

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARTLAND CHURCH NETWORK



WE ARE HCN

AARON HOUSEHOLDER, AMS

Twenty-plus pastors around tables sharing conversation, encouragement, and laughter. It was our pastor's meeting. Genuine, loving relationships were present. I thought: We are HCN.

A dozen pastor's wives next door at the same time. They know better than anyone how they give, how they love, and how they hurt. A unique sisterhood. We are HCN.

80 ministry leaders, from more than 20 of our churches, learning, laughing, and sharing. It's PIVOT, our annual leadership conference. I thought once more: We are HCN. Dozens of couples will join in our annual Minister & Spouse Retreat. Though different sizes, different styles, and different visions for these churches, we serve the same Lord with the same heart. We are HCN.

HCN is a cooperative association of Baptist churches. We belong to one another because we chose one another. We participate in events because we chose to be there. We partner together because we chose Kingdom work. We are HCN!

I am so thankful to be HCN with you.

Annual Christmas Fellowship

Family and friends, glazed ham and roasted turkey, mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables, and of course plenty of pies to choose from. Sounds like November or December, right? With HCN, that's our annual Christmas Fellowship in January.





Each January—when schedules aren't quite so busy—HCN invites pastors, ministers, and their spouses to enjoy a few hours of good food and great fellowship. This year's event was held at the Millard Social Hall on January 6th. A welcome break from the busyness of life and a time of refreshment for all.

PIVOT Leadership Conference

Kingdom Prayer was the focus of HCN's annual leadership conference, PIVOT, on Saturday, February 17th, in Omaha. Jerry Conner, Executive Director of the Kansas City Kansas Baptist Association, taught our two keynote sessions calling us to pray like Jesus and leading us to follow Jesus' model. Worship music was provided by Dr. Bret Welstead and members of New Covenant, Lincoln.

In addition to Kingdom Prayer, 66 participants enjoyed eight breakout sessions on everything from Everyday Evangelism by Dallas Powell to Internet Tools to Reach More People by Pastor Dan Wills, Venture, Bellevue. Dr. Curt Dodd, Westside, Omaha, shared decades of experience in

Best Practices for Great Stewardship and Pastor Dwayne Hawkins of Antioch Baptist, Omaha, taught Simple Strategic Planning for Your Ministry. Those are just four of the varied topics offered.



Mark you calendars for PIVOT 2025—February 15, 2025—and plan to join us. Also, don't miss our new **KidMin! Children's Ministry Conference** on August 10th, 2024!

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For 30 years Southview Baptist Church, Lincoln, has celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus in an arresting style. Each year the entire church family comes together to perform a powerful, musical drama. This year's drama will be even more special within the newly remodeled sanctuary.

Southview members portray the life of Jesus and the Good News that he



came to save everyone. Moving for Believers and captivating for those who don't yet know Jesus as Savior, the drama portrays scenes from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. All of this brought to life by dozens of actors, a full choir, live animals, and special effects.

This Day of Resurrection is free to all, no tickets required, with five performances throughout the Palm Sunday weekend:

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 PM Friday, March 22, 7:00 PM Saturday, March 23, 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM Sunday, March 24, 7:00 PM



To watch a trailer and find out more: southviewbaptist.org/easter-performance

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Pastor's Meeting

stress. The statistics on pastoral anxiety, burn-out, and drop-out are frightening. Pastor Andy Addis, of the Crosspoint churches in Kansas, was one of those statistics. With a growing church and a busy schedule, Andy almost lost it all as his body shut down. Wise church members helped Pastor Andy ingrain rhythms of rest and renewal into his weekly, monthly, and yearly schedule. Those rhythms Pastor Andy protected and God prospered the ministry of the Crosspoint churches.

This was the story pastors heard and learned at the February 1 HCN Pastor's Meeting in Fremont. Andy's book, "Rhythms: Moving From Surviving to Thriving in Ministry", is available at:

All HCN pastors and ministry staff are welcome to join us each quarter for these helpful meetings. Our next meeting is Thursday, May 9 featuring Dr. Brett Yohn on the topic of Journey Groups. Thursday, August 1, has Drs. John Shields and Bob Mills speaking on the Natural Church Development survey tool.





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Pastor's Wives Appreciation Month

Pastor's Wives Appreciation Month is March. Enjoy this article by Nikki Riley, Bethel Baptist, Lincoln.

How do I appreciate my Pastor's wife? My husband and I take Deborah, along with her husband, out to eat on a regular basis. We have also sent her cards and flowers, and provided cakes honoring her at church. We have visited her in the hospital when she was ill. We have given her a gift certificate for a full body massage (including tip). I have visited our shut-ins with Deborah. This year we will give her a gift certificate for her go-to nail salon treatment.

How will you honor your Pastor's wife this March and throughout the year?





LOOKING AHEAD

Couples from our network of churches will be coming together for a time of fellowship, relaxation, and restoration. Our prayer is that this will be a nice respite from the hectic pace and stress of ministering to others. This event is designed as a fellowship, encouragement and enrichment event for pastors and ministry staff and their spouses.





Kid's Kamp is 5 days full of fun and Jesus! Children will get to go swimming, play games, make crafts and hear from real life missionaries! While no two days are exactly alike, parents can count on a quality, safe, and affordable opportunity that ensures your children will experience a week to remember!

KidMin! Conference aims at equipping, edifying, and engaging children's ministry leaders and volunteers. How you teach is just as important as what you teach, so we plan to PLAY together as a way of LEARNING together. Teaching and discipling kids is a fun ministry, crucial to the growth of our churches and the Kingdom of God. Come see what it means to organize a children's ministry, train up ministry leaders within your church, and teach kiddos in ways that make them want to keep learning and growing in Christ! We are called to make disciples of all nations, and that starts right here, at home, with our own young ones.



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