

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

March 2008

APRIL 1 deadline!
Register online NOW!

Pastors and Wives Retreat

April 24-26

Heidel House Resort

Green Lake, Wisconsin

This is the place to relax and be refreshed. Our speaker is Steve McVey of GraceWalk Ministries. Dr. McVey is a dynamic author and speaker who inspires Christians to develop a deeper, more intimate relationship with God.

Before establishing Grace Walk Ministries, he served as pastor of local churches for over twenty years. Dr. McVey hosts the nationwide daily Grace Walk radio program where he shares his biblical view of grace-filled living.



The ladies will have a special brunch with Jill Swanson, a nationally recognized speaker, image consultant and author. At conferences and seminars she inspires people to look "simply beautiful." Learn her amazing personal story of faith and joy in overcoming an incredible health challenge she has faced since birth and how to

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Valuable Information for Your Church Growth

NEW in 2008!
Customized demographic information now available about your church location. This is a **free** service for all NCCBA churches. Call Don at 715-538-2298 or visit

www.Link2Lead.com

Natural Church Development

make each day count. Jill's passion is to see people become their best, both inside and out by experiencing God on a daily basis.

Friday night's entertainment will be from Paul Arneberg. As the founder and director of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Co., Paul's full-time tentmaker youth ministry develops youth through the performing arts.

More information about the speakers and entertainment is available on our [website](#). Register [online](#) or by mailing in your registration from the invitation sent in the mail. There is a *special first-time rate* and a discount if you have a first-timer sign up.

Henry Spicer Scholarship

DEADLINE APRIL 1

High school seniors: This scholarship is for those attending college this fall. The student must be a committed Christian AND a regular attendee of a NCCBA affiliated church.

Three \$900 scholarships were awarded last year. The amount and number awarded varies from year to year. For more information and an application, go to our [website](#) or call the office at 715-538-2298.

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1.

How to Survive the Reality of Conflict

A reality that is part of the life of ministry is conflict. This is not only affirmed by experience but is also clearly seen throughout the pages of Scripture. One of the sources of conflicts comes from the collision of believers who are truly pursuing righteousness and those who are not pursuing righteousness. Jesus makes this clear, "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me."

Conflict, however, is not just limited to the pursuit of righteousness in a world of unrighteousness. It is also found within the church. Those of us in ministry are very much aware of this reality and the difficulties that accompany it. For the most part church conflict seldom has anything to do with Truth. More likely it has to do with things that, while couched in Scripture, are personal preferences.

This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism. NCB will help you identify the eight qualities and six growth factors for a healthy church. **Healthy NCD is seeing a steady growth through conversions and the ongoing discipleship of those who are part of the church.**

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

Significant improvements have been made in how to interpret and implement findings.

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)
[Link2Lead](#)
[\(demographic info\)](#)

[Illinois State Youth Fellowship](#)
[Worship Summit in Iowa](#)

Microsoft Software and More

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007 is \$122 plus \$35 for the installation media.

Other Microsoft products, Adobe and hardware are also available. Call Jean at the office, 715-538-2298, for price quotes and to order.

The reason I am focusing on the issue of conflict is the result of reading [Congregational Leadership In Anxious Times](#) by Peter Steinke. In the book Steinke not only asserts the reality of conflict within the church, he also gives some very good advice for dealing with it. The things he lists are based on twenty years of experience dealing with church conflict.

What are listed below are his suggestions:

- **Respect the sheer strength of survival instincts.** The point is as soon as there is the perception of a threat people begin to react instinctively rather than stepping back and thinking rationally. As time passes people will begin to think more thoughtfully rather than instinctively.
- **Seek clarity.** Ask questions, determine the reliability of information and stay on course. At the end of the day people prefer truth over distortion.
- **Observe behaviors.** The actions of others have a huge impact on those that are part of the group. It is not an accident that Paul uses the picture of a human body in his description of the church. When one part of our body acts up, it has a profound effect on the rest of the body. As humans we have the ability to evaluate acts and to respond not by instinct but with thoughtfulness.
- **Inform.** In the early stages of conflict it is almost impossible to over inform. Open communication limits the need for speculation and gossip.
- **Work with the healthy.** You will be more successful when you work with the most mature and motivated people in the congregation. These people may be on both sides of the conflict.
- **Structure a process.** When people sense that there is an orderly effort in place, they think things are not totally out of control. People desire for clear and decisive action. Good structure corrals anxiety.
- **Reframe the situation.** Instead of bemoaning what is happening, see the conflict as an opportunity for growth.
- **Build up the congregation's positive emotional bank account.** Once the conflict has subsided, provide aftercare. In other words, provide ways in which there can be a steady flow of positive and affirming communication. The goal is for the church to see what it has of value rather than the negative.

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

CHILD ABUSE
REPORTING
LAWS for your
State on our
[website](#) under
"Resources"

- **Bring in a third party.** There are times when both sides are so focused on their point of view that is only what they can see. Bringing in a neutral and fair minded person from the outside can help both sides see the other and then develop a constructive outcome.

The goal when conflict arises should not be to win but to determine what in the final analysis is best for the glory of God. In order for that to happen we who are in the position of leadership must take these or similar steps to bring a positive resolution.

Don Shaw,
Regional Director
donncba@trivest.net

Pastor Care:

"TWO EARS, ONE MOUTH"

What does a person do when it is time to write a newsletter article and he doesn't have a burning issue to present? There is an old adage that goes something like, "If you don't have anything valuable to say, be quiet and listen." That advice goes along with the idea, often used by parents with their children, that there is a reason why we have two ears and only one mouth. The conclusion, therefore, is that this month I am going to ask for some in-pu from those who read this newsletter rather than giving it.

I do, however, have an issue with which to prime the pump. It seems to me that this time of year, especially at or near the end of a "long" winter, many of us are feeling harried, depleted, too busy, etc. There are a number of things I do that help to recharge my spiritual, emotional, and physical batteries. I would like to hear from you what recharges you? Please let me know-I really mean it. You can reach me by e-mail at: nsbell@peoplepc.com or by regular mail at: 452 Birchwood Lane, Davis Junction, Illinois 61020.

Next month I will give you all the results. I am waiting to hear from you.

Nicholas D. Bell, LMFT

*Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church Streator IL
61364*

YOUTH PASTOR/LEADER & SPOUSE RETREAT

at the Heidel House, Green Lake, WI

[Register online](#)

REST, REFRESH, RELATE, & REFUEL!
April 25-27, 2008

Sure hope you can join us for our annual weekend getaway at the Heidel House. If you haven't received a flier yet, be sure to contact the NCCBA office, 715-538-2298. We will have our own schedule, separate from the Senior Pastors & Spouses. The purpose is for rest, relaxation & relationships. We have three sessions (Fri PM, Sat AM & Sun AM). Thus, a lot of time is left to rest, enjoy the surroundings, etc. .

By Dave Pikel, State Youth Fellowship, Illinois

YOUTH: State Youth Fellowship-IL WINTER RETREATS

Approximately 10-12 churches joined together for our annual winter youth retreats in January! A Youth Pastor from the State Youth Fellowship directs each retreat. Jr. High Blizzard took place January 4-6, followed by Sr. High SnoCamp January 18-20. Pine Trail camp (Michigan) was our host for both retreats. The primary purpose was for spiritual growth to take place in each of the students lives.

Blizzard was directed by Jason Wilson, and co-directed by Joan Vana. Our speaker was Joe Snyder - who did a great job speaking on a jr. high level - challenging students and leaders to not compromise in our walk with Christ. The worship band was from New Hope Baptist Church in Alsip, IL. We had around 125 students & staff attend.

