



Changes are coming to the **ABCRM newsletter**

February 1, 2020

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

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

Servant Offering

Nothing is certain ... change is constant

Benjamin Franklin is famously credited with saying that nothing is certain except for death and taxes. The irony for me is that this is the equivalent of saying that change is certain! And whether he intended to communicate that sentiment or not, that is the reality ... change is constant. And for us at the Region, we are going through a time of change.

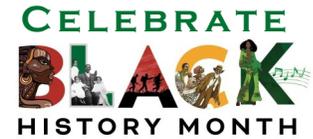
The first change has to do with our Administrative Assistant, Alyce. Over the years and with the availability of newer technology, the duties required of an administrative assistant have grown less and less. So much of our correspondence these days is handled via e-mail and even when we do use formal correspondence it is often written and produced on the computer. And with the newer phone systems, calls can be forwarded to cell phones and taken by staff in the field. And so, over time it became clear that we no longer required a full-time receptionist/bookkeeper.



To that end we began talking with Alyce early last year in that we could no longer justify a full-time position in this area. Alyce was asked to consider whether she was willing and able to stay on in her position in a part-time, no benefits capacity. Sadly, Alyce decided she needs to find a position that can provide benefits, and so we reluctantly find ourselves looking for a new part-time receptionist, bookkeeper.

During this time, that of course means there will be times that we are unable to answer the phone and it will be forwarded to a voice-mail system. We ask that you be patient, and we will do our best to promptly respond to requests. There will also be times when we may not be in the office because of travel schedules and the changing nature of regional ministry, which represents a change from "big event-centered ministries" to smaller face-to-face interactions. We trust you will understand and simply give us a call if you plan to stop by the office.

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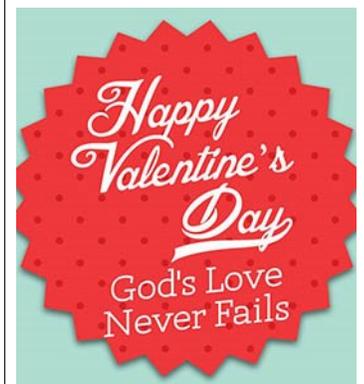
'Not What You Think' about millennials and Gen Z'ers [page 4](#)

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Without God's hallmark of agape love, there would be no Hallmark holiday or cards or gifts ... all is from God."

— Anonymous, Ministry Quotes

Another change in our staffing is in the area of Communications. For the past couple of years we have been working with Robin Riley, an American Baptist pastor who is serving Methodist congregations here, to help us with our website and other communications needs. His work has become more intensive and so he decided that he needed to give up the part-time communications projects. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit Rev. Brian Keithline, who is the pastor at Torrington FBC, and who also was a journalist in his prior career. Brian has already jumped in and has helped us to make some plans to improve our Regional Communications.

With that in mind, I want to tell you about some changes to the monthly newsletter.

Mainly, we no longer plan to send it out monthly, but will try to do it bi-monthly. In addition to a different publication schedule, we will plan to have a theme for each of our issues that will guide our selection of material. We hope to be able to provide better content for you as a result and to solicit more articles from you. So, this month's newsletter may not be as in-depth as we work to make the shift towards a more focused, re-formatted newsletter for March/April. The theme for this newsletter will be "Resurrection" and we will seek to provide some great ideas for celebrating Christ's resurrection during your Easter services.

One of the ways we would like to do this is to invite you to share with us stories of creative ideas you have used in your churches to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. For example, one of the things that I did when I served as a local church pastor was to "strip the alter" as part of our Maundy Night Service. After serving communion, I read the Good Friday passages while the worship team began to remove all the vestments, decorations and ornaments from the alter. When I got to the crucifixion, they came and removed the stole from my robe. When I finished reading, I asked the congregation to leave in silence, reflecting on the reality of the Cross in preparation for Sunday's celebra-

tion. It was a powerful service, not just for me as the leader, but for the entire congregation.

I am sure there are many more of you who have great ideas to share related to Easter, or to other "Life in the Pulpit" topics. We'd love to hear from you. As always, you can e-mail newsletter information to



office@abcrm.org. Plus, we're also developing a [discussion forum](#) on our regional Web page so that this information is readily available and "shareable" throughout the year!

To submit your ideas online, please follow the below steps:

- 1) Go to our homepage.
- 2) Click on our newsletter button.
- 3) Next to the link for our current newsletter, click on "Share My Stories" to submit

your ministry stories, ideas, wisdom and advice! Submissions posted by **Feb. 15** may be featured in our next newsletter.

Pastor Steve Van O

How to submit your ministry stories

Go to the ABCRM.org homepage



Click on the newsletter link



Click on "Share My Stories" to send your ideas, thoughts, wisdom, and experiences about our bi-monthly newsletter theme. This will take you to the **Newsletter Forum** page for the latest discussions.

Let's get the FACTs about our congregations in 2020!

Twenty minutes can make twenty years' worth of difference! Pastors and congregational leaders—both in our region and also throughout the United States—are being asked to participate in the FACT 2020 survey.



FACT, the acronym for Faith Communities Today, is a national project that seeks to better understand congregations in the United States. In fact, since American Baptist Churches have such a variety of diversity, it's imperative that ABC congregations are appropriately represented in this "national portrait" survey. Dr. C. Jeff Woods has been a part of the FACT consultation team since its inception in 2000, and he regularly shares research findings with our region.

A key aspect of FACT is that in order to strengthen our congregations as pastoral leaders, we also need to better understand them. Twenty years ago, FACT conducted the largest study of congregations ever—and this year's survey is a comprehensive follow-up to offer an updated picture of congregational life in the United States.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, or have it completed by another leader in your congregation. Only one person from each congregation needs to fill out the survey. Because the survey itself contains common questions that yield comparable results across denominations, some of the wording of the questions may not sound the way that we word items in the ABC, so please respond the best that you can to each question.

If at all possible, please submit the completed survey online by April 1, 2020.

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You can participate by simply clicking on the link below and completing the online survey. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You do not need to complete the survey in one sitting, but instead, you can save your work and return later to finish if necessary.

SURVEY LINK: <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5375238/FACT-2020-ABCUSA>

Your individual responses are confidential. Only a statistical summary of the results will be made publicly available, so be candid in your responses. Statistical results from the study and a new round of resources based on the information will be available of the FACT website (www.faithcommunitiestoday.org).

The below graphs depict data from the 2015 FACT report, which wasn't a comprehensive survey, but still helped to reveal some interesting trends.

Figure 13: Spiritual Vitality—Not As Much

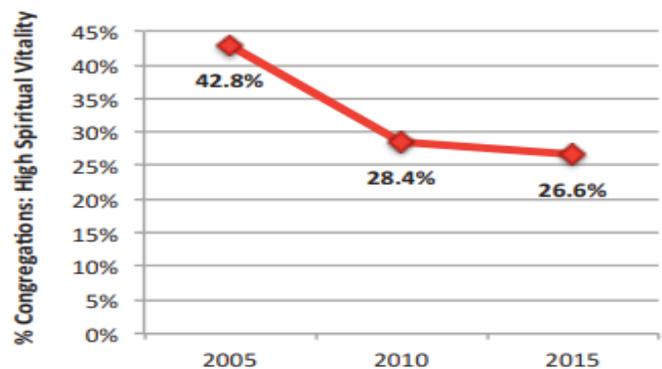


Figure 2: Declining Weekend Worship Attendance

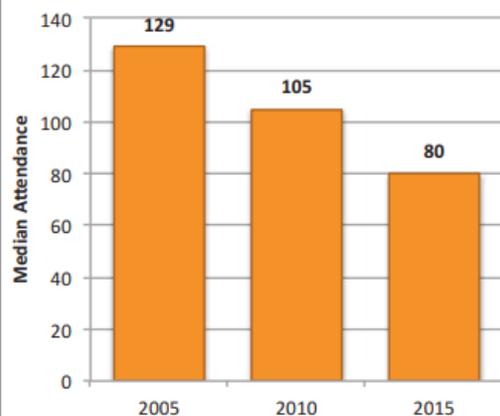
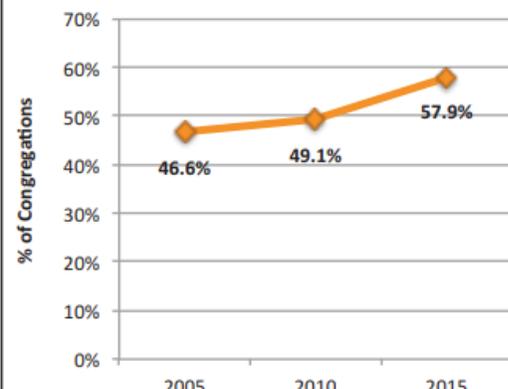


Figure 1: Increasing Numbers of Congregations With Less Than 100 in Weekend Worship Attendance

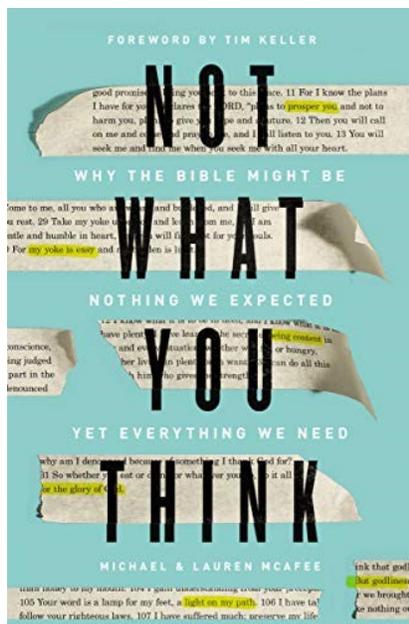


'Not What You Think' will change how you think about millennials

Book Review

Editor's Note: The generational gaps in a number of ministerial settings can unfortunately develop some misconceptions about our youngest societal members. The so-called "rise of the 'Nones'" and the supposedly non-committal attitude of younger individuals to join any "organized membership-based" group can shape our perceptions of the generations that will someday assume the mantle of leadership in our world. The following book review is offered as a fresh look at what to truly "expect."

Not What You Think (2019) written by Michael and Lauren McAfee is a helpful guide into the mind of a millennial. Even though the authors identify their audience as fellow millennial's, they are hopeful that other age groups will consider this book to bring a new understanding of this largest population in the U.S. Often millennial's are dis-



counted and misunderstood. Yet, we need to give attention to this age group and cross section of our culture.

The subtitle of this book "Why the Bible Might be Nothing We Expected Yet Everything We Needed", is a remarkable effort on the part of the authors to invite their generation to delve into the Bible once more or for the very first time. McAfee's are appealing to the nature of millennial's to be inquisitive, searching, and creative. I found the format of this writing to be engaging and informative as the writers shared first, who they and their generation are, where they come from, where they are going, and how they are going to get there. Present day church leaders and future leaders will benefit greatly from the insights brought out by these authors.

If you are a millennial, or you are raising a millennial or a generation Z child or grandchild, then you need to pick up a copy of *Not What You Think*. It just might be the best book you read in 2020. Plus, it could bring you back into the Bible and the church with greater empathy for this larger population that's currently missing from many of our churches.

Pastor James Conley
Western Slope Ministry & Mission Facilitator
First Baptist Church of Delta, Colorado

Job Opportunity

Answer a call to help those serving out their call!

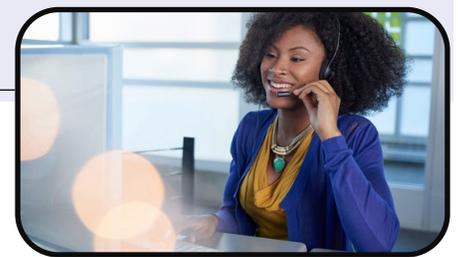
The Region is currently looking for a part-time Secretary/ Bookkeeper.

- Hours: 20 to 25 per week
- Flexible Schedule (3 to 5 days per week)

Required skills:

- *Familiarity with Word, QuickBooks, and Excel
- *Possess a "customer service focus"

Office location: Centennial, near Park Meadows & IKEA



[View the job description here](#)

If you are interested, please contact Karen Van at the ABCRM regional office.

E-mail: kvan@abcr.org

Phone: 303.988.3900

Hospitality: A Pilgrimage of Trust Taizé in Denver

March 13-15, 2020

**A weekend of song, prayer and dialogue
with Brothers John and Emile of Taizé**

The Threshold in partnership with *Regis University*

Mark your calendar

Details: www.thethreshold.us

Contact Brad Berglund 720.489.8073 brad@illuminatedjourneys.com

Freshen up your Bible study with a free streaming library of videos

Media Review

Editor's Note: Our region has partnered with Right Now Media to offer a gift to our pastors and ministerial leaders. If you haven't already signed up, click on the below link (or e-mail office@abcrm.org) for your free access to [Right Now Media](http://RightNowMedia.com), which is the world's largest library of on-demand Bible study videos.

Over the past few months, I have explored Right Now Media to find out what they provide. I have found a variety of offerings. There are endless bible studies, video series, and trainings with a variety of topics for all age groups. If there is a resource you are looking for, Right Now Media probably has something for you to utilize. I find that Right Now Media has given me more resources than I would ever have on my own.



