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# Minnesota Baptist Messenger

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

As we enter another Christmas season, it is our hope that the narrative of the incarnation will instill in us a **deep desire to worship** the Babe who was born to be our Savior. May this season motivate us to **share this glorious news** to a world which has no hope apart from Christ.



Do you have articles for the MBM? Or do you have a comment about the MBM? Please send your email correspondence to [dfriar@marbc.org](mailto:dfriar@marbc.org).

(If you got this as a result of a friend forwarding this newsletter to you, and you'd like to be added to our list for future newsletters, please send your request to me, Darrell Friar, at [dfriar@marbc.org](mailto:dfriar@marbc.org).)

## MARBC ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The MARBC held its annual meeting at First Baptist Church in New Ulm on September 15-17. The theme was "Entrusted: Leading, Living & Growing for God's Glory." Special speaker was **Corey Pfaffe** (pictured) from Watertown, WI.



Before the business session began, MARBC Representative **Darrell Friar** announced his resignation to be effective October 1, 2026. Darrell has mentioned this is not a retirement, but a free agent looking for the next opportunity. He desires to stay active in ministry when his tenure is complete.

The MARBC messengers voted to have the Council of Seven (Co7) reach out to the **Minnesota Baptist Association** (MBA) to inquire about the possibility of merging the two associations. A letter was drafted by the Co7 and sent to the leadership of the MBA shortly thereafter.

The new Co7 committee leading the MARBC are Pastors **Jon Eads** (Rochester), **Greg Linscott** (Rochester), **William Lobb** (Fergus Falls), **Jared Matthew** (Sauk Centre), **Thomas Overmiller** (Moorhead), **Ben Simons** (Brownsdale) and **Pat Thompson** (New Ulm).



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Baptist in Bemidji.

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## ROCHESTER HOPE OVERFLOWING CONFERENCE

Area women are invited to the Hope Overflowing Conference on **February 27-28** at Calvary Baptist Church in Rochester. Guest speaker will be **Holly Stratton** (lifehurts.us).



Cost is \$60 for those registering by January 4 (\$70 thereafter). Registration includes two meals along with the conference events. Special rates are offered for ministry women and students. Contact the church at 507-289-6750 for more information.

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## BASS LAKE CAMPING NEWS

### BUILDING UPDATE:

The building is now enclosed. Rough-in plumbing is done. The electrical rough-in is in progress. Exterior siding is being delivered as this is



being written and is scheduled for installation by Thanksgiving. The work is moving along nicely and we are ahead of schedule. Financially, we are at **94%** of our needed funds with a remaining need of **\$43.1k**. It would be great to get this need taken care of by the end of the year. Can you help us?

**CLOSED FOR THE WINTER:** Many thanks to several individuals who have helped **close the camp** down for the winter. The older portion of camp is not prepared to endure the winter, so the water lines have to be blown out. Some mechanical work, repairs and moving many items into storage has also occurred. While these types of projects will still need to be done every year, our newer buildings allow us to have events no matter

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**MEA EVENT:** Seventy individuals gathered at Bass Lake during the MEA event. The event was hosted by First Baptist in Marshall and most of those attending came from the southwestern part of the state.

Be sure to go to the [CAMP'S WEBPAGE](#) for any information needed concerning camp. Have a question? Send us a note at [info@basslakecamp.org](mailto:info@basslakecamp.org) and we will give you an answer as soon as we can.



Be sure to follow us on **Facebook**. The camp has a [business page](#) and a [public group page](#) whereby you can share your thoughts on the camping ministry. The Facebook feeds allow you to be informed of camp events on a regular basis. You will see pictures of building progress, our needs, deadline alerts and other useful information.

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## MARBC CALENDAR & REP SCHEDULE

### January

- 4:** Faribault, First Baptist
- 6:** Pastor's Fellowship (Mankato)
- 11:** Marshall, First Baptist
- 12:** Council of Seven Meeting (Zoom)
- 13:** SE Pastor's Fellowship (TBA)
- 18:** Fergus Falls, Woodland Baptist
- 25:** Hibbing, First Baptist

### February

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**10-13:** GARBC State Reps Meeting (Florida)

**17:** SE Pastor's Fellowship (TBA)

**22:** Brainerd, Faith Baptist

**27-28:** Hope Overflowing Women's Conference, Calvary Baptist,  
Rochester

### March

**1:** Albert Lea, Faith Baptist

**3:** Pastor's Fellowship (Mankato)

**7:** Camp Corporation Meeting (TBA)

**8:** Mankato, Grace Baptist

**15:** Sartell: Grace Baptist

**17:** SE Pastor's Fellowship (TBA)

**22:** Montevideo, Cornerstone Baptist

**29:** Available

***You can request a date for Brother Friar to come visit your church and provide an encouraging report on the association and preaching from the Word.***

## BUS TRIP REVIEW

Twenty-four guests left Minnesota for some thrilling eastern sites including Niagara Falls, Boston and Plymouth.

We were able to see a

bit of New England color as our trip was October 13-21.



The group's first stop was the home, museum and burial ground of **President Rutherford Hayes** in Fremont, OH. Hayes was the 19th President of our country. Here we learned of his early history, the unusual circumstances that produced his presidential victory, and his accomplishments he made while in office.

