



# The Mainstream News of Ministry and Mission

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

January 2018 No 1

Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org)  
Online edition interactive

web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

## 2018 Calendar

### March:

- 2 - 3: **ABWM Regional Board**
- 10: **Area V Annual Gathering**  
Grace Baptist Church  
Kansas City, MO
- 11: **Area II Annual Meeting**  
FBC Moweaqua, IL

### April:

- 14: **Area III Annual Meeting**
- 15: **Area IV Annual Meeting**  
FBC Murphysboro, IL
- 20 - 21: **Face To Face**
- 27 - 28: **Clergy Spouse Retreat**  
Lake Springfield Camp
- 28: **Area I Annual Meeting**  
Blackhawk Baptist Camp

### June:

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

### September:

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



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

### BE THE PRESENCE

I was listening to someone talking the other day about what was the most important thing. The person suggested that it was not to tell people about Jesus, but it was to “be the presence” of Jesus. We live in a skeptical world where many people are like those from Missouri, they want us to show them.

Let the world see what it means to be a Christian both as an individual and as a group of people, be that your church or our region. To help you with this I would encourage you to read a book by David Fitch, from Northern Seminary, “Faithful Presence”. **David is going to be with us at our Minister’s Conference** in the Fall and at our annual gathering. I found his book to be very helpful.

Here are a few thoughts as I have been listening to God these past few weeks.

1. **Make America great or make Jesus great in your life?** I would suggest you concentrate on the second one. The difference between (continued on p. 2)

## Paul Gibson (continued)

these two is that, in making Jesus great in your life you are thinking about others, because that is what He did. Make Jesus great in your life, and He will take care of the rest

2. **CRI.** Church Revitalization Initiative. What is it and how can we be involved? Those questions will be answered in the next two newsletters.
3. **Family Reunion.** That's what I think about when I think of our annual meeting in Bloomington this fall. I am asking every pastor and church to prayerfully consider joining us for a great gathering. Are you going?
4. **Missions.** When I think of it, we don't have 220 churches in our region, we have 220 missions. Each church is a mission outpost for Jesus. **Remember, you don't "go" to church, you "are" the church!**
5. **Sunday night service or mid-week service?** My thinking has changed on these two things. I think it would be good to be involved in both, but with a twist. I think Sunday night would be a good time to serve God as you serve your family. Sunday night could be a service night to family, to be together and encourage each other. Mid-week service could be sometime during the week where you and yours take 2-3 hours to be involved in service to friends and neighbors. Once again, it is not something you go to, but something you do. Food for thought.

I pray that each one of us will be able to continue the Christmas celebration by being the presence of Jesus to those around us.

And....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.

LET IT FLOW

Paul



\*\*\*\*\*

## Face to Face: A Help for Churches and Pastors Searching For God's Call

Face to Face is an opportunity for Search Committees of churches seeking full time pastors (not bivocational) to interview pastors and seminarians seeking to discern God's next step. Each participating church and each pastor will be able to participate in several interviews during the two day event. Look for information in the next few months about this opportunity on the GRR website.

[www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

Host Church: **First Baptist Church Anderson, Indiana**

Dates: **April 20 - 21, 2018**

Who's Involved? The American Baptist Regions of Indiana / Kentucky, Greater Indianapolis, Michigan, Ohio, and Great Rivers (Team Member: Muriel Johnson)

## First Baptist Church Moweaqua, IL To Host 2018 Work As Worship Retreat

You're invited to the **2018 Work as Worship Retreat**, where eleven influential business leaders and pastors will discuss what it looks like to connect faith and work. Taking place as a **1 – Day Local Church Retreat on February 23, 2018**, the live event in Dallas will be **web-streamed** to over 2,000 churches around the world. **The First Baptist Church of Moweaqua IL** is one of the host sites so you don't have to drive far to participate. The church address is 7 Fox Meadow Lane Moweaqua IL 62550.

**Join** Patrick Lencioni (Author, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*), Joel Manby (CEO, SeaWorld), Phil Vischer (Creator, VeggieTales and Jellyfish Labs), Wendy Davidson (President, US Specialty Channels Kellogg Company), Matt Chandler (Lead Pastor, The Village Church), and others in a day filled with real-life stories, biblical teaching, and practical wisdom that will equip believers in the marketplace to see their work as an opportunity to care for their families, fulfill their calling, and bring glory to God.

Go to [www.workasworshipretreat.org](http://www.workasworshipretreat.org) to learn more or register for the retreat. Search 62550 to register for the Moweaqua site. The **cost is \$25** and includes a full day of speakers and lunch.

Come seek God's Kingdom with us for the!

## Church News



**Rev. Jim Jenkel** became the pastor of **First Baptist Church of Benton, Illinois**, effective October 1. As a bi-vocational pastor, he shepherds the flock of FBC and is also an LPN/patient care technician for a local dialysis company.

Jenkel was ordained in 2007 and was the pastor of First Baptist Church of Freeburg for 11 years. He and his wife, Fran, have been married 44 years. "Fran and I are both excited about being here in Benton," says Jenkel. "I look forward to serving the congregation of First Baptist as we grow and learn from one another."

\*\*\*\*\*

**First Baptist Church of Pontiac, IL** has called **Doyle James (Jay) Hurd Jr.** to become **part-time Associate Pastor** effective January 7, 2018. Jay will have primary responsibility for youth, music, and worship. During worship on January 7 Jay will be licensed to preach which allows him to perform pastoral duties within the local church.



Jay has been in the Ministry of working with people for 30 years. He is married to Lisa and has 5 children. Music has always been a big part of his life and Jay especially enjoys worship and praise through song.

Jay has been in the Ministry of working with people for 30 years. He is married to Lisa and has 5 children. Music has always been a big part of his life and Jay especially enjoys worship and praise through song.

## Great Rivers Regional Scholarship Programs

Scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people who are **members of Great Rivers Region American Baptist Churches** to secure a college and/or seminary education. Scholarships for any college student (regardless of major) or seminary student from the **Gernenz-Shurtleff/Wilcoxon Scholarship** are available. Ministerial students attending ABC-related schools and seminaries in preparation for ministry can also apply for the **Harold O. Long Scholarship**.

**All applications must be received in the GRR office by April 1, 2018.**

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to:

**Scholarship Committee  
Attention Debbie Naugle**  
PO Box 13457  
Springfield IL 62791  
Phone 217-726-7366  
Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Web Ministry Notes

Churches,  
What is the anniversary date of your domain payment? Is your domain (address on the web, e.g. [abcgrr.org](http://abcgrr.org), still yours? If it lapses, your users will not be able to find your site.

E-mail GRR Webmaster, Richard Ricks: [revrick4@comcast.net](mailto:revrick4@comcast.net)

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711 Phone: (217) 726-7366 Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org) Web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org) To subscribe or unsubscribe to The Mainstream or to change contact information, please send an e-mail to Debbie Naugle with your request: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org).

## New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

**First Baptist Church, Benton IL Welcomes:** Eugene Davis, Brad Berrong, and Nickey Berrong

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note on New Members and Mainstream Articles:** *If you sent a list of new members or an article for Mainstream during December and it is not in this edition of Mainstream, please email the information to me again. I had a problem with my computer and several weeks of emails disappeared. I apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Coming in Next Issue:

Church  
Revitalization  
Initiative

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mainstream Contact Information

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

**Linda Ricks**  
**232 Devron Circle**  
**East Peoria, IL 61611**

[Ricks4LR@comcast.net](mailto:Ricks4LR@comcast.net)