SnoCamp was directed by Andy Polheber. Our speaker was Bill



Jacobsen who reminded us we are 'Aliens & Strangers" in this world as believers in Christ. Dave Pikel (me) led a Concert of Prayer on Saturday Night - including a time for students & leaders to pray for one another by school years, etc. The Josh Weaver Band led us in worship throughout the weekend - wonderful times of worshipping the Lord together! We had around 175 students & staff attend this year.

"BREAKAWAY '08"

Our annual evangelistic outreach is coming up March 29,30 called "Breakaway". Duane Keleman is directing this event. Last year we had around 750 students (Jr. and Sr. High) and leaders from around 25 churches attend! It was estimated that 30% of the students attending last year were not yet Christians! Thanks for your prayers for a great spiritual harvest this year! **If you plan to attend - download the info NOW** from the website below if you haven't already done so!

For more information on the IL State Youth Fellowship (SYF) - go to www.syfil.org.

Grace n Peace,
Dave Pikel (Secretary - IL State Youth Fellowship)

Cabin fever got you yet?

Are you ready for a jump start that is not only going to recharge and supercharge your batteries, but will also provide some much needed relaxation and refocusing? For those of you in the Minnesota area, we've got just the ticket for you. Northwestern College and Camp Lebanon are joining forces to bring us a weekend that we can't afford to miss. Duffy Robbins, along with a platform full of nationally known personalities will be bringing it on May 8-10. The cost is CHEAPO, the food is exceptional, the

location is right next door to heaven and it's going to be good for you! What more can I say? Contact [Camp Lebanon](#) for more info. Phone: (320) 573-2125

By Nate Schroder, Discovery Church, St. Cloud MN

Tim Klerekoper-Law Enforcement Chaplain



I noted as I left my driveway that it was just turning 3 a.m. I have been through this scenario a number of times in my career, and I could literally visualize what would happen next. As I drove through the dark isolated country roads I tried my best not to put myself into these parent's shoes. That would happen soon enough.

I met the deputy and Medical Examiner investigators at a rendezvous point. The deputy had already scoped out the house. One of the investigators jumped into my car and we headed to a house set back from the road. There was no house number by the road, so we hoped our "educated guess" was correct, and I knocked on the door. No answer. I rang the doorbell and knocked again. Finally we heard some sounds, and a sleepy voice said, "Who's there and what do you want?" I identified myself as being with the Sheriff's Department and the mom opened the door. Her face was illuminated by our flashlights, and you could tell she was already beginning to sense that something was horribly wrong.

I showed her my I.D., and asked if we could come in. As she opened the door to let us in, she asked me if there was something wrong, and I told her that I did in fact have some very bad news for her. "Don't tell me it's Jerry -- oh, God, please don't tell me it's Jerry." I asked her if she had a son named Jerry and she whispered "yes." I asked her if he drove a particular make of car and her eyes began to tear as she said again "yes." I told her there was no way I could make it easy for her, but that her son had been killed in a car accident earlier that morning.

There is no way to describe a mother's scream of pain. I've heard it at least one hundred times over the past sixteen years. Each one is different, and yet in some ways each one is identically the same. From the back bedroom I could hear movement, and next an angry voice heading in my direction yelling "what's going on here?" He called his wife's name, but the anger was already beginning to turn to fear. She screamed that their son was dead --and he first began to argue with her, then slammed his fist on the table and added his scream to hers. I reached forward just as he fell against the table. It was all I could do to support his weight before he regained his feet again.

The explanation they both asked for and we gave them, didn't help

at all. By now there was a vacant look in their eyes as the unthinkable began to sink deeper into their very soul, memories of a boy who had left a few hours earlier. "I'm heading out with some friends, Mom. Don't wait up for me." A voice they would never hear again.

What many people don't understand is that there were a number of victims that morning. This mom and dad would never be the same. Their family would do their best to come alongside, but they too would be immeasurably impacted. The deputy did what he could to be strong, but I knew that like me, he was thinking about his own children. Both investigators answered questions quietly and professionally, but what they had witnessed would be something they will never really forget. Undoubtedly something down the road will trigger a memory of this incident, and perhaps other situations like it.

