

Great American Baptist Bike Ride Across Illinois

The Great American Bike Ride Across Illinois is for anyone who enjoys biking and wants to support New Church Development. Participants will bike about 250 miles across north-central Illinois.



The ride begins June 16 at First Baptist Church, Marseilles, IL and ends at Moline, IL on June 21.

The purpose of this ride is to raise money and awareness to aid in planting new churches. Each rider should seek out people to pledge money on a per mile, per day, or whole ride basis. One hundred percent of the money raised will go into planting new churches.

For more information or to donate to this mission see the regional website www.abc-grr.org or contact Max Klinkenborg at the regional office (217 - 726 - 7366 or max@abc-grr.org.)



The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711
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Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church Centraillia, IL Welcomes: Chris Atchison, Jeff Schmitz, Heather Schmitz, Kelsey Schmitz, Natalie Bozett, Brittany Allison, Kacey Krupp, Mikayla Krupp, Montie Joe Graham, Bob Cozadd, Paula Cozadd, Sandra Nealy, Tina Sligar, Jessica Elliston, Ryne Smith, Kenneth Teitsort, Virginia Teitsort, Kellee Lamb, Neil Lawrence, and Dara Lawrence.

First Baptist Church, Galesburg, IL Welcomes: Nora Morrow

First Baptist Church, Newton, IL Welcomes: Victor and Charity Vanderhoof

First Baptist Church, Urbana, IL Welcomes: Sally Elam

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
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The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

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web: www.abc-grr.org

GRR Calendar

May

- 24 Open House - Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
- 31 Boundaries Professional Ethics Course: East Peoria First Baptist Church
- 31 Clean Up Day at Blackhawk Baptist Camp

June

- 6 - 8 AB Womens Ministries Conference - Lake Williamson Retreat Center Carlinville, IL
- 16 - 21 - Great American Baptist Bike Ride Across IL

July

- July 5-11: National ABY Gathering in Estes Park, Colorado

August

- 8, 9 - Baptist History & Polity class led by Dr. Adrian Lamkin. Class hosted by East Peoria First Baptist Church
- 9 - Area I Seniors' Day
- 21 - Area II / III Seniors' Day

GRR Helps Rebuild Baton Rouge

Approximately **80 volunteers** from the Great Rivers Region have recently returned from Baton Rouge, LA where they helped rebuild homes for those left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.



American Baptist once again joined with Habitat for Humanity to build homes in a three week **Baptist Blitz Build**. Dr. Dwight Stinnett, Regional Executive Minister, was part of the GRR group who were there for the final week. He wrote about the experience in **Current Thoughts**. The following is an excerpt from his article. He explains why the construction was in Baton Rouge instead of New Orleans.

"The infrastructure of New Orleans is still so devastated that large numbers of volunteers needlessly strain the capacity of that city and local not-for-profit services. Baton Rouge was a major refuge for persons fleeing the destruction in New Orleans. New Orleans is still well below (continued)

its pre-Katrina population, while Baton Rouge has grown rapidly because of the influx. The 20+ homes we have built in the last two years have been for families displaced from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

This year we were building a whole new neighborhood from the ground up.

About 20 acres on the South side of Baton Rouge had been given to Habitat. Habitat had already built several homes on the property. It was really satisfying to be able to see so clearly the impact of our efforts. What was once an open field is now the setting for about 15 new homes. It is a very nice, modest neighborhood with a good mix of population, lots of children, and nearby playground and community center.



that volunteers from the Great Rivers Region will lead the way once again. These kinds of projects are one of the ways we prove that we are committed to the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I hope you will visit our website (www.abc-grr.org) to see some pictures, read other reports, and find links to other sites.

Begin thinking about next year!

Can you go? Can you encourage someone else to go? Can you help with finances? Are you willing to pray? Can you get involved with you local Habitat chapter—or some comparable organization helping low income families build a life?

Dwight Stinnett



Once again, the Great Rivers Region sent the largest number of volunteers—over eighty. **Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins (Executive Director for the Board of National Ministries)** recognized us for our volunteer efforts during the celebration service on the last day of work.

This seems to be turning into one of those annual mission projects for Great Rivers (in some ways analogous to our international partnership with Costa Rica). I don't yet know what will happen next year, but I am confident that something will and



The **First Baptist Church of East Moline, IL**, held a service of ordination for their **Associate Pastor for Senior Care, Sharon Farral** on Sunday, April 27, 2008

Dr. Ruth Peterson preached the message. **Rev. Ron Miles** led the

vows of ordination and **Rev. Clark Luce** led in the charge to the congregation. **Moderator Deane Knight** presented the Certificate of Ordination. Pastor Sharon achieved this milestone through the GRR's Alternative Ministerial Education Program.

Faith Baptist Church Preparing To Move

First Baptist Church, Batavia, IL has been located in downtown Batavia for 172 years. The present building was built 119 years ago.

The congregation is saying "good-bye" to the building with the final worship services on Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

All this is happening because the church is building a beautiful new building at the corner of Main Street and South Mill Creek Drive. The congregation is grateful to the Bethany Lutheran Church which has made their gymnasium available to us for worship services until construction of the new building is completed sometime this summer.

First Baptist Church will have a new name: **Faith Baptist At Mill Creek.**

For many, leaving the old building will be an emotional parting, as many grew up in this church. The final service on June 1 will be an opportunity to share the experiences of church life together.

Participants in this final service will include Batavia Mayor Jeffery Schielke and **Rev. Dr. Cheryl Henson**, Associate Regional Minister serving Area I. A special moment in this last service will be the Communion Service, which will include the passing of the mantle of pastoral leadership from former pastor, **Rev. Richard Watts**, to interim pastor, **Rev. Ronald Miles**, to our new pastor, **Rev. John Pattison**, who begins his ministry in June.

The evening service features a concert by the internationally known pianist Huntley Brown.