

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

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

Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Benton, IL Welcomes: Andrew Neal

New Hope Baptist Church, Roxana, IL Welcomes: Joe Casto, Brad Moore, and Jim Palmer

Second Baptist Church, Peoria, IL Welcomes: Brittany Archibald, John Draggist, Carissa Draggist, Karley Levi, Joyce Richwine, Sharon Schuh, Terri Schockency, Robert (Bob) Shockency, and Marianne White



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



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

February 2009 No. 1

Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

GRR Calendar

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

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

GRR Missions Conference

April 24 - 25, 2009

Cherry Hills Baptist Church
Springfield, IL

A Conference Designed for People with a Heart for MISSIONS

Friday:

3:00 p.m.: "Mission & Ministry in Rural and Small Town Churches" with Susan Gillies

6:30 p.m.: Plenary Session

- Testimonies on Habitat Projects in the Gulf
- Special Music by 4-Given
- Preaching by Rev. Wilfred Brown
- Offering for Alajuelita Project in Costa Rica

Saturday:

7:30 AM Continental breakfast with GRR Staff

Workshops

11:15 a.m.: Plenary Session

- Special music Karen Musical Troupe
- Message on Baptists in Burma with Dr. Angelene Naw

Offering for Break the Chains project



Area Meetings

Harvest Time

Area I

FBC Ottawa, IL
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Speaker: Dr. Alistair Brown
President of Northern Seminary
Children and Youth Events

Area II

FBC Jacksonville, IL
Sunday, March 15, 2009

Afternoon:
Reports From:
Dr. Dwight Stinnett
Rev. Lisa Harris
Dr. John Grisham
Breakout Groups

Evening Speaker: Rev. Lisa Harris

Area III

North Bridge Baptist Church
Normal, IL
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Afternoon Speakers:
Pastor Christian Ricker, Chenoa FBC
Rev. Wally Holt, Macomb FBC
Dr. Brett Smith, University Baptist
Church, Champaign, IL;
Workshops

Evening Speaker:
Rev. Karen Boucher, Associate
Pastor of FBC Pontiac, IL
Concert with Russell Zehr

Area IV

First Baptist Church, Benton, IL
Saturday, March 21, 2009
Theme: Sowing For Harvest

Speakers & Workshop Leaders:
Rex and Becky Cooper
Charles Klassen, Jon Lobos
Ron Haynes

Worship Leader: Rod Mays

Area V

FBC Edwardsville, IL
Saturday, March 14, 2009
Opening Session & Business
Workshops
Closing Session and Worship
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dwight Stinnett

Blitz Build 2009

The long process of **recovery from Hurricane Katrina** continues, and in places like the New Orleans neighborhood of Little Woods, much more help is needed.

Sunday, April 19 - Saturday, April 25
Sunday, April 26 - Saturday, May 2
Sunday, May 3 - Saturday, May 9
Sunday, May 10 - Saturday, May 16

Contact: Victoria.Goff@abc-usa.org



FBC Galesburg Hold Installation Service for Martin Wolin

On the afternoon of December 21, 2008, **First Baptist Church of Galesburg, IL** celebrated in worship the installation of **Martin Wolin, Minister of Worship Arts**



Martin Wolin accepted an invitation to come to FBC in April for a trial experience for the purpose of mutual exploration on the merits of employing him as Minister of Worship Arts. After spending this time with him, the church extended a call to him. He accepted and Martin, his wife Lois, and four of their eight children all moved to

Galesburg from Germany.



Martin is an accomplished pianist, organist, and composer with a Masters of Arts in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary and a degree in

Lutheran Church Music from Berliner Kirchenmusikschule, Berlin-Spandau. While he was pursuing the music degree, he played the organ at the largest Baptist Church in West Berlin.

FBC Galesburg feels this definitely was God working in all of our lives by sending us Martin and family. The church feels truly blessed.

First Baptist Church Mason City, IL

“Blessing Builders”

Members of **First Baptist Church of Mason City, IL** wanted to be involved in missions in their community. “Blessing Builders” was the name chosen with a purpose of “blessing the place where we live.” This mission group planned three projects for the church and community.

The first one was making old fashion “May Baskets”. The baskets were homemade and each basket consisted of pens, pads, cookies, candy and fresh flowers. The baskets were given to the recipients of “Meals on Wheels”

The second project was a surprise birthday party for a lady who had been a part of the church for many years. This was her 81st birthday and she had NEVER had a birthday party. The surprise birthday party made her “Queen for the Day”. She was surprised by friends of her present and her past in a “This is Your Life” style.

The final group project was for the local “Food Pantry”. “Christmas Bags” were filled with toiletries, chips, fruit and candy.

In addition to these three projects, the church members have done yard work, welcomed new neighbors with a welcome basket full of goodies, taken care of children and pets, taken food to the sick, sent care packages to those in service, and prayed faithfully.

We plan to continue to be “Blessing Builders” for our church and HIS glory.

Pat Elmore--Missions Coordinator