



First Baptist Church

306 E Divide Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-8614

Newsletter for Members & Friends of First Baptist Church

December 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Bob Weiss

Adult Bible Studies

9:00 am

Worship Service

10:00 am

Church Office:

Monday thru Thursday

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

701-223-8614

firstbaptistbis@q.com

www.firstbaptist.faith

Volunteers for the Month of December

Flower Committee:
All Church Decorating

Ushers:
Tom Feser and
Renee Herman

2019 RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Here is a letter from the Associate Executive Director MMBB Financial Services concerning RMMO this year. Please prayerfully consider how God would want you to participate. Pastor Bob

In celebration of the rich 40-plus year legacy of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), we gratefully acknowledge the loving devotion of those who have so faithfully answered their call to serve God. Our theme this year, RMMO – Honoring the Service of God's Servants uplifts the generosity, grace and tireless work of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses and families who have dedicated their lives to serving the body of Christ.

As Christians, we are called to honor one another with the love of Christ as found in the scripture from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV) which teaches, "Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

The long-standing tradition of the RMMO established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA. As one of four offerings from ABCUSA, this offering is unique because it provides individual recognition to those who have served the ABCUSA family. The RMMO is a personal offering, one rooted in thanks for the countless ways ministers and missionaries guide members of the church toward faithful and committed discipleship and diligent service in mission.

This year we want to commemorate the unique legacy of RMMO and remember those who play a vital role providing guidance and inspiration to their congregation and community.

Your church's participation in RMMO makes it possible to provide emergency assistance in times of crisis and to send an annual "Thank You" check to those who are eligible. Through your generosity in 2018, RMMO provided "Thank You" checks to more than 3,497 recipients.

Our goal for the 2019 national RMMO campaign is to reach \$1.2 million. We hope you will partner with us and encourage participation within your congregation.

Remember, paying tribute to those who have walked and prayed with you over the years is an example of Honoring the Service of God's Servants. Thank you.

Rev. Dr. Perry Hopper
Associate Executive Director MMBB Financial Services



December

2nd Lori Johnson
7th Micah NGoma
7th Kyle O'Brien
10th Beth Weiss
11th Anita Baillie
11th Mary Ann Rauser
12th Armin Sayler
16th Ken Quick
18th Celeste NGoma
21st Brandon Martin
24th Robert Bestman
25th Linda Gingery
30th Dale Ekstrom

If your Birthday is
missing and
you would like it added,
please contact Shirley in
the church office
223-8614 or
firstbaptistbis@q.com.



Shirley in the office, is
always looking for
individuals willing to share
their photos of FBC
Events and Activities.
Please contact her at
firstbaptistbis@q.com



With Christmas just around the corner the ABW will be celebrating our annual Christmas Dinner. "A Taste Of Christmas Potluck" will be held Saturday, December 7, 2019 at noon.

For the Potluck we ask that you bring your favorite ethnic or family Christmas dish, a main dish, salad or dessert. We cordially invite all ladies of the church and guests to this gathering.

For our program Deanna Hedegaard will share a portion from her book, "The Birth of Christ". She also will entertain questions about her book.

Please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer if you plan to attend and join us for an enjoyable afternoon.

A Love Gift offering will be taken.

Both Lois and Ruth Circles will not be meeting in December.

HARVEST DINNER

A wonderful time of fellowship was enjoyed on November 3 at our Harvest Dinner with nearly 90 present.

Thanks to Ralph and Barb Layton and Renee Herman for their work in purchasing, cooking and serving the great tasting meal. Thanks to the youth for making the centerpieces and the Thanksgiving (Hands) Tree. Thanks to Karlene Fine and Parker Meidinger for decorating the tables. A special thanks to everyone who stepped up and helped with the last-minute preparations and clean-up – it went very quickly because of all the help. Thanks to Lori and Corina for the Tree of Thanks.

Also thanks to those that brought pies. The generosity of the congregation was once again displayed with the THANKS Offering which is going to the Ministry on the Margins and our international missionary Jeni Pedzinsk. (Update from Jeni on last page of newsletter).

We appreciated hearing from Sister Kathleen Atkinson at the Harvest Dinner regarding the work that is being done through Ministry on the Margins.

It was a great time of celebrating God's Love and enjoying each other's fellowship.



