

## GRR American Baptist Youth Gathering

### **BRINGIN' JESUS BACK**

*John 14:19*

**November 7-9, 2008  
First Baptist Church D  
Decatur, IL**

Speakers: Rev Steve Mechem  
J. P. Parrish

Concert by: The Virginia Go

Mission Opportunities & Workshops

Cost: \$50.00 Youth  
\$40.00 Youth Leaders

Open to: Youth Grades 8-12 &  
College Freshmen & Sophomores

## *Our Great Rivers Region Baptist Family Is Growing!*

**First Baptist Church, Moline,  
IL Welcomes:** Plaw Hso Thaw,  
Cherry San, Heh Nay Htoo, Hei Roh  
Htoo, Ka Su, Ma Myint, Pa Bi,  
Pa Si, Htoo Mu Paw, Juni Yar,  
Ma Than Kyi, Layer Htoo, Shwe  
Thoung, Hser dee Paw, Htoo  
Brown, April Paw, Gay Kapaw,  
Ku Kapaw, Tha Nay Paw, Aller  
Kyaw, Hsar Htee, Sa Dee, Naw Ta,  
Thwe Paw, Sunday Paw, Hsa His  
Hser, Hser Mu Shee, Day Day, Naw  
Gay Hel, Pah Cher, Saw Paw Klo,  
Paw Eh Htoo, and Saw Pi Lee.

The new members of First Baptist  
Church of Moline are Karen refu-  
gees from Burma. With the leader-  
ship of **John and Ruth Peterson**  
who have been serving the church  
as interim pastors, a Karen worship  
service has been started.

Many of the Karen who have come  
to America know Christ because  
of the mission work started by  
Adoniram Judson. Once in America,  
they sought out their fellow Baptists.  
We are thankful for mission work -  
both past and present.

### **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**

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# The Mainstream

*News of Ministry and Mission*

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

September 2008 No. 2 Email: grrabc@abc-grr.org web: www.abc-grr.org

## GRR Calendar

### October

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

3 - 5 - **GRR Annual Meeting at the  
Fifth Season Convention  
Center Moline, IL**

### November

7 - 9 - **ABY Gathering**, Decatur, IL

### 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

## 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."**

## Schedule

**Friday Evening:**  
Youth Ministry Team

8:00 PM:  
**Charles Marshall**  
Christian Comedian -  
Comedy with a  
purpose  
(youth ticket \$5.00)



## Convention Schedule (continued)

### Saturday:

**Worship** with **Myllinda Bates**  
Missionary Serving in Costa Rica

### Workshops:

Walk Across the Room (an evangelism approach)

Sharing the Good News in Electronic Form

Who Will Drive the Tractor? - The Broader Field with Gary Baits

**GRR Mission Banquet** - Focus on Mission: Costa Rica

**Saturday Evening:** "Emerging Voices"

**Sunday Morning** – Worship with Myllinda Baits

## 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 Thorne** - bilingual (English/Spanish) faith-based, counseling psychologist practicing in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania

**Worship Leader: Rev. Cheri Grizzard**

**Preachers: Dr. Leroy Mitchell and Dr. Terry Minchow-Proffitt**

## Salem Association Celebrates 175 Years

The Salem Baptist Association celebrated its 175th anniversary during its annual meeting, Sunday, September 21, 2008. The meeting was hosted by First Baptist Church of Macomb. The theme was Remembering the Past, Living in the Present, Looking to the Future.

The churches that make up the Salem Association are **Blandinsville, Berwick, Carthage, Bethel - Colchester, Macomb, Raritan and Roseville** - all in the western part of central Illinois. The anniversary cake pictured below had pictures of all the churches of the association.



Members of the participating congregations shared memories of the Salem Association meetings of the past during the afternoon session.

Dr. Richard Ricks, Regional Associate Minister Serving Area III, brought the evening message.

Marilyn Shelley (center) of Bethel Baptist - Colchester and Claudia McCain (right) of FBC Macomb were program co-chairs. Rev. Wally Holt (left) is pastor of FBC Macomb.



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH KANKAKEE DEDICATES NEW BUILDING AND CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

On September 14, 2008, amidst the torrential downpour from remnants of Hurricane Ike, the **First Baptist Church of Kankakee, IL** celebrated their 150th anniversary and the dedication of their new church building at 1756 W Route 113 in Kankakee, IL. Despite the weather, it was a wonderful day of celebration and worship as 150 people gathered in the new building to praise God.

The guest speaker Rev. Michael Erickson, a pastor in Maryland and former member who grew up in the church, spoke to the rich heritage of the congregation, the wonders of what God is doing in the present, and the promise that the future holds for the next 150 years. The new building sits on 7.5 acres of land and



is nearly 7,500 square feet. It is a flexible space that the congregation hopes to be able to share with the community to do more effective ministry. The church looks forward with excitement to the work that God has in store for the congregation in the upcoming years. Contact the church at [fbckankakee@gmail.com](mailto:fbckankakee@gmail.com) or at 815-932-2214. Find more information about the church on its website at [firstbaptistkankakee.com](http://firstbaptistkankakee.com).

*Submitted by: Jessica Henks,  
Interim Pastor*

## Leadership Changes

### Incoming

**Jason Hladik** - Pastor FBC Plano, IL  
**Eric Hunt** - Pastor, Old Stonington Baptist Church, Stonington, IL  
**Paul Etherton** - Pastor, FBC Arcola, IL  
**Sean Hicks** - Pastor, White Swan Baptist Church, Woodlawn, IL  
**Floyd Disney**, Interim, FBC, Girard, IL  
**Jack Smith** - Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Reynolds, IL  
**Steven Newell** - Interim, York Baptist Church, Thomson, IL  
**Rick Church** - Pastor, FBC Jerseyville,  
**Vernon Howard** - Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO  
**Delano Benson** - Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church Saint Louis, MO

### Outgoing

**Charles White** - Interim, FBC Girard, IL  
**Joshua Melvin** - Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Reynolds, IL  
**Kelly Melvin** - Associate Pastor, FBC, Galesburg, IL  
**Gerald Phillips** - Interim FBC, Jerseyville, IL  
**Pat McKenna**, Youth Minister, Cherry Hills, Springfield, IL  
**Wade Allen**, Associate Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Springfield, IL  
**Robert Russell** - Interim, FBC, Carrollton, IL  
**Delano Benson** - Pastor, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO