

Bethel Neighborhood Center

Scripture tells us to welcome the stranger in our midst. In a recent worship service, Bethel Center Church did just that as two dozen Karen refugees were welcomed to a special worship of healing and communion. The Karen have been resettled in Kansas City, Kansas and are meeting at First Baptist Church there. During the worship, the pain of the world's refugees and those displaced by cyclones and earthquakes were recognized.

The worship was planned by Rakmi Shaiza, staff person at BNC. A litany was read reminding us of the pains of the world. We sang together, joined together at the communion table, received prayers for healing, and listened as Lisa Harris delivered a sermon putting the pain of the world into perspective with the Good News which our Lord has for all people.

Bethel Board members Bob Southard and Ed Baxter were present and participated. The Spiritual leader of the Karen people also prayed in the Karen language.

The fellowship together after worship saw the intermingling of the two groups. We were reminded that these people from Burma were first evangelized by Adoniram Judson. One of the Karen young women is working with the summer youth program at Bethel. Several Karen children are attending the summer program.

For information about Bethel Neighborhood Center see our website: www.bethelcenter.org or call the Center at 913-371-8218.

Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Cordova, IL Welcomes: Jesse Chavez, Zachery Mikles, and Taylor Rel.

First Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO Welcomes: Marlon A. Smith, Roberta Stevenson, Darrell A. Robinson, Lisa F. Robinson, Alexandria Robinson and Betty Cauthon

GRR Directory Correction

Phone for Shurtleff Baptist Campus Ministry at SIU-Edwardsville, IL: 618-650-3248

Mainstream Contact Information

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

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

E-Mail: Ricks4Lr@comcast.net



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

Coming Fall Events Issue

August 14, 2008

Email: grrabc@abc-grr.org

web: www.abc-grr.org

GRR Calendar

August

21 - Areas II & III Senior Adult Day
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

29 - Sept. 1 -- Family Camp
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

September

5 - 7 - Area I Senior High Retreat
Blackhawk Camp

11 - Sacred Boundaries Course
Creekwood Baptist Church
Rockford, IL

19 - 20 - Junior High Weekend
Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

19 - 21 - Area I Junior High Retreat
Blackhawk Camp

October

3 - GRR Ministers Conference
The Fifth Season Conv. Center
Moline, IL

3 - 5 -- GRR Annual Meeting at the
Holiday Inn Convention Center
Moline, IL



Harvest Time

**2008
GRR
Annual Meeting**

October 3-5, 2008

**Fifth Season
Convention Center
Moline, Illinois**

**John 4: "Open your eyes and
look at the fields!
They are ripe for harvest."**

Keynote Speaker:

My linda Baits - Missionary Partner in Costa Rica with her husband Gary and their children.



Schedule For Annual Meeting

Friday: Pastor's Conference

Friday Evening:
Youth Ministry Team
Christian Comedian - Charles Marshall

Saturday:
Worship with Mylinda Bates
Workshops
GRR Mission Banquet - Costa Rica

Saturday Evening: "Emerging
Voices"

Sunday Morning – Worship with
Mylinda Baits

Accommodations: Fifth Season
Convention Center, (formerly Holiday
Inn), Moline, Illinois

Important Note: The Holiday Inn
Convention Center has changed
ownership. The new name of the
Convention Center is, "The Fifth
Season." The only change is that
hotel reservations must be made
directly at 309-762-8811, the hotel
reservations desk. **YOU MUST USE
"AMERICAN BAPTIST" WHEN
MAKING RESERVATIONS TO GET
THE PRICE BREAK.**
Do not use the online Holiday Inn
website or the 800 Holiday Inn num-
ber. **Deadline to register for a hotel
room remains September 3.**

To register or for more information:
www.abc-grr.org or 217-726-7366

GRR Ministers Conference

Harvest Time:

Self Care For the Worker

Friday October 3, 2008

**Fifth Season (formerly Holiday Inn)
Convention Center**

Moline, IL

**Presenter: Dr.
Yvonne Martinez
Thome** - bilingual
(English/Spanish)
faith-based, coun-
seiling psycholo-
gist practicing in
Chestnut Hill,
Pennsylvania.



**Worship Leader:
Rev. Cheri
Grizzard**, Pastor
of Worship and
Community Life,
First Baptist Church,
Peoria, IL

Preachers:

**Dr. Leroy
Mitchell:** Pastor
of New Hope
Missionary Baptist
Church in DeKalb,
IL.



**Dr. Terry Minchow-
Proffitt:** Pastor
of Delmar Baptist
Church, St. Louis, MO

Area I Youth Fall Retreats

Blackhawk Baptist Camp
4491 W. Henry Rd
Oregon, IL 61061

Senior High (Grades 9-12):
September 5-7, 2008

Junior High (Grades 6-9):
September 19-21, 2008

Cost: \$48.00 (Leader Cost: \$24.00)
(Cost includes free t-shirt!)
Late Registration (Less than 10 days
before the event): \$58

Registration begins at 8:30pm Friday
Night
Retreat Ends at 11:30 Sunday
Morning (Lunch not provided
Sunday)

Parents picking up students may join
in Sunday Worship at 10:00am.

Junior High Weekend

September 19 - 20

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

"It isn't over til the weight challenged
individual sings!"

"With God All Things Are Possible"
– Matthew 19:26

Speaker: J.P. Parrish

Cost: \$40 for Youth
\$20 for Adults

Registration begins at 6:30 PM
– Ends at 4:00 PM

Bring bedding, toiletries and Bible -
For more info: pastorjon@parisfbc.
org

LAKE SPRINGFIELD FAMILY CAMP

AUG 29-SEPT 1, 2008

Fees: \$50 per family a \$15 lodging
fee if staying 1 night

Rooms Available in Carter Hall,
Dining Lodge and Cabins

Tent Camping – central shower
house **NO RV CAMPING**

FOOD: Individual families may pro-
vide their own food and are welcome
to use camp kitchen facilities. They
may also choose to have their meals
provided at a cost of \$50 per fam-
ily and will assist in preparation and
clean-up of meals. A potluck meal
will be shared on Saturday evening
with each family providing 1 dish
regardless of meal option.
Camping and food option are both
non-refundable and is due by August
24 All rooms are first come first
served basis.

Randy & Marsha Marshall: 618-498-
6275 or rmarshal@gtec.com
Greg & Tammi Cash: 618-462-0388
or my5bucks@sbcglobal.net

Areas II & III Senior Adult Day

August 21, 2008 - Lake Springfield
Baptist Camp

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

Cost: \$12.00

"Serving in Nicaragua" - Carol
Matheson

Music - Roger & Dianna Strunk