Trunk or Treat

2019

Long Term Prayer Needs:

Charlotte Martin
Dale & Annette Eckstrom's
grandchildren
Mary Ann Rauser
Sue Reuther
The Congo

Please be in prayer for:

Bruce Rauser
Caryl Kaseman
Charlotte Martin
Deanna Hedegaard
Don & Kandy Kasper
Kasper
Elmer Schoch (Dan
Baillie's brother-in-law)
Jeff French
Kari Kolstoe
Mark Jones (Weiss' friend-
Cancer)
Mary Hayes
Nancy Zander's Sister,
Janelle-Heart Attack.
Nancy Zander's Brother-
in-law, Dave-Surgeries.
Scott Simpson





Please Remember our
Home Bound

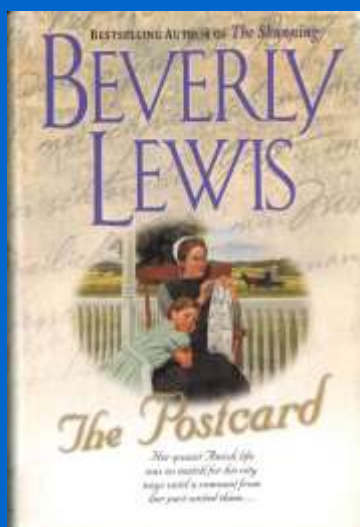
Charlotte Martin
Curtis Funches
Mary Ann Rause
Shirley Zacher

If you have recently
visited someone
homebound, please let
Pastor Bob know.

*"The homebound need to have
fellowship brought to them.
They miss their friends and the
fellowship of other
Church members."*

Did you know
First Baptist Church
has a library?

Book of the
month



FOUR12 YOUTH

The Children and Youth Christmas Program will be held
December 22nd during the morning worship service. Please
watch the bulletin for rehearsal dates and times.

Thank you to all who donated candy and participated in Trunk or
Treat. We had a fair number of kids despite the cold. We had
several who decorated cars and wore costumes. We also gave
out some small bags that we had made with our church name
and a logo that said "It's cool to be kind." Thanks to Renee
Herman for designing the bags.

CE would like to acknowledge the following:

1. Best Theme- Buck Elk Family- "Hunny Pot" with Winnie
the Pooh and Tigger
2. Best Decorations- Larry Martin with his skeleton family
3. Trendiest Costumes- O'Brien Family- Selfie with a filter and
no filter
4. Warmest Costumes- Micah and Marty Lundblad- hikers
5. Best Incognito Costumes- Lori and Ben Lundblad-
Charlie Brown Halloween Ghosts

412 youth group helped fill Operation
Christmas Shoeboxes at Bethel
Lutheran Church. They filled 473 boxes
in 90 minutes!!!

The children's church kids made a
Thanksgiving tree for the Harvest
Dinner. If you have not seen it, take
some time to go down to the fellowship
hall and see the things they are
thankful for. They also made the turkey
centerpieces that were on the tables
during the harvest dinner.



In Memory of
the Dear Friends
we lost in 2019.

Carl Malmgren

May 17, 1948
March 3, 2019



Vivian Usher

September 28, 1928
May 17, 2019



Happening this month

December 1	10:00am Pizza Sunday 1:00pm Cannonball
December 4	6:30pm Awana & 412 Youth Group-Regular Night 7:00pm Adult Bible Study
December 5	1:00pm Stonecroft Meeting 7:00pm 412 Youth "The Reason Concert"
December 7	12:00pm ABW "A Taste of Christmas" Potluck
December 10	6:00pm CLT Meeting
December 11	6:30 AWANA & 412 Youth Group-Regular Night <u>FBC Serving the Meal</u> 7:00pm Adult Bible Study
December 18	6:30 AWANA & 412 Youth Group-Christmas Parties 7:00pm Adult Bible Study
December 22	10:00am Children's Christmas Program
December 23	Newsletter Deadline
December 24	5:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Merry Christmas-Church Office Closed
December 28	8:00am Men's Breakfast
December 31	Happy New Years-Church Office Closed

A decorative border made of blue snowflakes of various sizes, surrounding the text.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please note on your calendar that we will be having
candlelight Christmas Eve Service on
December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

It will be a time of music and reflection on Christ's birth.
Come and worship that evening as we
Celebrate the Greatest Gift.

Edwyna McRaney

May 15, 1917

May 28, 2019



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

Do you find that holiday planning drives you and your spouse apart? Add a little joy to your Christmas season by getting organized together.

For the first several years of my marriage, I found myself being the Grinch (only with a less green hue). As the mom and stepmom of four teens, I was in charge of making *all* the Christmas magic happen — and my bag of tricks was quickly running empty.

