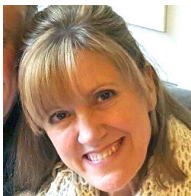


GRR Clergy Spouse Retreat

Intimacy With God Through Prayer

Leader: Janet Droy

Janet lives in Rockford, IL where she leads a city-wide intercessory prayer team called "We Are One".



Friday April 21 - Saturday, April 22

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

5878 Iron Bridge Road
Springfield, IL
Phone: 217-670-2356

Cost: **Registration is \$40.00 for the weekend. \$20 for first-time attenders.** This includes food and lodging at the camp.

Camp Lodging:

The retreat is housed in Carter Hall, a modern building containing bedrooms with 4 bunk beds each, modern bathrooms, and a kitchen/ meeting area. The building is air conditioned and heated.

Send Registration to:

(Download Form)

Judi Mills
7812 Hunt Road
Springfield, IL 62712

Registration Deadline:

If possible, register by April 11

All clergy spouses are invited.

This includes spouses of pastors and other church ministry staff, both active and retired.

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711 Telephone: (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.

Church News

On March 19, Grace Baptist Church in Kansas City recognized over 20 new members who have joined the church in the past two years. During Membership Affirmation Sunday, each of these new members was presented with necessary information about Grace and also given a stained-glass light catcher in the form of a cross made by one of the church members. Over the past two years new members have come from Myanmar, Thailand, Liberia and the USA.

GRR Website & Mainstream

For more news of mission and ministry, **go online** and click on the links (brown lettering) in these columns.

E-mail GRR Webmaster, **Richard Ricks: revrick4@comcast.net**

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**

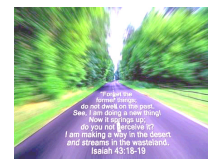
Ricks4LR@comcast.net



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the
Great Rivers Region



God's New Thing

March 2017 No. 2

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
Online edition now interactive

web: www.abcgrr.org

2017 Calendar

April:

1: **Area III Annual Meeting**
FBC Bloomington, IL

Area I ABWM Spring Rally West - FBC Orion, IL

8: **Area III ABWM Spring Rally** - FBC Farmington, IL

Area I ABWM Spring Rally East - FBC Aurora, IL

21 -22: **Clergy Spouse Retreat Lake Springfield Camp**

25: **Area II Spring Rally**
FBC White Hall, IL

22: **Area I Annual Meeting Blackhawk Baptist Camp**

30: **Area IV Annual Meeting FBC Mattoon, IL**

June/July:

June 28
- July 2: **ABCUSA Biennial**
Portland, Oregon

September:

28: **Minister's Conference**
Chesterfield, MO

29 - 30: **GRR Annual Assembly**
Chesterfield, MO

A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister



What a GRRRRRRRRreat region we have. I am so proud of all that I see happening around the region as I visit churches and as I attend the area meetings and hear such wonderful reports. God continues to do a new thing in our midst, and it is with great joy that I serve alongside each one of you as we seek to be the presence of Jesus in our communities.

In the coming months we will put a spotlight on one of the seven areas that we sent church planting funds to. This month Spotlight 1 is in India with the Longkumers. Remember, we can do much more together than by ourselves.

Our search process for seeking two new area ministers is drawing to an end. We should be able to share that exciting news with you in our next Mainstream. Be praying for the months ahead as we welcome two new people and as we say thanks to the three part-time people who have filled in during this transition. Rachel Cocar, Adrian Lamkin, and John Grisham have done a tremendous job in a sometimes very difficult situation.

Paul Gibson (continued)

We are right in the middle of our area meetings. Area's II and V have already happened, and the rest are happening in the coming month. They have been great gatherings and I have enjoyed meeting, greeting, eating and worshipping with some great folk.

Keep our camps in your prayers in the coming months as they prepare for the camping season and as they get ready to be used by Jesus to touch the lives of many, many people.

Remember, our number one task is to be rightly related to God, through Jesus Christ, and find our joy there. Then we are to be vessels that He can pour His love through. I pray that He pours His love to you till it cannot help but overflow.

Please remember the dates for our 50th annual gathering of the Great Rivers Region, Sept. 28-30, in Chesterfield. You won't want to miss it.

In Him,

Pastor Paul

Spotlight On Church Planting

Our regional board decided last fall to give half of our church planting funds to plant churches overseas. Last month we sent over \$350,000, which is a little under half of our church planting funds, to 7 church planting projects around the world. Those seven areas are India, Iboeamerica, Thailand, The Congo, South Sudan, Hungary and the Philippines. We will highlight one of them in each Mainstream for the next three months.

We are thankful to IM for helping us find the projects to invest in.

Project India: Three church planting projects will be supported for the next three years under the direction of the Longkumers. The three projects are: Assam Neighborhood Ministries House Church, The Bobbca Ho Tribe Church Planting project, and the Indo-Bhutan Church Planter Training program. All three of these projects are designed to take the love of Jesus to new areas, and to train planters and teachers. The total amount sent to allow these projects to happen is **\$50,029.00**

One example of the ministries is this: leadership training for 25 people for 5 days, including lodging, food and travel, \$1,653.00. What a deal!!!! We are excited to be a part of this and look forward to hearing reports about what God will be doing through these ministries. Many people will be hearing of the love of Jesus for the first time. The doors are open, now is the time to act. We feel blessed to be a part of this great ministry. Please be praying for all three of these projects and for the Longkumers as they are used by God to help establish these new ministries.

Next Project: Iboeamerica



Area III Annual Meeting

Theme: "Advancing Our Work Together"

Emphasis: **Mission Outreach**

Date: **Saturday, April 1, 2017**

Time: **9:30 a.m. Register; gather 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Place: **First Baptist Church 2502 E College Avenue Bloomington, IL**

Cost: **\$10.00** (includes lunch) Payable at the door

Area I Annual Meeting

Engaged With Each Other In Area I

Blackhawk Baptist Camp

4491 W. Henry Rd.
Oregon, IL

April 22, 2017

10:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m.
(Registration at 9:30 a.m.)

Cost: \$10:00 (payable at the door)

Speakers: **Ray Schellinger and Karen Horseman**

Music: **The Area I Youth Praise Team**

Offering for NIU Campus Ministry

Supply Shower for Camp

(Gift Cards from Menards, etc. and Paper Supplies)

Love Packages Ministry - Used Christian Books and Materials for Foreign Countries

Area IV Annual Meeting

Doing God's New Thing Together

Date: **Sunday, April 30, 2017**

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 2:00

Place: **First Baptist Church of Mattoon**
1804 South 9th Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

Keynote Address: **Dr. Molly Marshall** President, and Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation, at **Central Baptist Theological Seminary** in Shawnee, Kansas



Evening Worship Message by **Rev. Muriel Johnson**, Regional Associate Minister Serving Area IV

Cost: **\$15.00 for Adults \$ 5.00 for children (8 - 18)* Children under 8 free**

Send check payable to **GRR-Area IV** to FBC Mattoon or **register online at abcgrr.org**

*Children 8 to 18 will go **Isaak's Family Fun Center** where they will play laser tag, miniature golf and climber play from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Pizza will be provided. If you have more than 3 from your church please have an adult to help supervise.