

# The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

## Your Spring Has Sprung!

*“The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.” – Isaiah 58:11 (New Living Translation)*

March 20, 2010, is the day of the vernal equinox. On this day, the Earth's axis is inclined neither towards nor away from the Sun - the Sun being vertically above a point on the Equator. Moreover, on this day night time and day time are approximately the same length, and locales in latitudes +L and -L (with respect to the Equator) experience nights of equal length.

March 20th marks the first day of spring, in the northern hemisphere. The season of spring is often considered to be a time of new growth, awakening from winter hibernation, planting of crops and renewal and revitalization of the spirit. Baseball season, the longest of all major sports (over 162 games), spans from vernal to autumnal equinox (which occurs September 23<sup>rd</sup> this year), beginning with “spring training” and ending with the World Series – known as the “Fall Classic”.

Daylight Savings Time begins around this time as we set our clocks an hour ahead and “spring forward”. Countless homemakers will soon engage in “spring cleaning”. Schools will take a “spring break”. Teachers and students alike will experience restive “spring fever”, and many folks in cold weather climes will bounce with a “spring in their step”.

The prophet Isaiah is renown for his forecast of the destruction and subsequent revival of the kingdom of Israel. In the passage preceding ours he exhorts, “*Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors! Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.*” – Isaiah 58: 9b-10 (NLT). After which he writes the extraordinarily inspiring aforementioned words of our text.

How appropriate a day it is then, to consider those words! On the day when the artesian springs and tributaries of our nation's watercourses begin their perennial thaw and renew their wondrous, life-sustaining journey toward the mouths of the great Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Columbia and many other rivers, what a comfort it is to know that for us believers, the Lord is the eternal wellspring of our joy!

If we will only study God's word, meditate on His promises, communicate with Him in prayer, give thanks for His bountiful gifts and obey His commandments, He promises to supply soul-sustaining *living* water – the fount of everlasting life – the Holy Spirit! Rejoice, **your Spring has sprung!**

*By Larry W. King  
The KINGDOM CLARION,*

*Larry W. King is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and heads the Denver-based music group, Kingdom Kru. He's a founding Board member of Faith Community Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Douglas and Rev. Katherine Farley, and is active in Prison Ministry.*



## What's in this RMAB?

**Laramie First Baptist Celebrates 140 Years**  
[Page 2](#)

**Region Board Report**  
[Page 3](#)

**Rocky Mountain Prayer Guide**  
[Page 4](#)

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
[Page 4](#)

**National Women's Conference**  
[Page 4](#)

**New Hope Baptist Church Women's Day Celebrations**  
[Page 5](#)

**Mission Opportunity**  
[Page 5](#)

**Thank You**  
[Page 6](#)

**2009 Annual Reports**  
[Page 6](#)

**Front Range Camps  
Grand Mesa Camps  
Camp Wyoba**  
[Page 7](#)

**Calendar**  
[Page 7](#)

## Laramie First Baptist Celebrates 140 Years

The First Baptist Church of Laramie is the oldest Baptist church in Wyoming, founded with the help of the American Baptist Home Mission Society on January 8, 1870. January 10, 2010 was a special day in the life of First Baptist Church of Laramie, as they celebrated the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their founding.

Worship that day included some special presentations. The Discovery Kingdom children unveiled their first gift to the church—"stone" tablets on which they had written the Ten Commandments, in easy to understand language. The choir and children sang, "We Are the Church," as the brightly robed children portrayed its meaning through choreography.

Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran, Executive Minister of ABCRM and Rev. Mary Tellis, ABCRM Mission and Ministry Coach for the Northern Front Range Cluster, were present to bring greetings from the Region and to present a 140th Anniversary Certificate sent from the American Baptist Historical Society.

In her sermon, Pastor Mary Beth shared the legacy of faith in the church for the last 140 years, challenging members to "finish the race" of doing God's work in our world today. They read their Church Covenant, and then shared communion, using both the historic silver communion set given to the church in the 1880s and the communion trays given in more recent years. People came forward to receive communion in an act of rededication to Christ and closed the service, encircling the sanctuary to sing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."