So I began to wonder: *Why was I in charge of Christmas dinner ... and Christmas shopping ... and Christmas travel ... and Christmas decorating ... and really, Christmas everything?*

It was about five years into my marriage when I had finally had enough.

“Why is everything Christmas up to me?” I asked. “I really wish you would help!” (OK, that may have sounded less conversational and more whiny than I’d expected.)

“You do?” My husband, Roger, asked as he stood there looking genuinely puzzled.

“Yes!” I said incredulously. Didn’t he see how stressed I was every single year?

“But you’ve never said that you wanted help! In fact, you plan everything on your own. I would love to help,” Roger explained. “I miss decorating the tree, but I figured you liked it a certain way, so I let you do it that way.”

“Oh,” was all I could give as a response.

So, for years I had been martyring myself for no good reason. I had been feeling so alone in making Christmas preparations, and apparently the rest of the family thought that was the way I preferred it.

It took me years to figure out there was a better way to get through the holiday season. By being a little more purposeful in our planning, not only were Roger and I on the same side of the holiday battle, but we actually started appreciating each other’s gifts, talents and even our differing temperaments.

Now my husband and I not only discuss who is going to do what on the to-do list, but we also talk about what is important to each of us during the Christmas season. This has made all the difference in how we come out on the other side of the holidays — we *choose* to be blessed or we [choose to be stressed](#). We choose whether we simply survive the holidays or if we enjoy each other and the rest of our family. When we spend just a little time planning together, each of us has the

Norma Eberly

January 14, 1934

September 2, 2019



Anna Schoepp

January 13, 1934-

September 29, 2019





**“Your loved ones
are in great hands at
the Baptist Health
Care Center”~2019**

**#1 Best Nursing Home –
Baptist Health Care Center**

**#1 Best Nurse - Deanna Berg,
BHCC Administrator**

**#1 Best Nurse Practitioner –
Eric Lutzwick (Mid-Dakota)**

**#2 Best Large Business to
Work – BHCC**



**Don't Throw Away
That Empty Cartridge!**

Bring it to Church

Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our church will receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge turned in. This will directly benefit Frist Baptist Church, not to mention it is great for the environment.

Empties 4 Cash box is located
in the Church Foyer

opportunity to enjoy what is important to us during the season. And that adds to our joy and peace throughout the coming weeks.

Plan

Get on the same page. Around Thanksgiving each year, Roger and I make a point to connect with each other and talk about what theme is important to us for the coming Christmas season. There have been years when *peace* was the word at the top of our theme list. During those years we decided to keep things simple, all the way down to ordering pizza from the takeout place around the corner as our Christmas Eve feast.

Maybe this year your focus needs to be about connecting with family. Or maybe, if your family has gone through some rough times, this year needs to be about restoring joy in your home. The most important part of choosing your theme is committing to agree on it together. If your wife is in desperate need of peace, perhaps this is not the year to take on all the neighbors in the Christmas Lights Annual Explosion Competition.

Here are some words to think about while you decide, as a couple, what is important to you this Christmas season:

- Peace Rest Recovery, Giving, Charity, Hospitality, Home, Joy, Fun, Family, Together & Worship

Put some other things on hold. Part of the reason December can become so stressful is because we add an important holiday to our already busy everyday lives. [Christmastime](#) is a celebration worthy of our time and energy, so we need to ask ourselves if it is possible to pull back from some of our daily activities to create margin.

If you meet with the same group of guys to go running every week, can you take a couple of weeks off to make some room on your calendar? What about skipping book club one month to spend more time at home?

Disagree early. Where will you celebrate Christmas this year — at home, at your parents' house, with the in-laws? If this discussion has the potential to be tense, have the conversation in November and not December when emotions (and expectations) are running high.

Prepare

Declutter now. Now is the time to deal with clutter in your home — long before you pull out all the Christmas decorations. Decorating on top of clutter is the perfect recipe for chaos. Take a couple of days to make sure your home is as tidy as possible. It will make decorating, and all your other holiday activities, much easier and much more fun for everyone.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR SIX FAMILIES IN NEED

Thank you to
everyone who
contributed items
for the Thanksgiving
Meal Baskets that
were delivered to
six families on
November 25.

Your generosity in
assuring that these
six families had a
special meal for
Thanksgiving and
shows them that
God (through you)
cares about them.

