



The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Thinking Sabbaticals

ABCRM will sponsor a conversation about Sabbaticals on Thursday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Region office.

ABCRM pastors serve many years longer than the average pastor in the United States. In many ways this is a great benefit for churches and pastors. However, it is also important for pastors to take time for new learning, extended study, and extended rest/Sabbath to pastor for the long haul.

ABCRM encourages pastors to make the commitment to take time away. ABCRM also encourages congregations to proactively plan for their pastors' sabbaticals. As with Joseph, it is important to plan years ahead to make the sabbatical work.

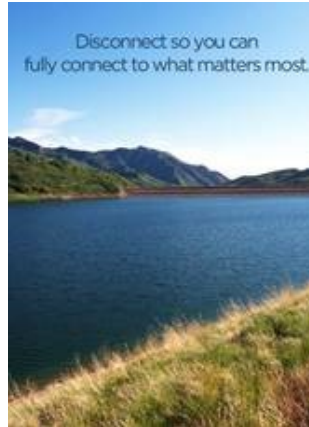
At this conversation, Anne Scalfaro (pastor of Calvary Baptist Church) and Steve Van Ostran will share learnings from their most recent sabbatical. Rodney Perry (pastor of Central Baptist Church) will share learnings he has from a research project he did on sabbaticals.

The conversation will also focus on wresting with questions...

- What am I doing for rest and to overcome burnout while on sabbatical?
- What new patterns of rest can I learn for when I return?
- What am I doing to care for my soul while on sabbatical?
- How do I pay for it?
- Who is in charge while I am gone?
- Who does what I do while I am gone?
- How do I prepare my church?
- How do I get "permission" if my church doesn't have a history of giving the pastor a sabbatical?
- How do I prepare myself?
- What are my learning goals for going on Sabbatical?
- What are my goals for the church while I am away?
- How "away" am I really?
- How do I reengage when I return?
- How can I be creative in taking a sabbatical if I don't have the financial resources to be away for two or three months?

Of course, every participant will bring their own questions.

If you would like to participate in this conversation, just RSVP to Mike Oldham at moldham@abcrm.org.



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What's in a Theme? Exponential Lov3

"But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with his question, 'Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?' Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.'" Matthew 22:34-40 NLT

This passage makes me laugh. You see, the know-it-alls of religion in Jesus' time all kept gathering to stump him to prove that he cannot possibly be Jewish, let alone the Son of God. In response, Jesus doesn't throw it back in their face, try to go into logistics, or get into some heated debate to prove who he is or what he knows. Instead, he says something very simple, "nothing is more important than loving God with everything you had, and your neighbor equally, in equal amounts. And by the way, you can't do those unless you love yourself in healthy ways." At least that's my interpretation. Jesus claims that everything is rooted in love. Every commandment, every demand, every rule, every notion is rooted in love for God, love for yourself, love for others. It's literally that simple. To prove even more that he is who he says he is, he says it with love, not condemnation or with his nose in the air. He says it plainly, and with love.

Sometimes I wonder what the world would look like if we taught that love should be at the root of all we do? What if we taught our students that our love for God should be so vast that it is the foundation of everything we do and every choice we make? It is the great "why" of our lives. What if we went beyond that and taught them that loving others is an outpouring of our love for God. Even beyond this, what if we taught them that a natural outpouring of loving God is that we love ourselves and that this is foundational to love others? This is the three-fold nature of love as described in the Bible. When we live out this three-fold love, God's exponential love transforms lives.

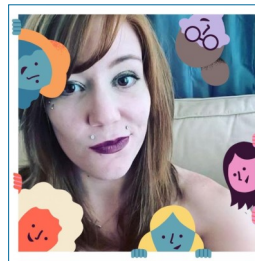


God loves us more than we can ever understand. This is something we all say that we know but do we really. God loves us so much that it makes our pets' unconditional love look apathetic and indifferent. It makes our love for our children look like nothing. Yet, we constantly underestimate not only God's love, but how much we can love

God. We can never fathom the amount of which God loves all of us equally, nor can we fathom the amount of which we can love God, each other, or ourselves. We can always love more because we were created in the image of the most loving God and the only way we can even come close is to love God and creation with everything we have, and to do it together because we were never created to be alone. We cannot simply do it by ourselves.

The David Crowder Band has a line in their song *Everything Glorious*, "You make everything glorious, what does that make me?" In a world where our students hear many negative messages, we believe that we are God's glorious creation is important to hear. In an age when kids seek to get the latest technology, what does it say to them when they are challenged to love God with their whole heart, mind, and body. Can the teaching on Exponential Lov3 at Front Range Camp help our kids to love God, others, and self a little more?

