

## GRR Changes E-Mail and Web Addresses

The new general e-mail address for the GRR is [grrabc@abcgrr.org](mailto:grrabc@abcgrr.org). Those who have offices in the GRR Resource Center:

[Dwight@abcgrr.org](mailto:Dwight@abcgrr.org)  
[John@abcgrr.org](mailto:John@abcgrr.org)  
[Roland@abcgrr.org](mailto:Roland@abcgrr.org)  
[Candy@abcgrr.org](mailto:Candy@abcgrr.org)  
[Sharon@abcgrr.org](mailto:Sharon@abcgrr.org)  
[Debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:Debbie@abcgrr.org)

The 4 Regional Associates - Revs. Henson, Ricks, McNeely & Johnson **have not changed** their e-mail addresses.

The web site of the GRR is now [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org). Look familiar? It's the same address, but with the hyphen (dash) removed.

E-mail and web sites are just two of the ways that the ABC GRR challenges, empowers, assists and represents American Baptist Churches in Illinois and Missouri. This publication - **The Mainstream** - as well as meetings by appointment with church leaders and pastoral staffs, telephone conversations, mail, and even fax are tools that the GRR Staff uses in these efforts.

The web site, [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org), is a place that our churches - pastors and church members - go to find **News, Opportunities, Reflections, and Connections for Growing Healthy Churches**. It functions as an online directory, calendar, file cabinet of resources (static and interactive), video library (interviews, sermons, and workshops), and event registration tool. Try it out. Be one of the 2,500 who will use it this month.

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 Fax: (217) 726-7566  
Email: [grrabc@abc-grr.org](mailto:grrabc@abc-grr.org) Web: [www.abc-grr.org](http://www.abc-grr.org)

## Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

**First Baptist Church, Carbondale, IL Welcomes:** Marcy Kerr and Nick Mitchell

**First Baptist Church, East Moline, IL Welcomes:** Dean Spillum and Katie Spillum

**Second Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO Welcomes:** Marcus Harris, Alexander Harris, Daniel Harris, Cheryl Harris, David Harris, Jayden Burkes, Gayle Gladney, Shawana Gladney, Akira Gladney, Crystal Davis, Sharon Cunningham, Earnest Campbell, Crystal Sanderson, Michelle Adkins, Leroy Huggins, Barbara Allen, Janice Rollins-Reed, Tiffany Diggs, Michelle Goudeau, Marva Thomas, Ayanna Gladney, Anthony Stillwell, Sarah Updyke, Paul Cowley, Gale Cowley, Zaria Cowley, Patricia Williams, Lee Stamps, III, Frances Howard, Sophia Howard, Vernon Howard, III, Jajuan Howard, Dwayne Lewis, Helen Lewis, Jimmiel Finley, Kenyetta Finley, Melissa Walton-Jones, Lester Jones, David Rentie, Lorraine Rentie, and Daina Rentie

### Mainstream Contact Information

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

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

**E-Mail: [Ricks4Lr@comcast.net](mailto:Ricks4Lr@comcast.net)**



# The Mainstream

**News of Ministry and Mission**

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

November 2008 No.2

Email: [grrabc@abcgrr.org](mailto:grrabc@abcgrr.org)

web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

## GRR Calendar

## Consecration Sunday

### 2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

#### January

16 - 19 - SKWIM at Green Lake

#### March

14 - Area V Annual Meeting,  
FBC Edwardsville IL

15 - Area II Annual Meeting  
Jacksonville FBC

21 - Area IV Annual Meeting  
First Baptist Church, Benton IL

22 - Area I Annual Meeting  
First Baptist Church, Ottawa IL

22 - Area III Annual Meeting  
North Bridge Baptist Church  
Normal, IL

#### April

17 - 18 - Clergy Spouse Retreat  
Lake Springfield Camp

24 - 25 - GRR Missions Conference  
Cherry Hills Baptist  
Church, Springfield, IL

#### May

28 - Church for All Generations  
with Edward H. Hammett  
FBC Bloomington, IL



Asking the question of our Lord, **“What percentage of my income would you have me give?”** has prompted spiritual revival in churches. Their members have found God really answers this ques-

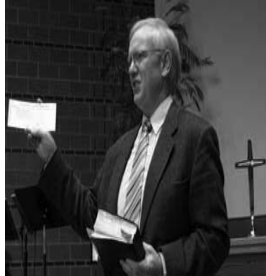
tion. God does guide and encourage us to take steps of faith.

Consecration Sunday is a program, developed and refined by Herb Miller, that starts with a church prayerfully discerning if God is leading them to use this program. All GRR Staff ministers are trained in the program and are a great resource for guiding a church's leadership in this discernment process. Should the church discern that God is leading the church to use this resource, each staff minister is available to serve as consultant and speaker in the process.