As a chaplain, my responsibility is to do everything in my power to insure that the deputy takes as little emotional baggage away from that horrific scene as is possible. My responsibility to the investigators would be the same. After we had left the couple, we talked for awhile, and I made plans to spend time with all of them again. Follow-up in these types of calls is very important. It takes time, but it is time always well spent. I would also drive out to see the family again, to make sure they had the support they needed. My presence would hopefully bring some comfort, but it will always be part of a memory they too could never forget.

I share this one call out of many I've been on in the past month to give you a small glimpse into my world. This past month was filled with counseling appointments, marriages to mend, people to follow up with - officers to ride with and firefighters to visit. The more I meld into my officer's and firefighter's world, the more effective I can be. It is your prayers and encouragement that allow me the privilege of answering pages like I did the other morning. It is one of the reasons I love my job and the people to whom I've been called.

Thanks for your prayers for our chaplains as they minister to the hurting people of our world. If you want to learn more about chaplaincy or learn how your church can become involved in this great ministry contact Al Russell at 218-776-2813 or at chapRuss@earthlink.net.

Conference at Community Baptist Church March 28-29, Fargo, North Dakota

The CBC Annual Conference is intended to help individuals, families and households better understand and practically apply a biblical Christian perspective to all areas of life for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom.

Conference description

Adversity is hard to endure, and can even be harder to understand. It's easy to trust God when everything's going your way. But what about when things go wrong? Have you ever asked yourself the following questions:

- If God were really in control, why has God allowed this situation to happen?
- Why does God allow horrible things to happen to people and nations?
- Is anyone really in charge?
- If God is loving, powerful and wise, why am I in this mess?
- Is God punishing me by allowing these circumstances in my life? What have I done wrong?
- Can I really trust God with my life and my future?
- Can God use adversity to accomplish good in my life and in the lives of others?

If you have a desire to understand God's Sovereign hand in this world and to trust Him more in every situation, you will not want to miss this seminar.

About the speaker

Jerry Bridges is a well-known Christian writer and conference speaker.

He is author of nine books including *The Pursuit of Godliness*, *The Discipline of Grace* and *The Pursuit of Holiness*, which has sold over one million copies. Altogether, his books have sold over 2.5 million copies, and several have been translated and published in 16 different languages.

Conference Registration:

The conference is open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Attendance will be limited to 175 participants. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.

To register or for more information contact:

Community Baptist Church
3535 25th St. S
Fargo, ND 58104

Phone: (701) 235-5483
Email: office@cbcfargo.com
Website: www.cbcfargo.com

Upcoming Events

Jerry Bridges Conference Fargo, North Dakota	March 28-29	Register at CBC's website
BREAKAWAY Outreach for JR & SR High in Illinois	March 29-30	Info at SYF website
ENGAGE Competition High School students Bethany Baptist, Peoria IL	April 18-19	Bethany's website
Worship Summit , Cedar Rapids, Iowa	April 18-19	More info and registration
Pastors and Wives Retreat and NCCBA Annual Meeting Heidel House resort, Green Lake WI	April 24-26 DEADLINE APRIL 1	Register online
Youth Pastors & Spouse Retreat Heidel House resort, Green Lake WI	April 25-27 DEADLINE APRIL 1	Register NOW!
SUPERCHARGE Youth Workers Conference, Camp Lebanon MN	May 8-10	Info at Camp Lebanon's website

NCCBA Churches in Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- First Baptist Church--Whitehall, WI YOUTH PASTOR
- Rockford Baptist Church--Rockford MI YOUTH PASTOR
- First Baptist Church--Lansing IL
- First Baptist Church--Sibley IA
- First Baptist Church--Parkers Prairie MN
- Palisade Baptist Church--Silver Bay MN
- Artichoke Lake Baptist Church--Correll MN
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH

Contact Our Office

North Central CBA - Jean Wright - 715-538-2298 - nccba@trivest.net

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