*Miranda Johnson
Ecumenical Church
Pueblo West, CO*



Front Range Camp

July 8-14, 2018

Online registration begins April 1

www.fronrangepcamping.org

Early Registration Deadline is May 31

Theme: Exponential Love



Camp packets were mailed to campers and churches last month.

Camp Fees:

EARLY REGISTRATION FEES			
<i>Through May 31, 2018</i>			
Camp	Grade Completed	AB Rate*	Non AB Rate
Elementary	2-5	\$275	\$300
Middle School	6-8	\$295	\$320
Sr. High	9-12	\$295	\$320

Full Payment must be made by May 31, 2018 to receive the Early Registration Rate.

Camp fees increase after May 31, so be sure you register early!!

Grand Mesa Camp Dates

Family Camp, June 15-17

High School Camp, June 17-23

Middle School Camp, June 23-28

Elementary Camp, June 28-July 1

For additional information, visit www.grandmesabaptistcamp.org.



Don't Forget... Family Camp at Wyoba

We are offering a Family Camp this year at Wyoba. The camp will be led by Pastor Aaron Sprock and his wife Kristle. The theme is 'Growing as God's Family' with Ephesians 5: 15-16 as the focus scripture.

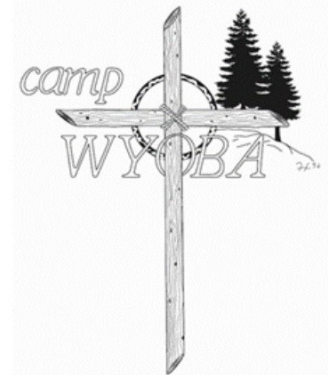
What kind of family would enjoy a long weekend at Camp Wyoba? Could be a family with children. Throw in grandparents for even more fun. Or cousins.

Family could also be a 'family' of friends who want to have a godly weekend together.

The other particulars are:

- Family Camp will begin Friday, July 26 with dinner at 6 pm. Families are encouraged to get to camp anytime in the afternoon to get settled in and look around. The camp will end on Monday with breakfast. If your family would like to attend but needs to leave earlier, we can make that work.
- Mornings will include chapel devotional time.
- Afternoons will include a time of cooperatively making an item for the home, craft time, game time.
- Lots of Free Time to hang out as a family and enjoy activities at Camp Wyoba on your own.
- Fantastic meals that everyone can just enjoy with no shopping, cooking or cleaning.
- Hiking.
- Vespers and campfire in the evening.
- On Sunday, the camp will go into Casper to worship, and they might stay in town to do other fun things.
- Families who are picking up a kid from Primary Camp can stay overnight for free. No reason to run home.

Registration deadline is July 1st. The cost of the camp is \$295 for a family of 5. If the additional family members are children under 5 they are free. If they are an adult, the cost will be \$50. Registration forms can be found at wyoba.org.



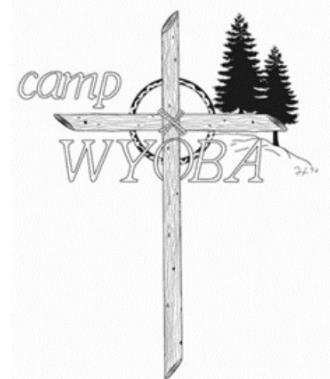
*Jenita Calton
Wyoba Camp Director*

Youth Camps at Wyoba Summer 2018

Register by June 1 for these prices. For more information, and registration materials, go to wyoba.org.

Senior High Camp	June 24-30	Cost \$265
Junior High Camp	July 8-14	Cost \$265
Junior Camp	July 15-21	Cost \$265
Primary Camp	July 22-25	Cost \$150
Mini Camp	July 1-3	Cost \$35

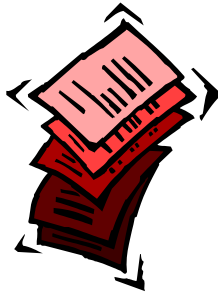
Camp packets were mailed to campers and churches last month.



2017 Annual Reports

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMUNITY CALVARY

CHURCH IN HOLLY!! They are the winners of our drawing for turning in their 2017 Annual Report on time and in its entirety. They will receive a \$50.00 gift card.



We would like to thank all of our churches who completed their Annual Report. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. **If you have not completed your report, it's not too late.** We will accept your report at any time. If you have questions, need help, or another copy of your report, please contact our office at akeys@abcrm.org or 303.988.3900.