The GRR web site has several testimonies of pastors whose churches have used this discipleship program. Go to [www.abcgrr.org/stewardship/](http://www.abcgrr.org/stewardship/).

The basic process: 1. Learning & Discerning whether to use the resource; 2. Church approval; 3. Invitation of outside consultant and speaker; 4. Doing it “by the book”; 5. Inviting all of the congregation to a catered Consecration Sunday Meal; 6. Leaders' dinner one... (cont p. 2)

week prior; 7. Consecration Sunday with outside speaker; 8. Presentation of members' responses to God's answer to the question **What percentage of my income would you have me give?**; 9. Celebration lunch



Regional Associate Minister Richard Ricks leads in the Consecration of Giving during worship at First Baptist Church of Bloomington IL.

after worship to celebrate what God is doing through the church whose members commit to be in step with God's leading. For more information call or e-mail the GRR

Associate Minister assigned to your Area.

## Raritan Baptist Celebrates 150 Years of Worship & Mission



On Sunday, November 16, Raritan Baptist Church welcomed former members and pastors - and pastors' children - as the church celebrated its 150 years.



## FBC Jerseyville, IL Installs New Pastor

The congregation of First Baptist Church, Jerseyville, IL held the installation of their new pastor, Rev. Rick Church, on Sunday, November 16, 2008.



Dr. John Grisham, Regional Associate Minister serving Area II, preached the message in the morning worship service.

Following the service, a dinner and reception were held. Local pastors and community leaders brought greetings.

Rev. Church comes to Jerseyville from Santa Cruz, CA. He was ordained in 1992. Rev. Church received his masters degree from the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkley, CA and did additional graduate work at Fuller and Golden Gate Baptist Seminaries. Rev. Church is currently enrolled in doctoral studies at Northern Baptist Seminary.

Rev. Church and his wife, Marilou are the parents of six daughters.

The church congregation and the new pastor are looking forward to ministry that emphasizes worship, discipleship, and developing a servant lifestyle in the lives of its members.

## GREAT RIVERS REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

There are scholarship programs in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people who are members of Great Rivers Region American Baptist Churches to help with college and/or seminary education costs.

Scholarships for any college student (regardless of major) or seminary student are available from the Gernenz-Shurtleff / Wilcoxon Scholarship.

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, 2009.

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to: Scholarship Committee, Att: Sharon Downs, PO Box 3786, Springfield, IL 62708, phone: 217-726-7366; fax: 217-726-7566, or email: Sharon@abcgrr.org



## Harvest Grants

Harvest Grants are intended to empower and encourage churches to "open their eyes" to the fields all around them during 2009. These matching grants can be used by GRR churches for just about any evangelistic effort. Our operational definition of an "evangelistic effort" is any program, activity, or event **directed to those outside the church and including an intentional invitation to Christian discipleship.**

To get a packet, including application, call the GRR or download it from [http://www.abcgrr.org/evangelism/Harvest\\_Grants\\_2009.pdf](http://www.abcgrr.org/evangelism/Harvest_Grants_2009.pdf)

## 2008-2009 Gernenz-Shurtleff & Wilcoxon Scholarship Recipients

Chuck Bosworth, Brian Hodge, Brandon Rhea, Steven Lilja, Reid Ackerman, Rukiya Anthony, Daniel Baltz, Zachary Bansner, Amy Barringer, Whitney Benefiel, Ryan Bressner, Megan Brown, Angelica Bruce, Jan Byrd, Carol Byrd, Antoine Charlier, James Combs, Alicia Comfort, Clint Davis, Nathan Elder, Morgan Fulton, Katie Galle, Ryan Hagan, Elizabeth Harkness, Sarah Harkness, Amanda Harwood, Jordan Haycock, Cheryl Hodge, Chayla Hurd, Lindsey Hueter, Tyler Hyndman, Hayley Jackson, Jayme Karenko, Ashley Kaytor, Kyle Keever, Caitlyn Knight, Michelle Law, Jerika Long, Sentirenla Longkumer, Derek Maninfiior, Jeremy Nelsen, Luke Nelsen, Sarah Olson, Sabrina Park, Katherine Parker, Victoria Poulter, Geoffrey Reiter, Karen Ricks, Nathaniel Rohrsen, Bethany Rollet, Clayton Smith, Rachel Street, Rebekah Street, Brooke Stull, Elizabeth Surbeck, Stephanie Swigert, Morgan Taylor, Kevin VanOs, Dustin Walker, Rikki Weger, Rebecca Wiegand, Brian Wilmert, Cynthia Winch, Russell Zehr, Krista Ziebarth

## 2008 – 2009 Harold O. Long Scholarship Recipients

Wade Allen, Jonathan Foiles, David Rogers, and Paul Rollet