At a delicious dinner following worship, there were displays of photos of church people and activities from many different years, a minutes book from the Ladies Aid Society from 1901-12, a constitution and list of members of the Men's Baptist Brotherhood from 1914 and 1915, certificates of promotion from 1927, old church directories, a photo of Laramie in its early days, and letters of congratulation from former pastors and members.

Highlights of the program included Margaret Prine sharing some history about the stained glass windows in the old church, and then about the move to build the present church building in the 1960s. Children from Discovery Kingdom and the youth then presented the church with their beautiful sun-catchers, made from pieces of broken stained glass from the old church. These unique creations now grace the Fellowship Hall windows.

In celebration of 140 years, a Stained Glass Restoration Project was announced. The hope is to repair and restore the stained glass windows that were moved from the previous church to the present building when it was built. The

goal is to finish this work prior to an additional summer celebration, July 9-11, when weather is better for out-of-town guests.

Recognition was given to people present who had attended, been baptized, or married in the previous church building, and in the present building, as well as to long-term members and newer members. Some guests shared special memories of the church's history.

With an eye to the future and continuing the church's emphasis on missions, the youth launched The Penny Project, to raise money for children in poverty in our community, and invited everyone to take part. Pastor Mary Beth Mankin notes, "We give thanks to God for 140 years of faithfulness! While today we celebrate our long history, we continually strive, as our mission statement says, 'to share the Good News of Christ's love—in word and deed.' We are excited to see how and where God will lead First Baptist in the future."

*Mary Beth Mankin, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Laramie*



Pastor Mary Beth Mankin, Mary Tellis,  
Steve Van Ostran and  
FBC Moderator Dennis Cook



One of the children's  
Sun-catchers



Peabody Window

## Region Board Meeting Report

On February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the Region Board met for their first scheduled meeting of the year. We welcomed new members, discussed expectations of the board members and asked each board member to sign a Conflict of Interest policy. The board has many good representatives from the different areas of the Region. The Cluster representatives for this year are:

- \* Western Slope – Jim Witt
- \* Denver – Reggie Heath
- \* Northern Front Range – John Roberts
- \* Southeastern Colorado – Beth Cook
- \* Wyoming – Rick Cederholm



If you have any concerns or comments that need to be shared with the Region Board, please contact your cluster rep or the coaches that serve your area.

John Roberts brought a report from attending the Together in the Lord Conference. John won the trip through a drawing held at the Gathering in Pueblo in October. He was thrilled with the conference and very enthusiastic about the speakers that shared during the event. If you want more information from Pastor Roberts, please contact him.

During the board meeting the Region Board affirmed the Executive Committee's recommendation to create the positions of Region Staff Missionaries for Refuge Ministry. We are proud to welcome Dan and Estela Schweissing as the new Region Missionaries to the Karen people coming into the area. More information about this ministry will be included at a later date.

The Board also approved two proposals from the staff and Executive Committee. The Pastoral Scholarship Proposal was presented and it creates scholarships for pastors to attend a learning event of significant nature. There will be a grant application available to all pastors to apply for these scholarships. The applications will be reviewed and dispersed by a committee from the Region. The money to cover these scholarships was given by the Church of the Master after they disbanded their congregation last year. The money is held in an endowment fund and will be available for several years on a first come basis.

The second proposal was a policy for Sabbatical Leave for Region staff. This policy will be in place in the event that we have someone from our staff apply for leave. There are several requirements that the staff must meet before leave is granted and the request must pass through the Executive Minister and the Executive Committee before it is final. Both of the proposals passed the Region Board vote.

The Bylaws Committee met in December and proposed some bylaws changes. There are many minor changes but also two items that have more significance. We are adding the Region Administrator into the bylaws and changing term limits. More information will be sent to the churches at a later date.

Karen Van explained our financial position at this time and we are doing okay at the present. The Investment Committee included their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report from 2009 that shows the investments are coming back to the levels they were in the past. For more information on the report, go to [http://www.abcrm.org/communication/regional\\_financial.htm](http://www.abcrm.org/communication/regional_financial.htm).

The Board looked at the committees in our Region and determined that some of these committees need people to fill the positions. Names were suggested for the Nominating Committee, Missions Committee, and Ministerial Leadership Committee and these people will be contacted to see if they are willing to serve. We also received reports from the committees and affiliated organizations.

