



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

*Be a vessel that God can pour his love through.
Let It Flow*

May 2018 No 1

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
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web: www.abcgrr.org

2018 Calendar

May:

12: **Professional Boundaries Course** - GRR Resource Center

18 - 19: **Grow Healthy Workshop**
First Baptist Church
Decatur, IL

June:

8 - 10: **ABWM GRR Annual Conference**, Northfield Inn & Suites and Conference Center, Springfield, IL

22 - 23: **AB Men's Conference**
Bloomington IL First Baptist Church

July:

4 - 7: **World Mission Conference, Green Lake, WI**

August:

4 - 12 **Sturgis Mission**
24 - 25: **American Baptist History & Polity Course**
GRR Resource Center

September:

27: **GRR Ministers Conference**,
Bloomington, IL

28 - 29: **GRR Annual Assembly**
The Chateau
Bloomington, IL

Camping Season 2018

Camping season for 2018 is coming soon. It is time to register for camp. Blackhawk and Lake Springfield Baptist camps offer opportunities for all ages.

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp & Conference Center (www.lsbconline.com) is a year-round facility on



the shore of Lake Springfield in Springfield, IL. The managers for Lake Springfield Camp are John

and Kelsey Parrish. Several new camps are planned for this year. Descriptions of the camps and registration forms can be found on the camp's website.

Blackhawk Baptist Camp is a wooded camp in northern Illinois near White Plains State Park and Oregon, IL. Bruce and Bobbie Rose are the managers of Blackhawk Camp.



Camping is a wonderful experience. Fun camping experiences AND life changing spiritual experiences give campers and staff opportunities to grow closer to the Lord.



**A Word From
Paul
Gibson, ABCGRR
Executive
Minister**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? What are you doing to make the presence of Jesus more real in your life and neighborhood? What is your church doing to make His presence more real in your community? Use Micah 6:8 or the passage on the Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23, as your measuring tool. How are you doing?

CAMPS AND CONFERENCES.

Plan to be a part of a camp or conference this summer. The folks at **Blackhawk Camp** and **Lake Springfield Camp** have some great opportunities for you this summer. Be praying for the workers, counselors, and volunteers as they prepare for the camping season. There are also many great camping experiences waiting for you at our **Green Lake Conference Center**. I will be involved in two of them, the Holy Spirit Conference, and the Missions Conference. I look forward to meeting many of our missionaries at the Missions Conference, and hopefully I will see some of you.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE/ANNUAL GATHERING, BLOOMINGTON, SEPT 27-29 We are blessed to have **David Fitch, Tony Campolo, Shane Claiborne, and Sharon Koh** with us. Wow....you won't want to miss this gathering. Plan now to attend

GREAT CHANGES. Our board voted this past week to go to an every other year gathering, on the off years of our national gathering (Biennial) for ABCUSA. They will bring it to us for an approval vote at the meeting in Sept. in Bloomington. So, we will meet this fall, and then if approved, our next gathering will be in 2020.

This is happening so that we can put effort into a joint conference venture we are doing with **Judson University and Northern Seminary**. This Conference will be held in early May on the odd years. The first one is being planned for May 9-11 in 2019, and will be held in Bloomington. This is the first time anyone can recall all three partners going together to plan an event. You will be hearing more about it in the next few months, but put that date on your calendars for 2019. So, on even years we will have our annual gathering, and on odd years the joint conference. It has been exciting to sit down with both presidents, Gene Crume of Judson, and Bill Shiell of Northern, to plan this new event. Be praying for us as we plan.

I just got back from spending 3 days with my 94-year-old mother. It was a blessing. Here is our wish for you.... Be rightly related to God and find your joy there, and out of you will flow rivers of living water. Be a vessel that God can pour His love through.





GRR Annual Conference

Celebrating 50 Years

June 8 - 10, 2018

Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL

Missionary: **Betty Martin**, Executive Director of Murrow Indian Children's Home

Bible Study Leader: **Rev. Muriel Johnson**, Area V Area Minister

50th Anniversary Celebration

Special Music by : **D. Scott Kramer and Rachel West Kramer**

Send registration to:

Lori Hill, 26 NW 40th St., Kansas City, MO 64116, Email: Lori.hill@gmail.com



American Baptist Men Annual Conference

Each year, the men of Great Rivers Region join together for a time of fellowship, renewal, food, fun, workshops, speakers, and challenges. Our 2018 Gathering will be held in **Bloomington, Illinois at First Baptist Church on June 22-23**. Mark your calendars to attend.

Here is the registration site:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScX5Q_BrxrGhFu7z8q4oOo9mnhxb2UjF-p2rWlvMX8SilyoPZg/viewform

World Mission Conference

The World Mission Conference will be held at: Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin from 6:30 p.m. on July 4 through 9:00 p.m. on July 7, 2018.

Discover how International Ministries global servants and partners make disciples for Jesus Christ through ministries of health and wellness, economic and community development and the abolition of human trafficking.

Celebrate the 4th of July as you interact with global servants and international leaders from dozens of nations, participate in global worship and conversation and explore ways to be more involved in global mission.

Grow Healthy



Join Michael Lukaszewski in Grow Healthy, a workshop for pastors and church leaders, hosted by Decatur

First Baptist Church May 18 and 19. Free to participate. **Download information | Form to fill out, then scan or fax.** Details on form.

Ron French, host pastor, "This workshop is intended to help churches consider their vision and mission and develop a strategy unique to their situation that will help them grow and blossom as lights in their community."

If you have any questions, please call the First Baptist Church and ask for Pastor Ron, 217-875-8034, or e-mail him at revfrench@comcast.net



Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)

With great excitement we introduce to the Great Rivers Region churches the **Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)**. The Church Revitalization Initiative is designed to help committed pastors and church leaders who are willing to do what it takes to revitalize their churches. The Initiative is comprised of pastors and church leaders who have helped lead their churches to healthy revitalized congregations.

If you are feeling stagnant and/or undecided how to move forward, please email me; (wallyholt63@gmail.com) and we can discuss your situation and determine if the team can be of service to you. We know that we are living in difficult times and that is why we want to be of assistance to you. In Proverbs 20:18, we read the following: "plans succeed through good counsel;...". Since we are all one family (of God), the Great Rivers Region has put together this initiative so that all will know we are here for each other. If you think you may be interested in some counsel concerning the health/vitality of your church, please contact me.

Wally Holt, Coordinator

New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

First Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO Welcomes: Andrea Davidson, Matt Clingan, Jill Clingan,, Amelie Clingan, Jackson Clingan, William Rinck, Christine Rinck, Skye Neal and Geneva Abel

Sturgis Mission

The ABC Emergency Services Center mission project will be open August 4 - 12 during the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally in and around Sturgis, South Dakota. Prayerfully consider this opportunity as a church. Find out more by downloading the flyer: . <http://abcgrr.org/abc-usa/SturgisFlyer2018.pdf>

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks:
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Mainstream Contact Information

Send your stories of mission and ministry. Please also send the names of new members to:

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