Get a jump on the little things. There are plenty of small tasks you can do early to minimize the pressure as Christmas approaches. Here are a few simple things you can do now that you will thank yourself (and your spouse) for later:

- Make your Christmas card list. Order stamps from USPS.com. Gather your family's favorite holiday recipes. Order gifts online. Ship gifts to out-of-town friends and family.

Gather supplies. Don't wait until the last minute to dig for that lost pair of scissors or scrounge for last year's leftover boxes. Create a list together and then collect all your supplies into one convenient location. Don't forget the following:

- Scotch tape and mailing tape, tissue paper, boxes, bows, tags, wrapping paper, scissors & gift bags.

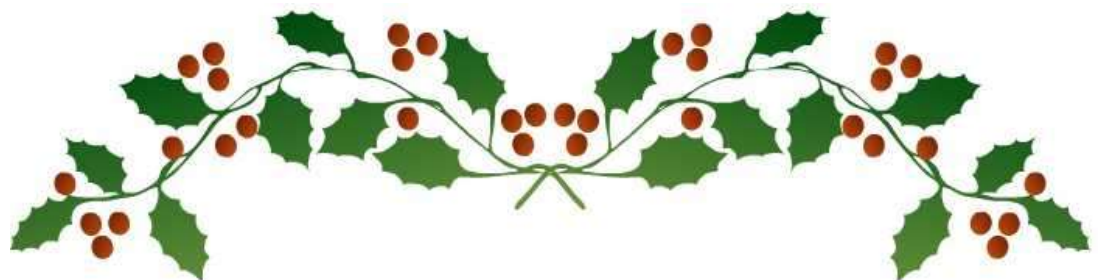
Play

As a couple, you get to decide how much time is spent with family, and how much time is spent as a couple. Roger and I have made it a point to plan not just family activities, but also a few couple's activities. To the rest of the world, doing things like shopping for presents, wrapping gifts and preparing for holiday parties may look like an endless list of chores. But we prefer to think of these activities as dating with a purpose.

Here are some ideas to keep you organized *and* keep you close:

- Set a date to put your Christmas tree up and decorate it.
- Have a "food and finances" night. Review your Christmas budget, and, because you've done a hard thing (talking about money), celebrate by finding an inexpensive restaurant for dinner together.
- Look at holiday movies online and decide which ones you'd like to watch during December. Make a list and organize your on-demand choices, load up your Netflix queue or plan your Redbox rentals.

With a little planning and an intentional goal of being organized, you can also stay connected as a couple as you prepare for the holidays together. Consider making it a goal that you and your spouse will find yourselves closer to each other on December 26 than you were at the start of the month.





Operation Walk

Monday, December
2-7, 2019

CHI St. Alexius Health
Bismarck and The Bone &
Joint Center in
cooperation with
Operation Walk USA is a
way for the surgeons and
medical staff to give back
to the community.

Operation Walk provides
surgery, hospitalization,
and pre- and post-
operative care at no cost
to patients meeting the
following criteria:

Patients who may not
qualify for government
health coverage.

Patients who do not have
insurance.

Patients who meet
Federal Poverty
guidelines.

To see if you qualify for
Operation Walk, please
contact Coleen at
701.530.8651.

Pray for unrest in Bolivia and for our Global Servants J.D. and Ronda Reed and Sarah Nash serving there.

J.D. writes on 11/10 - If you have watched International news over the last three weeks you may have seen news about elections in Bolivia. On October 20, there were national elections held in Bolivia where the incumbent President was seeking a fourth term as Bolivian President along with seven other candidates.

It is a long story, but in the process there was strong evidence that there was widespread election fraud on behalf of the president and his party. So on Tuesday, October 22, the majority of the country began a national civic strike that has continued on for twenty days now (as of Sunday, Nov. 10 when this was written). What this means in most of the major cities the streets were non-violently blockaded but in pockets there has been some violence and three deaths have occurred so far. It has been a hard three weeks for the people of Bolivia, no matter what side of the debate they fall on.

After a number of conversations with colleagues, other local missionaries in Bolivia, friends, our support team and the International Ministries leadership, it was determined that our family and our colleague, Sarah Nash, should return to the US and work remotely from here for a few weeks or until the situation comes to a resolution. We arrived in WV early this morning after a day of travel and will be here for at least a few weeks.

There was a big step forward this afternoon (Sunday, Nov. 10) when the President and the Vice President have confirmed that they will be resigning their positions and there will be new elections soon. This is a big step in the right direction, but the conflict is far from over. The national civic strike is going to continue on until the protesters are certain that there will be a lawful and fair transfer of power.

