

GAB-BRAM

Great American Baptist Bike Ride Across Missouri

June 15 - June 20



Participating riders are accepting pledge money on a per mile, per day, or whole ride basis. One hundred percent of the money raised will go toward new church development programs. This year we are providing camp scholarships for the children of new church plants.

Pledges can be made online through the regional website at www.abcgrr.org. or contact Ted Marrinan at teosails@yahoo.com or Dan Edwards at danedwards@cass-comm.com. Information is also available by calling the GRR Resource Center (217) 726-7366.



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 Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Champaign at Savoy, IL Welcomes: Andrew Norcross, Kevin Collins, Marta Collins, Gene Logas, Nina Logas, and Sandra Underwood

First Baptist Church, Jerseyville, IL Welcomes: Brianna Meredith Robert Fuller

Antioch Baptist Church, Reynolds, IL Welcomes: Tom Hofman and Tina Randolph

First Baptist Church, Wood River IL Welcomes: Danielle Wiegand Steven Peterson

Mainstream Contact Information

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

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The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

June 2009 No. 1 Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org web: www.abcgrr.org

GRR Calendar

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

June

- 15 - 20: GABBRA-M for Church Planting
- 20 - 50th Anniversary of Blackhawk Baptist Camp
- 25 - 29 - Biennial Meeting of ABC-USA, Pasadena CA

July

- 8-9 - National ABM Council IL Wesleyan University Bloomington, IL
- 10-11 - GRR Men's & Boys Conference - IL Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
- 25 -31 - National ABWM and ABGirls Conference, Lake Williamson Carlinville, IL

August

- 7 - 8: American Baptist History and Polity Course, Edwardsville, IL

October

- 3: Boundaries Course (Professional Ethics), FBC Benton, IL

Blackhawk Baptist Camp To Celebrate 50th Birthday



January 1959: 160 acres of wooded farmland were purchased from Floyd W. Stauffer for the price of \$12,000. June 21, 1959: a Camp Sunday was held on the property so the churches of Northern Illinois could see the new camp site. A camp naming contest was initiated. Eventually the name **Blackhawk Baptist Camp** was selected (probably a recommendation from George McCoy of Rockford).

On **June 20, 2009**, we are again inviting everyone to join us at Blackhawk Baptist Camp to celebrate the **50th birthday of Blackhawk Camp. As of June 9, 149 have made a commitment to participate.**

Our celebration is called the **"Blackhawk Fiftieth Funanza."** It will be a day filled with music, memories, food and fun. We are inviting all former campers, managers, board members, directors, counselors, staff members and friends to return to the camp for a grand reunion. We will start at 10:00 a.m. (continued next page)

and have a full schedule of on-going activities and food. These include tours, praise and worship, swimming, games, reunions, re-dedication of the camp, fried chicken and much more.

If you have memories you would like to share, write us a letter, or send us photos that we can include in the memory book that is being prepared.

We will present a special video for the evening Grand Celebration. We will conclude with the time honored campfire service complete with singing and s'mores!!

Send your reservation by email to area1grr@comcast.net or phone (815) 986-7932.

ABMen-USA & ABMen-GRR Mens Conference

July 9 - 11, 2009

American Baptist Men from the Great Rivers Region and the ABC-USA are invited to join together at Illinois Wesleyan University Bloomington, Illinois, for fun, fellowship, and inspiration.

Activities begin Thursday, July 9, with a meeting of the ABMen-USA National Board. All ABMen in the USA are invited to attend and learn what is going on around the country as regional representatives give their reports. The Board will also be voting on changes to the ABMen constitution.

On Friday, July 10, ABMen Past President Manuel Luquin will conduct the "Leadership Development Training Summit" This training is a must for

all ABMen who will serve in Disaster Relief and other areas of mens mission work.

On Friday at 4:00 p.m., we will gather with the GRR men for pizza and fellowship. The evening program will start at 5:30 p.m. with a review of the Disaster Relief activities this year. There will also be a dedication of the new trailer followed by the Man of the Year award, devotions, and communion.

On Saturday following a session on Missions and Outreach, we will depart in small groups to work projects in the community (Home Sweet Home Mission, ISU Campus Religious Center and Habitat for Humanity).

After lunch on your project site we will reconvene at IWU for open swim time followed by our closing session, "Take your Mission Experience Home".

We are excited about the opportunity to meet with the National Board and do some Mission work in our community. We look forward to seeing all of you.

For registration forms or additional information:

Call Earl Troyer 309-965-2342 or E-mail etroyer@juno.com.



Great Rivers Region Women's Annual Retreat

"Come" was the theme for the retreat of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Great Rivers Region. The retreat was held at Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL June 5-7. Reflecting on the theme scripture of 2 Timothy 1:7, women leaders in the region shared how God said "Come and Lead" in their lives.

Henrietta Brown led the Bible Study, sharing how God called her to start the New Life Christian Community Church in St. Louis, MO.

Debbie Miller, pictured below, was the missionary speaker, sharing how God worked in her life, leading to the Philippines and then to **FBC Moline, IL**.

Three other women in ministry in the GRR told "Her Story". These were **Katie Longkumer** of **FBC Farmington, IL**,



of **FBC East Moline, IL** and **Claudia McCain** of **FBC Macomb, IL** (pictured at left).

Rachel Cocar, Co-pastor of **FBC Dixon, IL** led the praise

team with college students, **Bethany Justice, Kayla Schmidt, and Melissa Vivian**.



Area One Connection - Clusters: Connecting for Mission and Ministry

The Area One Mission Committee is again partnering with three Area One churches to host three summer mission events. All churches are invited to attend any or all of the events to hear our American Baptist missionaries.

This year we are featuring **Rick Gutierrez**, medical missionary serving in South Africa and **Kristy Engel**, medical missionary serving in the Dominican Republic.

The mission events all begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Each meal will be free and there is no charge for the event. **Please call the host church at least one week prior to the event with the number attending for the meal.**

We will receive a love gift offering for the missionary. In addition, the Mission Committee invites you to **bring items for Blackhawk Camp**. Items to be collected are: paper towels, toilet paper, copy paper, Windex, Ziplock bags, cupcake liners, napkins, brooms, laundry soap, fabric softener, Walmart gift cards, and Menards gift cards.

Creekwood Baptist Church, Rockford, IL will host the **Kishwaukee Cluster** on July 24. Rick Gutierrez will be the missionary speaker.

Antioch Baptist Church, Reynolds, IL will host the **Rock Island Cluster** on August 15 with Kristy Engel as the missionary speaker.

First Baptist Church, Plano, IL will host the **Aurora Cluster** on August 16. Kristy Engel will also be the missionary speaker for that event.