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

*Rev. Dr. Steve Van Ostran
Executive Minister*

- Aurora Hills Church
- Bethel Baptist Church
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Cherry Creek Baptist Church
- Community Baptist Church, Glenrock
- Community Calvary Church
- Crossroads Church
- Ebenezer Ethnic Baptist Church
- Ecumenical Church
- Evanston Baptist Church
- Faith Community Baptist Church
- First Baptist Church, Center
- First Baptist Church, Colorado Springs
- First Baptist Church, Delta
- First Baptist Church, Fort Morgan
- First Baptist Church, Fowler
- First Baptist Church, Gillette

- First Baptist Church, Grand Junction
- First Baptist Church, Lamar
- First Baptist Church, Lander
- First Baptist Church, Loveland
- First Baptist Church, Lusk
- First Baptist Church, Rock Springs
- First Baptist Church, Torrington
- Flagler Baptist Church
- Forefront Church at Harvey Park
- Gardens of Divine Hope
- Hillcrest Baptist Church
- King Baptist Church
- Lake Avenue Baptist Church
- Macedonia Baptist Church
- New Hope Baptist Church, Denver
- New Hope Baptist Church, Denver
- New Hope Church, New Castle
- Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
- Smoky Hill Baptist Church
- Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- Sombra Del Monte Christian Church
- Trinity Baptist Church
- United Church of Los Alamos
- West Alameda Baptist Church
- Wind River Indian Baptist Church



THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMAND

Jesus articulated clearly the expectations of the disciples once He returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of God. He said, "Go and make disciples of all people everywhere, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded of you." Matthew 28:19-20

These verses are commonly referred to as the Great Commission. In addition to the great commission a command was also given He said, "Love God with everything you are and everything you have and love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:29-30)

March 8-20, 2018 a team of 7 Ministers journeyed from Colorado, California and Pennsylvania to South Africa including Zambia, Copper Belt, Johannesburg and other villages to share their gifts and talents with pastors, leaders and laymen's throughout the area on the topics of discipleship, evangelism and stewardship.

The Church must continue to uphold and live out the command and the commission through evangelism, discipleship and justice for the sake of the Gospel and mankind. It is reiterated by the apostle Peter in his early writings to the Church in 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." Moreover, Jesus is calling His children from all walks of life and from all nations of the world to share in word, action, and deed the good news by modeling love and compassion to all people.



Mission Team Members

Ida Smith
Steve Van Ostran
Mary Tellis
John Tellis
Regi Fletcher



Praise team at Baptist Center in Kalulisha



Leadership team celebrates the last day of the conference with John, Mary, and Eleazar

May we remind you that we live in a broken and divided world; racially, economically, socially, politically and in so many other tragic ways as well. The evidence is obvious because it is all around us. The church is God's answer to this brokenness, a visible sign of God's grace and a hopeful promise of the peace that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus makes possible.

The commission and the command of the Church are to be obedient to the Word of God and become intentional disciples and abide in the power of God's Holy Spirit that flows through us.

As the apostle Paul writes, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in everything" 2 Corinthians 9:8. When we are generous and share what God has given to us, we not only bless others, but by strengthening our trust in Him, we give God the opportunity to bless us further.



Mary gives greetings to Sisters and Brothers at Natuseko Baptist Church in Kabwe



Ida and Mary



The Mission team joins the local Clergy for dinner

We are yet overwhelmed by the warm and generous welcome extended to us when we visited South Africa. The joy, energy, love and gratitude shown to us were contagious. We remember clearly the words of one of the pastors who said, "We thank God for your coming. You have empowered us with confidence and knowledge. Our Churches will never be the same."

For all that and more, we are eternally grateful to share in the experience in showing love to God's people in South Africa. John and I were transformed and grateful throughout the journey while we served as a clergy couple on the Mission field.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Pastor John and Mary Tellis
Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
Denver, Colorado



Mary Tellis and a Tribal Man



Looking to Re-home VBS Kits

Below is a list of Vacation Bible School and children ministry kits that we have collected over the past several years. We would like to offer them free of charge to any church that could use them. Some of them are rather heavy and would require significant postage. These kits would probably need to be picked up, delivered, or have special arrangements made for delivery. **If interested, please contact Kammie at First Baptist— Church in Lamar at 719.336.4953.**



- † SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ—VBS 2011 kit includes leader guides, DVD's, posters and puppet
- † JERUSALEM—VBS 2008 complete kit with lots of extra material and supplies
- † SON TREASURE ISLAND—VBS 2006 complete with leader guides and DVD's
- † EGYPT A HOLY LAND ADVENTURE—VBS complete with leaders guides published by group

Space for Grace

Building on the highly successful Los Angeles Space for Grace national gathering in 2015, American Baptist Home Mission Societies will sponsor **Space for Grace 2018: "Thy Will Be Done,"** Nov. 14-16, 2018, in Philadelphia, featuring author and theologian Walter Brueggemann as key-note presenter.