Recently, I have found one of my favorite speakers and writers, Jo Saxton on Right Now Media. She is a powerful speaker and leader. I am enjoying a bible study on Philippians with video and reflection packet by Jo Saxton. This study has made my friends and I reflect on how the early church in Philippi has similarities to the United States with the diversity in their church and community. Jo challenged us to live in unity, and living in unity is putting others above ourselves. We have asked ourselves: how do we do this for each other and our communities? I am excited to keep learning and growing through this study on Philippians. I highly recommend

"The Book of Philippians" bible study by Jo Saxton!

I challenge each of you to check out Right Now Media to see the possibilities they provide.

Lauren Parliament

Camp Intern

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

Mission Trip
March 16–21, 2020



Rainbow
Acres
Camp Verde, AZ

Join the American Baptist Women on a mission trip to Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde, AZ. Rainbow Acres is a Christian community that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

Go to RainbowAcres.com to learn more.

Cost for room and board is \$236 (plus air fare)

Space is limited, sign up early so you don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

For more details and to sign up send email to
ABW@CherryCreekBaptist.org

'Hear the Call' helps adults join God in a call to global missions

International Ministries, the missional branch of the American Baptist Churches that helps to train and to send global servants into the world, is hosting the Hear the Call Retreat July 11-13. The retreat begins at 5 p.m. Saturday and runs through 9 p.m. Monday at Green Lake Conference Center, W2511 State Road 23, Green Lake, Wisconsin 54941.

Hear the Call is for adults who are exploring a personal call to join God in global mission. Participants will interact with global servants and staff of International Ministries who will answer questions, address misconceptions and help attendees evaluate their call. Worship, inspirational messages, Bible study and personal reflection time all combine to make this a powerful discernment experience.

By the end of the weekend, participants will have a clear conception of the next steps in the process and a deeper understanding of the culture and missiology of International Ministries.

For more information click on the below link or go to: <https://www.internationalministries.org/hear-the-call/>

Mission Opportunity

Hurricane rebuilding trips to Puerto Rico and Texas

April 19-28 **Puerto Rico**
May 17-27 **Houston, Texas**

Sponsored by: The American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains and All Hands and Hearts Smart Response. The deadline to signup: **60 days** before trip date.

Serve your neighbors as they recover from the terrible disaster caused by Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Harvey. For more information, contact Stuart Lord at texashurricanerelief1718@gmail.com

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

What's Happening

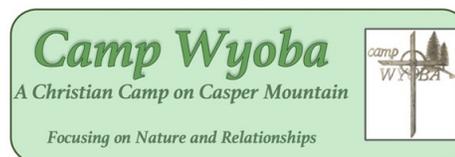
Calendar

February

- 7.....Mission Committee Meeting
- 8.....9 a.m. Front Range Camp Meeting (ABCRM)
- 8 10 a.m. WYOBA Board Meeting,
Trinity Baptist Church, Douglas, Wyo.
- 17.....Presidents Day (Region office closed)
- 21-22MLC Meeting
- 26.....Ash Wednesday (Lenten Season)

March

- 1.....Church Planting Sunday
- 10-11Steve Cuss Workshop (Handling Anxiety)
- 20-30Teaching Trip to Chiapas, Mexico
- 25-27Audit Fieldwork



Discover the variety and peacefulness of Casper Mountain with these upcoming events for the New Year. Mark your calendars and explore Wyoming this year!

Youth Camps for 2020

Senior High	July 12 - 18
Junior High	July 19 - 25
Junior	July 5 - 11
Primary	July 26 - 29
Mini-Camp	June 28 - 30

Camp experiences for both families and Adults in 2020

Work Week	June 8 - 12, Monday - Friday
Post- High Retreat	July 31 - Aug. 2, Friday dinner - Sunday
Fellowship Weekend	Aug. 6 - 8, Thursday - Saturday
Women's Retreat	August 28 - 30, Friday dinner - Sunday lunch



*Be the hands, heart, and feet of
God in this world.*

**The Rocky Mountain
American Baptist**
is published by the
American Baptist Churches
of the Rocky Mountains
www.abcrm.org

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Executive Minister
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*This newsletter will now be
published every two months,
beginning March 1, 2020.*

*The new deadline for
submissions is the 15th of
each month.*

Send submissions to
kvan@abcrm.org

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