There were several property updates included during the meeting. The staff gave reports from their clusters and what is happening in the churches they work with. Mike Oldham reviewed the New Church Planting Team report and Mary Tellis presented the Church Transformation Consultation Team report.

All throughout the meeting we had good discussions and sharing of information from Region churches. The Board members have been asked to visit at least five churches somewhere in Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. Look for information from a board member to visit your church in the coming months if they have not already been there.

Please let any of the board know what is happening at your church. We want to celebrate your celebrations with you and we also need to be in prayer with you when all is not well. Contact the Region office, the staff for your cluster, your cluster representative or any of the other board members to share. We want to work with you and for you as we strive to make this a more loving, viable region.

*Cynthia Rigsby*  
ABCRCM President



## March

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and **spring** rains.”* James 5:7

### Prayer Emphasis:

Although our calendar says “spring” this month, many of us in the ABCRM have probably not experienced spring yet! Please pray this month that our churches will be patient in their dealings with each other and the world and that they will have new hope arise as they reach out to their cities.

### Please pray for these churches:

- † First Baptist, Florence — Pastor Tom Newell
- † First Baptist, Ft. Lupton — Pastor David Graves
- † First Baptist, Ft. Morgan —  
Pastor Raymond L. Cook
- † First Baptist, Fowler —  
Pastor Clint Walker
- † First Baptist, Gillette —  
Pastor Matt Melton
- † First Baptist, Grand Junction —  
Pastor David N. DeMott
- † First Baptist, Greeley —  
Pastor K. Paul Brigham
- † First Baptist, Greybull — Pastor Cathy Bayert



### Please pray for this staff member:

- † Alyce Keys, Region Secretary/Bookkeeper

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14. Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.



### 2010 National Events for Girls: “Young Women of Action”

In the summer of 2010, the National Gathering for Girls will be joined with a mission opportunity, both with the same theme of “Young Women of Action.” Girls and their adult leaders may come to either or both of these events!

The 2010 National Gathering for Girls is **July 10–15, 2010**, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. This year’s theme is “Young Women of Action.” The week will be filled with mission opportunities as well as Bible study, worship, and lots of fun fellowship.

And speaking of action...the national leadership team of AB GIRLS is joining with National Ministries in forming an *AB GIRLS Home Mission Action Team* that will be part of the “Ecumenical Work Week VI: Worship, Witness, & Work” build in New Orleans, **July 31–August 7, 2010**. (We’re having AB GIRLS come a day early for special girls’ time!) AB GIRLS from across the country will come together in New Orleans, Louisiana, to help to rebuild the city.

Visit [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org) and click on “Events” for more information and registration forms for both events. The National Gathering for Girls and the AB GIRLS Home Mission Action Team are sponsored by American Baptist Women’s Ministries (ABC-USA).

### 2010 National Women’s Conference: “Women... Destined for God’s Purpose: Mission Possible!”

“Women...Destined for God’s Purpose: Mission Possible!” is a national conference for women sponsored by American Baptist Women’s Ministries (ABC-USA), **July 10-15, 2010**, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio.

“Come and learn what it means to live with purpose and to accept the life that God dreams for you. Together we can face our struggles, find our strengths, and grow in Jesus.

Together we can encourage one another to be the women God has called us to be,” (Crystal Newton, conference coordinator).

Christ-centered experiences include Bible studies on the conference theme with Rev. Christine Roush, worship and singing with Christian performing artist Pam Noah, inspiring Sunday morning preaching by Rev. Marilyn Turner, morning “Java & Jesus” devotions, and a memorable closing communion service on Wednesday evening. Workshops, off-site tours, special meal events, and activities with the National Gathering for Girls offer great opportunities to build new intergenerational friendships and grow closer to God.

Visit [www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org) and click on “Events” for more information and registration forms.

**New Hope Baptist Church  
Annual Women's Day Weekend Celebration  
March 13-14, 2010**

**Retreat/Prayer Breakfast**  
Saturday, March 13 @ 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
Sunday, March 14 @ 10:45 a.m.