The travelers spent a full day at **Niagara Falls**. The morning hours were spent on the American side of the falls and included a

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rain ponchos and proceeded to the base of the horseshoe falls. The afternoon and early evening hours were spent on the Canadian side. We were able to take a trip behind the Horseshoe Falls (Journey Behind the Falls) during the day and then ascend the Skylon Tower to see the falls at night.



The following day we visited the **Corning Museum of Glass** in Corning NY. Here we saw all sorts of glass compositions in addition to some demonstrations by glass artisans.



Perhaps the most rugged part of our trip was the **Freedom Trail in Boston**. We visited sixteen historical sites along a 2.5 mile trail. Because of the government shutdown, some of the venues were closed, but it was an exciting hike nonetheless. In the evening, we took a cruise of the Boston harbor at sunset and heard the canon blast of the USS Constitution at dusk.

We took a day to visit **Plymouth, MA**. A Patuxent village and English settlement began our day. Many workers were in costume dress of the 1600s and would interact with us. We saw a the Grist Mill, a recreated mill still being used today. Some of our group took a walking tour through Plymouth and saw the Plymouth Rock. We later met as a group and boarded the Mayflower II. Our final destination in Plymouth was the Monument to the National Forefathers. While in Plymouth we

restaurants and shops.

The scariest part of our adventure was while we were in Plymouth. Our motel was expecting us to **vacate our rooms**. They were confused why we hadn't checked out and luggage was still in the rooms. They were sold out for the night. Evidently, when the contract was drawn up, they did not include our final night's stay. We made it a matter of prayer. I am still not sure of all the details, but we were allowed to stay as, I suppose, other guests were inconvenienced.



Our final stop was a factory tour of **Jayco** campers in Middlebury, IN. We saw how the campers are put together on the assembly line from start to finish. This is in the heart of Amish country in Indiana and we saw how many of the Amish would bike in to work at the factory.



Plans for next year's trip will be a route around **Lake Michigan** and feature Mackinaw Island, Sault St. Marie and more.

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### MARBC FINANCES (11/7/25)

- General Fund: \$8,990.87
- Burden Bearers: \$6,450.90
- Northern Fellowship: \$766.35
- Church Planting: \$34,330.20
- Woodbury Funds: \$12,000.00

## KASSON - First Baptist, Pastor John Todor

The First Baptist Church of Kasson celebrated their **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** on Sunday, November 9.

The service started with a mini **slide show** of the church addition being built in 1964-1965 and **ringing of the historic church bell**. The church history was read starting with the merging of the Scandinavian and Danish churches, reminding the congregation of God's faithfulness over the years.

The morning was filled with uplifting worship songs as the congregation gave thanks for God's provision and goodness. Special music was provided by the **Brian Brasher family**. Former pastors and members shared testimonies/memories of how God worked in this small church to bring many people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Darrell Friar**, MARBC State Representative, and his wife, Cindy, were special guests on this milestone day. Darrell shared from I Corinthians 15:58 encouraging the congregation that ministry is not in vain. **Pastor John Todor** concluded the service with a Member Covenant/Pledge testifying to God's sustaining grace in the life and ministry of the First Baptist Church of Kasson. The church is looking ahead to the many wonderful opportunities the Lord will give this local body of Christ to share the gospel and be a beacon of light in the Kasson-Mantorville community.

***"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" I Corinthians 15:58.***

Group pictures and a **Harvest Dinner** commenced this milestone in their church's history following the service. Thank you to all who made this such a special day! God is faithful and has great things planned for the First Baptist Church of Kasson in the years to come!

### Fun Facts

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- In 1935, the church joined the fellowship of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and has continued in that fellowship to this present day.
- The original church in 1875 had a total cost including furniture of \$4,000!
- The original church was completed 20 years before the famous Kasson water tower of 1895.

***Do you have local church news which can be shared with our MBM readers? Our readers would love to hear reports from your church. Please send articles to [dfriar@marbc.org](mailto:dfriar@marbc.org).***

#### **FRIENDLY REMINDERS**

**Send us your news** and pictures! Please note that there is no deadline to send us your news. Once you have some news, send it our way and we will include it in the next newsletter.

Pray for our churches in need of a senior pastor.  
**Hibbing, First Baptist  
 Rochester, Chinese  
 Christian**

Is your church interested in joining with an independent Baptist fellowship that works together so that each church's ministry is strengthened and expanded? The MARBC is a growing association of autonomous Baptist churches that is having an impact in our state. We would love to have you join with us.

#### **2025 CAMP DATES**

June 9-12: Staff Training  
 June 12-14: Rental Group  
 June 16-21: Rental Group  
 June 23-28: Family Camp

July 4-6: Counselor Training  
 July 7-12: Junior Camp  
 July 14-19: Jr. High Camp  
 July 21-26: Sr. High Camp  
 July 28-30: Primary Camp

Aug. 1-3: Young Adults Rally  
 Aug. 14-15: Breathe ~ A Ladies' Retreat

Sept. 5-6: Men's Retreat



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**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES**

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**MARBC Council of Seven (currently six members)**

- Rev. Greg Linscott, Chairman
- Rev. Jake Heppner, Vice-Chairman
- Rev. Jonathan Eads, Secretary
- Rev. Nathan Hitz, Treasurer
- Rev. Thomas Overmiller, Church Planting & Revitalization
- Rev. Ben Simons, Burden Bearers
- Rev. Brian Wiita, Youth

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**[WWW.MARBC.ORG](http://WWW.MARBC.ORG)**

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