



First and foremost...

Welcome to the first issue of *Dakota Baptists!* I am very excited to launch this newsletter which will inform and inspire you on a monthly basis about many things happening in North and South Dakota, both in and out of our ABCD churches. .

Whether you are planning to come to an upcoming ABCD region event, attend Camp Bentley or Camp Judson, or just want to get to know some of our faithful servants in the Dakotas, there will be something in here for you every month.

Please join me in prayer as we look to a new season of God moving in the American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas.



Did you hear about the Executive Minister?



Born in Janesville, WI, grew up mostly in Waterloo, IA, and went to college and seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. I had the privilege of serving First Baptist Church of Parker, SD for 21 years and now I have the privilege of serving the ABC of the Dakotas! I am sincerely looking forward to getting to know some of you, even though I have known some of you for decades.

When I came to faith in Jesus Christ in the summer of 1988, I was thankful to know that God wanted to use my life for His glory. Just exactly how that would happen is still unfolding even today as I seek to understand how I may serve our region's pastors, churches, and ministries that we all support and love.



Men's Roundup 2023

It was great seeing some familiar faces as well as new ones at Camp Judson this year! The Koskan crew hospitality was welcoming as usual. The men (and boys) spent time fishing, shooting clays, and learning more about how to have "an answer for the hope that lies within them" (1 Peter 3:15).

Because of the men's generosity in the auction and offerings, they were able to raise more than \$7,000 for Camp Judson and the 1000 Club! Good job fellas! You guys ARE pretty decent - no matter what Crissman says!

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Big News on the Camp Judson Campaign Trail

Exactly two years ago during Men's Roundup, we kicked off our Capital Campaign to raise funds for a new Roger Williams Lodge. Our goal of 4 million dollars is an ambitious one, but God is faithful, and we are well on our way to that goal.

As a committee, we will be updating our churches about news-worthy fund-raising developments and the progress of our campaign through the newsletter of our Executive Minister. As we enter Phase II of our campaign, we are very happy to report the following;

\$ 1,390,699.62 in cash received from pledges and investments.

\$ 563,282.93 in outstanding pledges.

\$ 106,000.00 (amount of anonymous gift from challenge match - \$500,000)

\$ 106,000.00 in additional cash and pledges from Steering Committee members in response to the above challenge.

\$ 3,570.00 from recent auction at Men's Roundup.

This brings the Campaign total to:

Total \$ 2,169,552.55 in cash and outstanding pledges.

From the **\$500,000 matching gift challenge**, \$394,000 remains to be captured. If we can secure an additional \$394,000 in cash or new pledges from donors, our total would be nearly \$3,000,000.

Please pray about what your part in this very important campaign might be.

Only By His Grace,

Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



This is a hole for the Roger Williams Lodge at Camp Judson. Please help fill it with your prayers and gifts!

***Monthly building pic updates coming!**



Pastor's Corner with Dwayne Williams

Each month, some time will be taken to get to know our ABCD region pastors. This month, we get to know a little more about Dwayne Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church in Huron. Dwayne, incidentally, faithfully serves as our region's Pastor-to-Pastors. Dwayne was willing to answer a few questions about who he is and what makes him tick:

1. Who in the Bible would you like to meet? A: The God of the Bible

2. Favorite part of being in ministry? A: The seasons in life when we walk with congregation members hand-in-hand through difficult times such as the death of a loved one. Being present with them to let them know they are not alone.

3. Family? A: Married to Jackie with 5 children, 9 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

4. Originally from? A: Utica, NY and have been ABC all their lives. (cont'd, next pg)

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Pastor's Corner with Dwayne Williams (cont'd)

5. Favorite food? A: Any pasta with red sauce
6. A favorite Bible verse? A: John 15 in its entirety
7. How have you seen God working recently? A: In the subtle consistency of His presence. He is always there. He is always showing up consistently and then fading in the background. I am grateful for His continuity.
8. Where are you serving now? A: First Baptist Church of Huron, SD
9. A favorite movie? A: "Imitation of Life"
10. A favorite book of Scripture, and why? A: Right now, it is Ecclesiastes. Because of the profound perspective and God-given wisdom. How it teaches to learn to live with what is needed.
11. What motivates you? A: A desire to be an instrument in the hands of God and to fulfill His purpose, plan, and destiny for me. If I follow Him faithfully, everything will line up.

Thank you for letting us get to know you a little more, Dwayne! God bless you, your family, and your ministry - in Jesus's name!

Be sure to watch next month for our next pastor. It could be yours!

Camp Bentley First-timer

A month and a half ago, as the new executive minister, I packed my bags to journey towards parts of North Dakota that I had never known before. Looking to connect with new pastors and old friends, I had the pleasure of staying at Camp Bentley during my visits.

Nathan and Amanda, camp directors, were so hospitable and helpful as I familiarized myself with camp. Senior High camp was running at the time and a couple senior-highers invited me to come *chill* at the campfire. Before you knew it, we were singing some campfire classics together. It took me back to my camp counselor days and it was invigorating!

The camp is cared for so well and the cabins are in great shape. What I enjoyed the most was the solid biblical teaching the youth were receiving from camp counselors who obviously cared about the kids so much.



Region News

- Be sure to sign up and register for the ABCD biennial at Camp Bentley, September 15 and 16. Please go to: <http://abc-dakotas.org/region/2023-abcd-biennial> for more details.
- Please pray for the Church of Hope ministry at the women's penitentiary in Pierre, SD. The Church of Hope Board is working hard to help call another gifted leader.
- Please continue to pray for and support the ABCD region policy board as they prayerfully prepare to call a new associate executive to help serve our region.
- Before October sneaks up, please remember that October is Pastor Appreciation month. Let your pastor know how much you value and appreciate them in big and small ways. Tell them, serve them, show them, treat them!
- More *Dakota Baptist* newsletters are coming with more content and encouragement each month! Be on the look out!

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