We will be returning to Bolivia as soon as the situation comes to a full resolution. Until that time, please join us in praying for Bolivia and its people. This has been called a battle for the Soul of Bolivia. Some others have said that this is one of the most pivotal moments in Bolivia's political history. Pray for the Bolivian Evangelical Community to be a light in this troubled time and that the Holy Spirit will empower them to lead the way to a new Bolivia. Pray for this wonderful country and its amazing people. Pray that there is reconciliation and unity and that the country of Bolivia will be

God Is Calling.
will you answer?



Is God Calling You?

Please be in prayer for the Nominating Committee as they seek Church members to serve as 2020 Church Officers. If asked to serve, please prayerfully consider the role you can have in carrying out God's plan for First Baptist Church at Third and Divide.

Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus presents:

LET IT SNOW CONCERT

Saturday, December 14
at 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 15
at 4:00 pm

At the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Church

The concert is free and open to the public and will feature holiday favorites such as "The First Nowell" and "Let It Snow," as well as the magnificent "Gloria" by John Rutter, accompanied by brass, percussion and organ. Special guest artist, Dr. Beverly Everett, will perform an original improvisation on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." A freewill offering will be taken to help cover concert expenses..

stronger because of how the Holy Spirit guided them to a new chapter in the history of their country.

Dear Loved Ones,

Greeting. This week has been very interesting but also very challenging. We have on campus over 350 students' freshmen studying all day and from 7AM to 9 PM.



Interesting that we have classes that are full to maximum capacity. At a time it becomes almost impossible

to quiet them down when they get excited over something. The classes are hot and we sweat a lot. Thank God that we almost have rain every night cooling us off.

Challenging-I have personally assisted in my classes when a student will faint or start crying because of pain that I cannot do anything about. This Wednesday AM a girl become some kind of ridged with her eyes sobbing with tears. I prayed for a medical doctor on campus. My assistant professor had to rush her to a nearby clinic where she was diagnosed with anxiety attack. Later I learned that since the morning the girl has not had a thing to eat. Anxiety attack or starvation?

In my PM class, another girl was rushed outside by her classmates. When I asked, I was told that she suffers of heart and that in AM class, the same girl fainted. What's in her heart, I was asking myself? God only knows. Before I finished teaching, my assistant professor whispered in my ears that we have a girl who has not eaten all day. I had to send her outside to be fed.

Every year, I tell my students to share their medical conditions with their friends, classmates so that we know what to do in case of crisis. I also insist to them that we are all one family. Ask in case of needs. We may not always have the answers, but it does not hurt to ask. Many do and many others do not listen.

We are here sharing the ups and downs of life with those we love.

Thank you for being on our side. in Haiti,

Yours, Nzunga & Kihomi



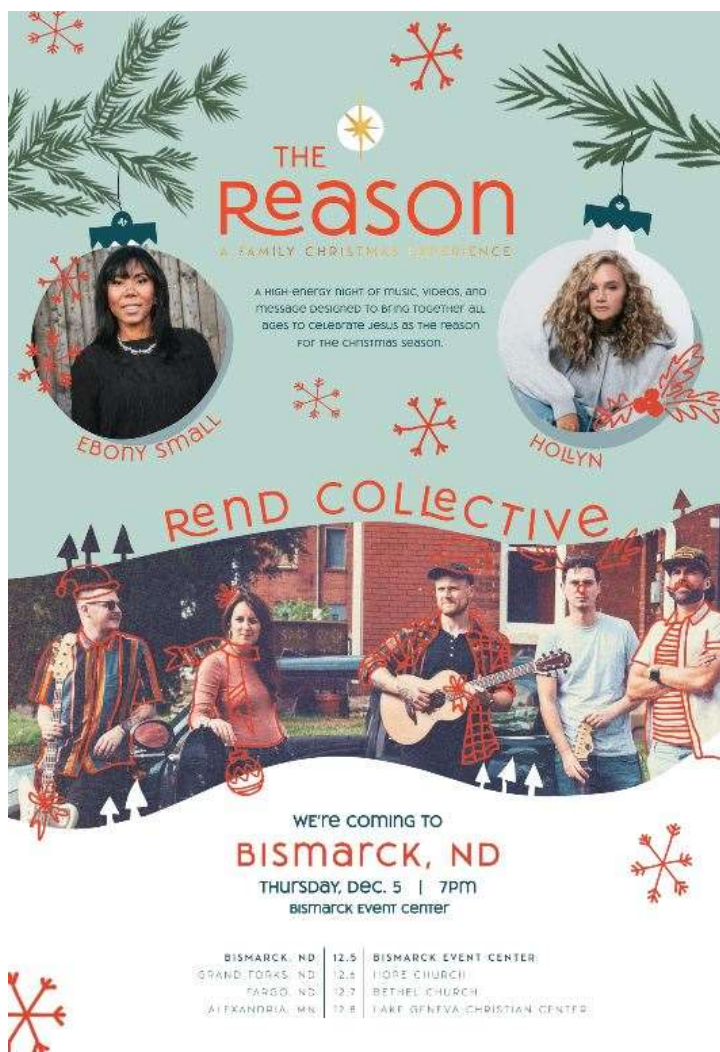
Central Dakota
Children's Choir
presents
"Angels Sing"

