

Great Rivers Region Area 2 Gathering

“Come Together”

Sunday, March 10, 2019

2 pm - 6 pm

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

Includes Worship, Conference Speakers - **John and Kelsey Parrish**, and Dinner

There will be a special event for Middle School and High School youth!

Attention GRR Churches:

2018 Annual Reports were recently mailed to the churches. Please be on the lookout for yours. Completed reports are due at the Region office on March 31st, 2019.

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

Note: This will be the only February issue of The Mainstream. The next issue will come out the first week of March.

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.

Costa Rica Mission Trips

Costa Rica - Mission Discovery:
July 6 - 15, 2019

10 days, 9 nights including travel. Group of 10 - 24. Cost \$2,000 which includes \$250 as an offering for a yet to be determined project. Application and \$750 deposit by March 31, 2019

Costa Rica - Mission Discovery:
October 28 - November 5, 2019

9 days, 8 nights including travel. Group of 8 - 24. Cost: \$2,000 which includes \$250 as an offering for yet to be determined project. Application and \$750 deposit by July 31, 2019.

Costa Rica - Ministers Partnership
Work Project: February 3 - 11, 2020

9 days, 8 nights including travel. Cost \$2,000 including airfare and a \$500 investment in the work project. Application and \$750 deposit by November 15, 2019. Group of 6 - 10

For more information contact John Grisham - john@abcgrr.org

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks

Email: revrick4@comcast.net

Videos of Rivers Growth Conference Speakers Now Available

Videos are available in streaming (from this site) and dvd formats. (Contact the office of the GRR for dvd ordering information.)



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

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

February 2019

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

Download Color or B&W for printing. Online edition interactive

2019 Calendar

March:

10: **Area II Annual Meeting**
Lake Springfield Baptist
Camp

29 - 30: **Face To Face**
First Baptist Church
Indianapolis, IN

April:

13: **Area III Annual Meeting**
FBC Champaign at
Savoy, IL

26 - 27: **GRR Clergy Spouse
Retreat** - LSBC

May:

4: **Area I Annual Meeting**
Blackhawk Baptist Camp
Oregon, IL

9 - 11: **RESOURCE Leadership
Conference**
The Chateau Hotel &
Conference Center
Bloomington, IL

June:

21 - 23: **ABCUSA Biennial
Mission Summit**
Virginia Beach, VA

July:

20: **Area V Annual Meeting**
Bethel Baptist Church
Columbia, MO



May 9 - 11, 2019

Small Church Pastors' and
Leaders' Conference -
Equipping Pastors and
Ministry Leaders

The Chateau Bloomington Hotel &
Conference Center

1621 Jumer Dr
Bloomington, IL 61704

Enjoy a time away to Renew and Energize from The Source. Spend time with other Pastors and Leaders from smaller churches and be inspired by teaching from gifted Christian leaders and teachers, including Dr. Jolene Erlacher, Rev. Dr. Dennis Edwards, Dr. Lina AbuJamra and 3 time Grammy Award nominated singer, Michele Pillar.

Choose from workshops highlighting innovative ministry strategies on topics such as church leadership and administration, worship in the small church, justice in the small church and the future of the small church churches and pastors.

Workshop Leaders include Karl Vaters, Travis Collins, Phaedra Blocker, (continued on page 2)

Resource Leadership Conference (continued)

Cana Roth, Sam Hamstra, Josh Sabo, Linda Owens, Gary Hayles, Greg Mamula, Dave Fitch, Sally Wagenmaker, Paul Winters, Jim Kent, Dave Sanders and Wade Allen. Northern Seminary President Bill Shiell will share his Culture of Call for churches and pastors.

Keynote Speakers and Artists:

Dr. Jolene Er-

lacher founded Leading Tomorrow in 2013 with the aim of equipping churches, businesses, schools, missions agencies and other organizations for effective inter-generational leadership in an evolving culture.



Rev. Dr. Dennis Edwards, Associate Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary.



He was a church planter in Brooklyn, NY as well as Washington, DC, and has been in urban ministry for nearly 3 decades.

Dr. Lina AbuJamra, a Pediatric ER doctor and founder of Living with Power Ministries. Her vision is to bring hope to the world by connecting Biblical answers to everyday life.



Michele Pillar, three time Grammy and Dove Award nominated Recording Artist, Speaker, and Author



Andy Gullahorn, singer and songwriter.

Register by May 1, 2019

There is a [link](#) to register on the ABCGRR website.

Registration fee of **\$35.00** covers event fee only.

To book your **Chateau Bloomington Hotel** reservation (\$99 / night), refer to group code ABCGRR at (309) 662 - 2020 or (309) 665 - 5671.

Resource Leadership Conference is hosted by Judson University, Northern Seminary and American Baptist Churches Great Rivers Region

Northern Seminary will provide credit for American Baptist pastors in need of Continuing Education Units.



A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister

JESUS, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest Name I know. Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go. DOES HE? As I sing that chorus, I must ask myself if it is true in my life. Does He really fill my deepest longings, and does He really keep me singing as I go? I believe He can do those things, but the question is, do I/we let Him?

There are so many “things” we fill our lives with that can take away our song. Life sometimes is a test to see who we are hanging on to, or who or what we put our hope in. I hope you can come out on top singing that chorus and mean it.

When you read this, Melissa and I along with 11 others will be in the middle of a mission trip to the Philippines and Thailand. We will spend a week with Paul Rollet and Companion With the Poor (CWTP), and then a week with Jeff and Annie Dieselberg and Nightlight. Please keep us in your prayers.

Keep the following events in your prayers and on your schedules:

1. Area Meetings. 'Tis the season for Area meetings. I hope to see you there.

2. RESOURCE Leadership Conference, May 9-11, Bloomington

We are partnering with Northern Seminary and Judson University to present this great event. You

won't want to miss it. Go to our website to register.

3. ABCUSA Biennial, June 21-23, Virginia Beach, VA hosted by ABC of the South.

Did I mention the Resource Leadership Conference, May 9-11 in Bloomington? Right, I guess I did. Are you planning to attend? This will be a great event and I want to encourage you to be a part of it.

MISSION TRIPS: John Grisham is planning three mission trips to **Costa Rica:** July 2019, October 2019, and February 2020. Check our web site for more info. GRR has a special relationship with **Federation Associations Baptist, Costa Rica**, and we want to continue to improve that relationship. Pray about going on one of these trips.

Once more I want to mention our **Resource Leadership Conference** happening **May 9 - 11, 2019**, jointly hosted with Northern Seminary and Judson University. For more information, please read the article beginning on page 1. Plan now to attend!

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.

Paul

