

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

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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 **My linda 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 My linda 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 or at 815-932-2214. Find more information about the church on its website at 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