December 20 & 21, 2019

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM CST

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens and students, and free for children age 5 and younger.

Central Dakota Children's Choir presents their 22nd annual Christmas concert, "Angels Sing" on Friday, December 20 and Saturday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Belle Mehus Auditorium. The concert is sponsored by Knife River Corporation and will feature each of CDCC's five choirs. Audience members will hear a mix of traditional Christmas music as well as some lesser known Christmas tunes that will be sure to entertain. For the finale, the choirs will combine to perform portions of the well-known choral work, the Vivaldi "Gloria." Antonio Vivaldi is recognized as one of the greatest Baroque composers, and his influence during his lifetime was widespread over Europe during the early 18th century. Formed in 1998, CDCC has grown from one choir of 65 students to six choirs and a pre-choir with 350 children in grades 2 - 12 from 39 public, private, and homeschools from the central and western North Dakota regions.



Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering December 2019

Honoring the Service of God's Servants



"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV)

In this scripture, Paul pleads with members of the church to value and acknowledge leaders of the church as messengers of Christ. Respect of church leadership is essential for the health of individual believers and the entire congregation.

RMMO provides financial support to retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have helped build and sustain our churches. Thank You checks, as well as emergency financial assistance, are made possible by the contributions of American Baptist congregations. The financial assistance restores that lifeline and ongoing connection to the ABC family.

Rooted in thankfulness, RMMO acknowledges the individual acts of support and faith that recipients have shown to their congregations and communities.

We will receive RMMO throughout the month of December.

Please help us reach this year's goal of \$1750.00

Harvest Dinner 2019



Jeni Pedzinsk Updates



Greetings from Chiang Mai, Thailand! As most of you know, from August 29 - November 4, I traveled far and wide throughout the United States. The picture above gives you an idea of my route. Not every stop is documented, but you get the idea --- I was all over the place! It was a wonderful tour of 20 churches over the course of 10 weeks. The pace was demanding, but it was refreshing to reconnect with so many of you who have shown me such care and lovingkindness. Some churches I visited had actually *never met me in person*, but have been supporting my work and New Life Center for nearly five years! What a blessing to give and receive love - in person.



Last year, a high school junior at NIST International School in Bangkok contacted the New Life Center. She was founding an anti-trafficking service group called Green Light at her school and was looking for a reputable organization with whom to partner. I began working closely with her and the (then) small group of girls, hoping that this relationship would broaden our residents' horizons and expose them to other kids their own age who speak out for justice. Now in its second year, Green Light is 15 strong. Their project this fall was a "Hike for Freedom." Each student asked family and friends to sponsor them to scale the second highest peak in Thailand. They invited several NLCF residents, as well as myself, to join. The hike took place November 16-17 and was a wondrous, if at times harrowing experience for all. The students will continue raising funds for NLCF throughout this school year. Their goal is \$10,000.

If you or a group of which you are part is open to creative fundraising for New Life Center, please get in touch with me. I would love to brainstorm ideas with you! Shave your beard for a worthy cause ... hoola hoop for freedom ... a spicy noodle challenge ... the possibilities are endless!

Personally:

Language Lessons are starting up again! While I can speak "daily life" Thai proficiently, there are endless topics with specialized vocabulary that I haven't learned. One of these is - believe it or not - Bible and prayer vocabulary. I know some words, but not many, and not well. It is my goal this year to increase my proficiency in this area! Please pray for me in this new challenge.

Thanksgiving is not a locally observed holiday, so I'll have a normal workday. However, I'll have a special dinner with friends from church that evening.

Christmas is coming up, and I'll spend it with my adopted family here in Thailand. I was able to leave some wrapped presents back in the States for my own family, and I look forward to Skyping with them on their Christmas Eve, as is our tradition.