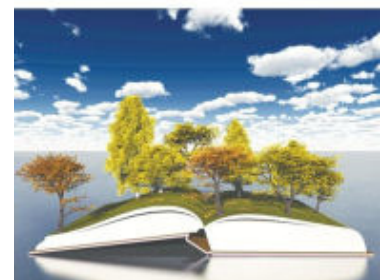
**45.00 (book in Kindle [email] format)**

### **Location:**

**First Baptist Church  
16756 County Road 18  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
Phone: 970.867.7383**

***For additional information,  
contact ABCRM at 303.988.3900***

*The Story of Narrative Preaching*  
*Experience and Exposition: A Narrative*



# ***Clergy Appreciation Dinner***

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**at the**

**Country Steak Out Restaurant**

**19592 E. 8th Ave., Fort Morgan, CO**

**ABCRM Regional Clergy and Spouse**

**attend at no cost**

**(for registered/paid Gathering participants)**

**\$25.00 per person for:**

**Non-Clergy, Non-Gathering Registered Clergy, and  
Non Gathering Clergy Spouses (those not registered)**

***(TICKETS ARE REQUIRED AND MUST BE OBTAINED IN ADVANCE)***

**Registration Deadline: September 15, 2017**

**Entertainment**

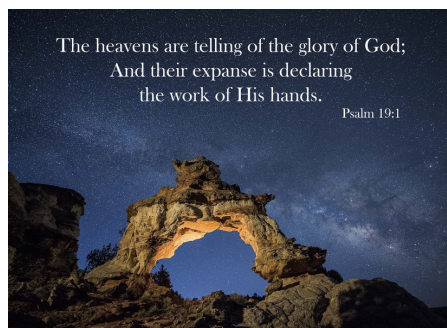
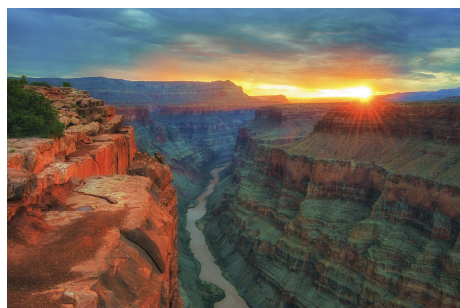
**Ken Jenkins**

**National Geographic Photographer  
Speaker and Entrepreneur**

**“Don’t Lose the Wonder”**



**Ken is a National Geographic award winning photographer capturing images of God creation. He has a Garrison Keillor delivery and his devotional thoughts are amazing. He was recently in Alaska for a Pastor’s conference and just did the Wilderness Wildlife Week in Pigeon Forge attended by 30,000+. His Heaven and Nature Sing program is the highest attended session of the entire week. He speaks and shares slides. You will love him and his amazing photography.**





## Angels Among Us

The Rocky Mountain Association - ABW (Metro Denver) calls members of ABC and friends to Solomon Temple on Saturday, September 23rd.

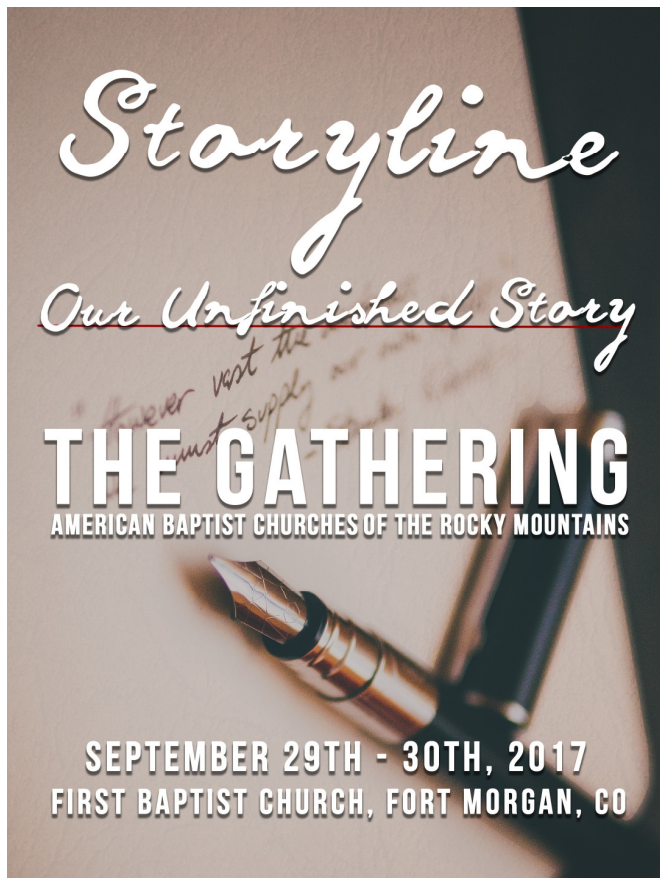
Why? - because the angels among us will present stories on women in their culture who have contributed greatly to our American democracy.



*Shirley Chisholm*

You will hear about Shirley Chisholm, the Davis sisters, Eleanor Holmes Norton of Congress, Rosa Parks and more. Rev. Mary Tellis, our hostess, said about last year's event, "We had such fun". That was 2016. Now join us in 2017 for the fun at 3880 N. Elm, 9:45 – 11:45a.m. God will be there, too.

*Shalom  
Carol Weale RMA*



**Registration Deadline is September 15, 2017**

For cost and additional information, please see registration form and brochure at [abcrm.org](http://abcrm.org) or call 303.988.3900.

[What's in this RMAB?](#)

## Calendar

### September

- 4** Labor Day
- 9** Wyoba Board Meeting
- 23** Angels Among Us  
Solomon Temple MBC
- 28** Pre-Gathering
- 28** Clergy Appreciation Dinner
- 29-30** Annual Gathering  
Fort Morgan, CO

### October

- World Mission Offering Month
- Clergy Appreciation Month
- 4** Ministers Council Meeting
- 7-8** Faith Community Baptist Church  
Celebrating 10 Years of Faith
- 7-8** Community Baptist Church, Glenrock  
Celebrates 100 Years
- 28** Wyoba Board Meeting
- 29** Andrew Daugherty Installation  
Pine Street Church

### November

- 3** FBC Longmont Gospel Concert
- 5** Daylight Savings Time ends
- 7** Empower the Small Church Webinar
- 10-11** MLC Meeting
- 11** Veteran's Day (Region office will be Closed Friday, November 10)
- 16** Retired Clergy Appreciation Luncheon
- 22-23** Thanksgiving Holiday Break  
(Region office will close at noon on Wednesday)



**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS  
OF GOD'S LOVE  
1917 – 2017**



***Community Baptist Church***  
invites you to our first century celebration.  
Please come and share your memories with us.

Reception - October 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM - Glenrock Senior Center  
Worship Service @ CBC - October 8th @ 10:30 AM  
Fellowship Dinner after worship.

RSVP by phone 307-259-3334 or email - [arnolds3@aol.com](mailto:arnolds3@aol.com)

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is the 20th of each month.  
Send submissions to  
[akeys@abcrm.org](mailto:akeys@abcrm.org)*

*Reprint permission is granted  
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