**Weekend Guest Speaker**  
Rev. Marilyn P. Turner  
Associate Executive Director, Program Ministries  
National Ministries  
Valley Forge, PA



*Please join us for this very special weekend celebration!*

For more information, please contact New Hope Baptist Church at 303-322-5200  
3701 Colorado Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80205  
Rev. Dr. James D. Peters, Jr. — Acting Senior Pastor

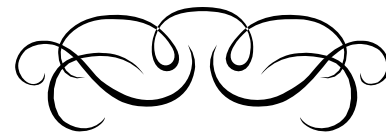
**Mission Opportunity  
at Rainbow Acres  
Camp Verde, AZ**

Each year, the ABC Rocky Mountain Region Mission Board creates opportunities for people in the region to participate in missions. This year, the "In Nation" Mission is planned for Rainbow Acres Ranch at Camp Verde, AZ. September 11-18, a mission group will travel to Camp Verde, AZ in northern Arizona to work on the properties of Rainbow Acres. Rainbow Acres is a ranch-style community for adults with developmental challenges. While at Rainbow Acres, the work crew will assist in one of the construction activities happening at the facility. Construction tasks might include building, laying flooring, painting, etc. In addition, artists, gardeners, musicians, teachers and therapists will find a way to give to the community living at Rainbow Acres. Six to 12 people are needed. Mature teens as well as adults are welcome to join this mission. The estimated cost per person is \$600-800, and the **trip application deadline is August 9, 2010**. If you would like to join this mission trip, please contact Rhonda Edgmon-Koons at [rcekoons@yahoo.com](mailto:rcekoons@yahoo.com) or (970) 669 1183. You can also visit the Rainbow Acres web site at [www.rainbowacres.com](http://www.rainbowacres.com).



*Rhonda Edgmon-Koons  
Mission Trip Coordinator*

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



**More Tax Relief**



**for Working Families**



If you make less than about \$49,000 and have children at home, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit can reduce the income tax you pay and may even mean you get a bigger refund—as much as \$5,000 or more! Plus, there are tax credits available for saving for retirement, paying for college, and buying a first home.

**Keep More of Your Refund**

- If you go to a paid preparer, don't be tempted by "instant refunds."
- Prepare and e-file your own tax return **free** online.
- Have your taxes done at a **free** tax preparation site near you.

To learn about tax credits for working families and to find **free** help filing your taxes:

**Dial 2-1-1** (a free call)  
or go to [www.piton.org/eitc](http://www.piton.org/eitc)



# Thank You

The Region would like to thank all of our churches who gave so generously to help those in Haiti affected by the earthquake.

- † American Baptist Church
- † Calvary Baptist Church, Denver
- † Evanston Baptist Church
- † Faith Community Baptist Church, Denver
- † First Baptist Church, Boulder
- † First Baptist Church, Colorado Springs
- † First Baptist Church, Delta
- † First Baptist Church, Fowler
- † First Baptist Church, Lamar
- † First Baptist Church, Laramie
- † First Baptist Church, Longmont
- † First Baptist Church, Rawlins
- † First Baptist Church, Sterling
- † First Baptist Church, Torrington
- † Flagler Baptist Church
- † Grace Gathering
- † Highland Park Baptist Church
- † Hillcrest Baptist Church
- † New Hope Baptist Church, Denver
- † Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- † Sombra Del Monte Christian Church
- † Trinity Baptist Church
- † West Alameda Baptist Church

We also received gifts from many individuals who we also thank. Some of our churches gave directly to International Ministries online. Their names are not listed here, but we thank you too.

It is because of generous contributions like yours that we

are able to broaden the scope of our ministry to include those who are often overlooked or forgotten. You are to be commended for your kindness.

May your gifts be returned to you in the form of God's abundant blessings.

It's not too late to give. **WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:**

1. Through your mission giving – make checks payable to American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains or ABCRM and designate “One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Haiti Earthquake Relief”.
2. Individuals who want to give can give the same way through missions – make checks payable to American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains or ABCRM and designate ““One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Haiti Earthquake Relief”.
3. By going to [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org), click on “Give”, the Haiti Earthquake Relief is at the very bottom.
4. At GIVE on [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org).