Faith leaders, community service leaders, social justice advocates and others seeking God's leading for creating social transformation are invited to the national conference, which will span 2½ days at Loews Hotel in the heart of one of the top 10 largest cities in the United States.

In this urban setting, "Thy Will Be Done" will provide opportunities for refreshment and renewal, along with opportunities to connect with passionate speakers, workshop leaders and fellow participants, around critical issues facing Christians today—mission engagement, discipleship, and worship and church transformation—through discussion, sharing and hands-on participation. For information, visit <http://abhms.org/resources/events/s4g/s4g-phl2018/>.

Space for *Grace* 2018

THY WILL BE DONE

November 14 - 16, 2018

Loews Hotel, Philadelphia

www.abhms.org | 800.222.3872, x2394

 American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Connect. Cultivate. Change.



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Thursday–Friday, August 9–10, 2018

Save the Date
August 9-10, 2018

Region Sites:

- Casper, WY (Highland Park Community Church)
- Cheyenne, WY (Cheyenne Hills Church)
- Colorado Springs, CO (Woodman Chapel)
- Denver [East], CO (Elevation Christian)
- Denver [North], CO (Crossroads Church)
- Fort Morgan, CO (First Baptist Church)
- Grand Junction, CO (Vineyard Church)
- Loveland, CO (Crossroads Church)
- Albuquerque, NM (Fellowship Miss. Baptist Church)

Join 380,000+ of your peers for two days of **fresh, actionable and inspiring leadership training** from a world-class faculty at a location near you.

For a list of speakers, additional information and additional sites, visit www.willowcreek.com. If the site that you would like to attend is not listed above or on our registration form, just let us know, we can get your ticket(s) for whichever site you'd prefer.

ABCRM REGISTRATION COSTS

\$100.00 per person
(Early Bird) thru May 15, 2018
(registration and payment must be received by May 15)

\$120.00 per person
(Regular) May 16-June 16, 2018
(registration and payment must be received by June 16)

\$140.00 per person
(Late/if available) after June 16, 2018

If you are a member of an ABCRM church and purchase your ticket through ABCRM your price is greatly reduced.

Registration forms are available on our website at www.abcrm.org (under resources/forms), by calling our office at 303.988.3900 or click [here](#).

A Special Mother's Day Treat
 Show Mom much you love her
 with something sweet.

Grasshopper Bars

INGREDIENTS

YIELDS: 20 SERVINGS

1/2 c. milk
 3 c. mini marshmallows
 2 tbsp. unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
 2 tbsp. plus 1 cup heavy cream
 2 tsp. pure peppermint extract
 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
 6 to 8 drops liquid green food coloring (optional)
 Crust
 34 chocolate wafer cookies (we used Nabisco Famous Wafers)
 6 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
 Topping
 3/4 c. heavy cream
 6 oz. bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped

DIRECTIONS

- * In a medium saucepan, heat milk on medium until hot. Add marshmallows and butter and stir to melt. Remove from heat; stir in 2 tablespoons heavy cream, extracts, and food coloring (if using); let cool to room temperature, about 1 hour.
- * Meanwhile, line a 9-inch square baking pan with parchment paper, leaving a 2-inch overhang on 2 sides. In a food processor, pulse cookies to form fine crumbs. Add butter and pulse to combine. Press evenly into bottom of the prepared pan and refrigerate.
- * Once marshmallow mixture is cool, using an electric mixer, beat remaining 1 cup cream until stiff peaks form. Fold a spoonful of cream into marshmallow mixture to loosen, then fold in remaining cream and spread on top of chilled crust. Refrigerate until set, at least 30 minutes.
- * Make topping: In small pot, heat cream on medium until hot but not boiling. Remove from heat and add chocolate; let sit 1 minute, then stir until melted and smooth. Spread evenly over filling and refrigerate until set, at least 30 minutes or up to a day. When ready to serve, use overhangs to transfer to a cutting board and cut into pieces.

Recipe
 BY [WOMAN'S DAY KITCHEN](#)
 April 26, 2018 issue

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



Calendar

May

- 10** Thinking Sabbaticals: A Conversation
 About Sabbaticals
13 Mother's Day
28 Memorial Day (*Region office is closed*)

June

- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Month
8-9 ABW Colorado State Conference
 Calvary Baptist Church
17 Father's Day
24-30 Wyoba Senior High Camp



Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 13

*Celebrate all the special women/mothers
in your life.*

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of the Rocky Mountains
www.abcrm.org

Steve Van Ostran
Executive Minister
svanostran@abcrm.org

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on the 1st of each month.*

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is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

*Reprint permission is granted
to ABCRM churches.*



American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite 170
Centennial, CO 80112
Phone (303) 988-3900
Fax (303) 988-0620