

## Calendar 2016

### August:

12 - 13: **Baptist History and Polity Course**  
GRR Resource Center  
Springfield, IL

20: **Area I Adult Day**  
Blackhawk Baptist Camp

### September:

22: **Minister's Conference**  
Effingham, IL

23 - 24: **GRR Annual Assembly**  
**Thelma Keller**  
**Convention Center,**  
**Effingham, IL**

### October:

15: **Boundaries Course**  
GRR Resource Center  
Springfield, IL

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## North Bridge Baptist Church To Celebrate 150 Years of Ministry

**North Bridge Baptist Church**, 2413 E. Ziebarth Road, Normal, IL will celebrate 150 years of ministry on Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a brief history of the church tracing its origin as First Baptist Church of Normal located near the campus of Illinois State University. There will also be music and an ice cream social. Everyone is invited to attend.

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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, Decatur, IL**  
**Welcomes:** Addison Hudson, Matthew Wimmer, JoAnna Stanick, Keith Guinn, and Diane Guinn.

**First Baptist Church, Hartford, IL**  
**Welcomes:** Fred Rake, Janice Pryor, Sherri Fogarty, Bob Ruckman, and Don Mouser

**Bethel Baptist Church, Jerseyville, IL**  
**Welcomes:** Holly Hasquin and Ian Lohr.

**First Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO**  
**Welcomes:** Sandeep Ravi, Shelby Woodroof, Santiago Munoz, Virginia Munoz, Brenda Brown, and Anusha Demala

**First Baptist Church of Mahomet**  
**Welcomes:** Logan Weiss and Lindsay Weiss

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## GRR Website Contact Information

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

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## Mainstream Contact Info

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

**Linda Ricks**  
**232 Devron Circle**  
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# The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission  
American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

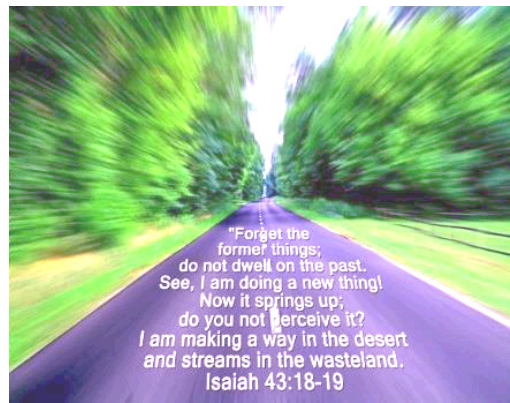
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Online edition now interactive

## God's New Thing



## The American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region 49th Annual Assembly

September 23 - 24, 2016

**Thelma Keller Convention  
Center at the Holiday Inn**  
**1202 N Keller Drive**  
**Effingham IL 62401**

## Friday, September 23:

### GRR Regional Ministry Board

9:30 AM

**Ministers & Spouses Luncheon** 12:00 noon (meal ticket required)

Speaker: **Bill Shiell**, President of Northern Seminary



### Opening Session .... **God's New Thing** - 2:00 PM

Worship Time, Short Business Meeting

### **Paul Gibson, GRR Executive Minister**



**Danny Mullins, Associate Pastor Vineyard Community Church, Gilbert Arizona** - He began full time vocational ministry in 1979. In that time, he has served as an associate pastor in three different congregations in Texas and Arizona including eight years as a senior pastor. He has spent the past fifteen years as associate pastor of Vineyard Community Church. He has served as a worship leader for more than forty years. Currently, his primary emphasis in the church is in the area of spiritual formation.

## GRR Annual Assembly

(continued)

**Friday September 23** (continued)

**Missions Banquet** 5:00 PM (meal ticket required)

**Sharon Koh, New Executive Director International Ministries**, is an ordained American Baptist minister.



Koh was born to missionary parents in Singapore, where they began a long and continuing career with Cru (known outside the U.S. as Campus Crusade for Christ, International).



**Joyce Reed Iberoamerica & The Carribbean**

(Pictured with husband David)

**Worship** 7:15 PM  
**With Danny Mullins and Sharon Koh**

**Special Reception for Sharon Koh**  
9:00 PM

**Saturday, September 24**

**Breakfast Meetings** - AB Women, AB Men and AME - 7:30 - 9:00 AM

**Workshops** - 9:15 - 10:15 AM

**Closing Worship** - 10:30 AM  
**With Danny Mullins & Sharon Koh**

**Register Online or Download Registration Form from the GRR Website - [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)**

To make hotel reservations you may call the hotel directly (217) 540-7777 or IHG Reservations 888.338.1019 To receive the discounted rate of \$99, make sure you use the following Block Code: ABC

Or **use this web link**

### Pre-Convention Events

**Thursday, September 22**

**New Pastors and Spouses Gathering** - (Including Lunch) - 9:30 AM

### GRR Ministers Conference

**FEELING THE HEALING Touch of Jesus** - 1:30 PM (Registration begins at 1:00 PM)

**Joyce Reid - Iberoamerica & The Carribbean** and **Danny Mullins - Associate Pastor, Vineyard Community Church, Gilbert, AZ**

**Registration Fee: \$30.00**  
**(Includes Dinner)**

**Download Registration Form or Register Online**



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



**I sure hope you are planning to be with us on Sept. 23 and 24 for our annual gathering in Effingham.**

We will hear great stories about what God is doing in our region and hear from inspired speakers. The list includes **Danny Mullins, Joyce Reed, Sharon Koh, Bill Shiell** and others. They are all wonderful and could easily stand alone, but they are coming together to help lead us in an inspiring and challenging gathering. Don't miss out, this will be a great uplift to anyone who attends.

**Pastors....I hope you are planning to join us for the GRR Ministers Conference on Thursday afternoon, Sept 22. Danny Mullins and Joyce Reed** will be leading us down a path of personal healing and dealing with the "stuff" in our lives that have gotten in the way and hurt our ministries, our families, our faith and ourselves. Please, you owe it to your church, your families and yourself to come and experience the special touch of God.

Since my last article, I have been in two more churches in our region, **First Baptist of Benton and First Baptist of Champaign.** The people at Benton were celebrating their 175th year, and the people in Champaign are awaiting a new Sr. Minister. I had a wonderful time at both places. I also spent three days in Valley Forge learning some of the things

that I am supposed to know in order to do my job more effectively. I also was able to be in on the retirement gathering for **Leo Thorne**, who has served at Valley Forge for the last 10 years, and before that served as the pastor at First Baptist in Kansas City, MO. (pictured below)



Melissa and I were also able to spend some time with **Jeff and Annie Dieselberg and their children, Chandler, Esther, and Nicholas**, before they left to go back to **Thailand.** What a great missionary couple. Keep them, and all of our missionaries in your prayers. Add one more to the list....just heard about **Dr Paul Rollet** who was just appointed as an associate missionary working with the poorest of the poor in Manilla, Philippines. Paul and his extended family have a long history with our region and Paul is from Chatham.

Last, but not least. My nephew, Michael Leslie Buchanan went to be with the Lord. Michael had Down Syndrome and through it lived a full life in 34 years, and blessed everyone who knew him His smiles and hugs will be missed.

**See you in Effingham, HOPEFULLY.**

**Paul**