**mail checks to:**

**ABCRM**  
**6855 S. Havana St., #220**  
**Centennial, CO 80112**  
**(303) 988-3900**

## 2009 Annual Reports

The 2009 Annual Reports were mailed to our churches last month. Hopefully you have received yours and are in the process of completing it. We know that this process takes some time to complete, but the information is useful to assess the health of our denomination. It also helps us plan for future mission and ministry, so your reports are important.

Reports are due by April 30. Each church who submits their report by April 30 will be entered into a drawing to win a dinner for two at a nice restaurant (\$50.00 value), so be sure to complete your report early!

We would like to thank Bethany Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church Cheyenne, Crossroads American Baptist Church, First Baptist Church Austin, First Baptist Church Fowler, First Baptist Church Greeley, First Baptist Church Montrose, and Hillcrest Baptist Church for already completing their report.

If you have not received your report, please call our office at (303) 988-3900 and we will promptly send you another one.



# Front Range Camping @ Quaker Ridge Camp July 11-17, 2010

Experience Life ...  
**unplugged**

Packets were mailed to our Front Range churches and last year's camp participants in February.

You don't want to miss the fun, the friends, or the time with God.

**Register Early!**

If you need a packet, please call our office at (303) 988-3900 or visit our website at [www.abcrfm.org](http://www.abcrfm.org) or [frontrangecamping.org](http://frontrangecamping.org).

# Camp Wyoba

Junior Camp / completed grade 5 or 6  
July 4-10

Junior High Camp / completed grade 7 or 8  
July 11-17

Senior High Camp / completed grade 9-12  
July 18-24

Primary Camp / completed grade 3 or 4  
July 25-28

Camp Opening Weekend — May 28-30  
Camp Closing Weekend — October 1-3

Contact Camp Wyoba:  
PO Box 442  
Casper, WY 82062  
Phone: 307-234-3088  
Offsite Phone:  
307-234-6240  
Website:

<http://www.wyoba.org>



# Grand Mesa Baptist Camp

Middle School Camp  
June 27 thru July 3

Elementary School Camp  
July 4-9

High School Camp  
July 11-17

Camp Registrar: Dawn Currier (970) 487-3032

Family Camp  
July 9, 10 & 11

Camp Registrar: Bonnie Talbott (970) 464-5849

Visit the camp website:

[grandmesabaptistcamp.org](http://grandmesabaptistcamp.org)



## Calendar

### March

- March 4 (Thur) Ministers Council Meeting
- March 13-14 (Sat-Sun) New Hope Baptist Church, Denver Annual Women's Day Weekend Celebration
- March 14 (Sun) Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 15-16 (Mon-Tue) SE Cluster TIM Group
- March 22 (Mon) Church Transformation Team Meeting
- March 25 (Thur) SoulJourners Meeting

### April

- April 2 (Fri) Good Friday (Region office is closed)
- April 4 (Sun) Easter Sunday
- April 9-17 (Fri-Sat) Chiapas, New Mexico Mission Trip
- April 10 (Sat) Missional Church Learning Community (Tentative) Northern Front Range
- April 12 (Mon) 2010 Gathering Committee Meeting @ Crossroads Baptist Church
- April 17 (Sat) Tom Myers Mission Day at Douglas, WY
- April 24 (Sat) Region Board Executive Committee Meeting

# WITH WILLING HANDS



Connect.  
Care. Celebrate.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2010

America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico—from addressing Children in Poverty initiatives and resettling refugees violently driven from their homelands to providing evangelism training, developing discipleship resources and leading ministry workshops and conferences.

To give go to [nationalministries.org/GIVE/Serve](http://nationalministries.org/GIVE/Serve)

For more information visit

<http://www2.nationalministries.org/afc/index.cfm>

or call a staff person at 800-222-3872:

Rev. Edie Cruz, Assoc. Exec. Dir. — ext. 2423

Susan Bogle, Adm. Asst. — ext. 2028

Your generous gift to the  
America for Christ Offering  
Will help us reach our goal of  
\$2,010,000 and continue to make  
a difference in our communities

GIVE TO THE  
AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2010



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Communications Specialist

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Send submissions to  
[akeys@abcrfm.org](mailto:akeys@abcrfm.org)*

*Reprint permission is granted  
to ABCRM churches.*

*Committed to the Gospel!*

*Learn It, Live it,*

*Share It, Be It!*



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