



The Mainstream News of Ministry and Mission

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

March 2018 No 2

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

2018 Calendar

March:

30 Good Friday, GRR Offices Closed

April:

1 Easter Sunday

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

July 4-7

World Mission Conference
Green Lake, WI

September:

27: **GRR Ministers Conference**

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

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

Rolling Prairie Baptist Church in Rochester (IL) and Elliott Avenue Baptist Church in Springfield (IL) are hosting an open house reception for Pastor Mark Estrop on Sunday, April 8th from 2 pm to 4 pm.



Before his current pastorate, Mark had served as Minister of Camping and Christian Education on the Staff of the ABC GRR.



A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister

Rex Rogers and I were at a great event last week hosted by a group called Fresh Expressions USA. It is a new church planting movement that started with the church of England about 20 years ago. One of the people presenting said that you know that had to be the work of the Holy Spirit if it came out of the church of England. We will be sharing more about this in the future, but **here are a few things that struck me.**

One of the sayings from the event was, "we are not planting churches, we are planting the gospel". The whole idea behind this movement is that each church becomes a mission and each member becomes a missionary. The key word is not coming to church, but **the key word is to go from the church and take the gospel to your world.** Each church could encourage members, or missionaries from their church to be starting fresh expressions of the gospel in the community. The key to all of this is that most of the people in those fresh expressions will be unchurched people. This is going to be an emphasis in our denomination. There were 52 American Baptists at this gathering and we had a great time. Our own David Fitch from Northern Seminary was one of the key presenters.

We still have three of our area meetings coming up so I hope to see you at one of them. It's a great time to learn about what's happening in

our region and also a great time of fellowship being with friends.

One event that's coming up this summer that I would encourage you to think about is the world missions conference at Green Lake at the beginning of July. This is a wonderful event and you will meet 30 or 40 of our missionaries and be able to find out all about them and their work. Prayerfully consider it.

As Easter is just around the corner I hope you and your church family have a blessed time celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our world needs that more now than ever.

Remember, ***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.***



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>



Area III Annual Meeting

“To Know and Be Known”

Making our churches known and attractive to our communities

Saturday, April 14, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Peoria

411 W Lake Avenue

Peoria, IL

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Gene Crume,
President of Jud-
son University



Huntley Brown will be leading worship.

Cost: **\$25.00** (\$30.00 after April 1)

Area IV Annual Meeting

Murphysboro First Baptist hosts our Area IV Youth and Adults April 15. 2:00 p.m. reg; 2:30 Worship

Encouragement and Updates from our Regional Ministers
Paul Gibson, Patty Bilyeu, and Bill Stoklosa

Missions in Hungary - Larry and Becky Stanton, Vivian May
Steve Willis as Adoniram Judson

Area I Annual Meeting

Saturday April 28th, we will gather at **BlackHawk Baptist Camp**.

Rev. Muriel Johnson, Area Minister for Area V, will be our guest speaker. The theme is “Working, But Not Weary.”



Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.
The program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Area Meeting Online Information

Find contact information for each area meeting: <http://www.abcgrr.org/areas/annualmeetings.htm>

World Mission Conference

Location: Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin

Dates: 6:30 PM on Wednesday, July 4, through 9:00 PM on Saturday, July 7

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.

Clergy Spouse Retreat

“Growing Into an Effective Minister’s Wife”

Friday Evening, **April 27** - Saturday Afternoon, **April 28**, 2018

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
5878 Iron Bridge Road
Springfield, IL



Retreat Leader:
Sharon Malone, is a member of St. Luke Baptist Church in Rockford, Illinois, where she serves as teacher, mentor, and counselor.

All spouses of clergy (pastors or church staff) are welcome to attend.

Cost: **\$40.00**
\$20.00 First Timers

Send Registration To:
Judi Mills
7812 Hunt Road
Springfield, IL 62712

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

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 Web: 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.

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/Wilcoxen 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

Scholarships are also available for a variety of pursuits at AB Home Mission Societies. <http://abhms.org/ministries/developing-leaders/education-scholarships/>