

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

- 2 - Blackhawk Baptist Camp Cleanup
- 5 - Boundaries Course - GRR
Resource Center, Springfield, IL
- 16 & 23 - Lake Springfield Baptist
Camp Cleanup
- 28 - Church for All Generations
with Edward H. Hammett
FBC Bloomington, IL

Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

**University Baptist Church,
Champaign, IL Welcomes:** Chia-
Yu (Josie) Kung, James McElveen,
Jung Woo (Jakim) Han, Jordan
Meiss, Emmanuel Leroy, Emma
Strohbusch, and Joshua Rule

**First Baptist Church, Paris, IL
Welcomes:** Ben Roush
Steve Johnson III

**New Hope Baptist Church,
Roxana, IL Welcomes:**
Gail Pruiett

**First Baptist Church, Sparland,
IL Welcomes:** Robin Moreland,
Miranda Shofner, Savanna Strong,
and Myriah Hunt.

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



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

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



Area Meetings

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

Meetings' Details & Registration Forms:

www.abcgrr.org/areas/annualmeetings.htm

Area I

FBC Ottawa, IL
Sunday, March 22, 2009

Area II

FBC Jacksonville, IL
Sunday, March 15, 2009

Area III

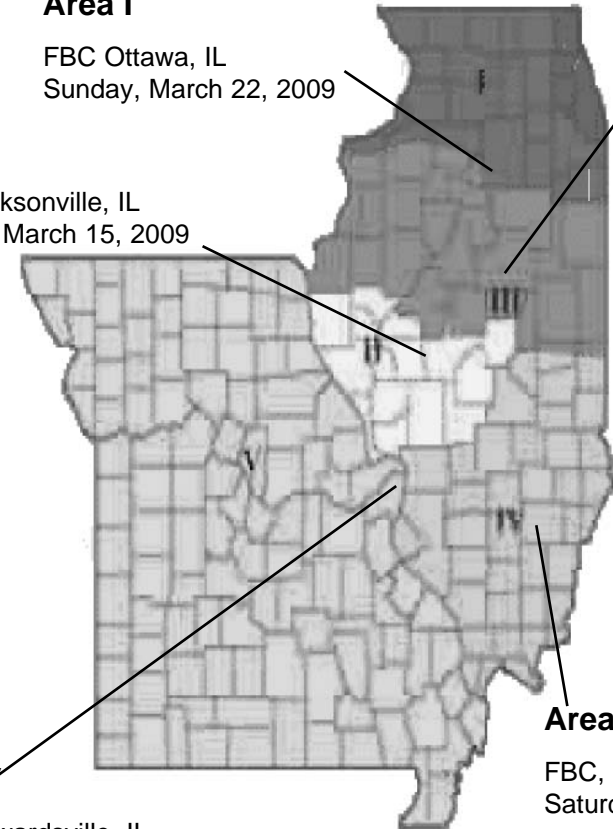
North Bridge
Baptist Church
Normal, IL
Sunday,
March 22, 2009

Area V

FBC Edwardsville, IL
Saturday, March 14, 2009

Area IV

FBC, Benton, IL
Saturday, March 21,



Also in this issue: Meet our new Lake Springfield Camp Managers, find out who has been ordained, what's happening at Bethel Neighborhood House of Kansas City, Missions Conference 2009, and much more...

Jack Smith Ordained

Antioch Baptist Church of Reynolds, IL, ordained **Jack Smith** on January 18. Jack has served as pastor and interim pastor for churches in the GRR for over 34 years. He is the Area 1 Coordinator for the ABM Disaster Relief Team. He also serves on the Board of the Murrow Indian Children's Home. Jack was one of the first graduates of the Certified Lay Minister Program - a forerunner to our current Alternative Ministerial Education Program.

Jack had served a few years



before as Antioch's Interim Pastor and this time when the church became open they voted to call Jack as pastor and then voted to ordain him. Rev. Brian Fischer, Rev. Bob Ziebarth and Dr. Cheryl Henson participated in the Ordination Service.

Rev. Smith is bringing a new energy and renewed focus for outreach to the church as they partner together. He is mentoring several within the congregation to participate in lay ministry.

Jack's spouse Hilda is his lifelong partner in ministry and is active in American Baptist Women. She has encouraged the women of the church to begin a Dorcas Circle in which they knit scarves and mittens for those in need. A number of the scarves and mittens have already been donated to the Karen refugee families in the Moline area. It is never too late to serve the Lord.

GRR Missions Conference

April 24 - 25, 2009

Cherry Hills Baptist Church
Springfield, IL



**A Conference Designed for People
with a Heart for MISSIONS**

**Meet Lake Springfield
Baptist Camp's New
Managers**

Doug and Jennifer Brady expect to be moved in by the middle of March.

Doug has been a professional athlete, working with the Chicago White Sox organization (1991-97), the Lotte Giants (1998) in South Korea, and the Atlantic City Surf (1999) in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He is presently assistant head baseball coach at MacMurray College.

Jennifer's college training is in early childhood development.

She and Doug have been married since 2000.



Bethel Neighborhood House Appreciates Youth Leaders



Three of our senior high Bethel youth have taken on positions of leadership for the after school "Lanterns" Club. Each of the three youth have been a part of Bethel's programs for several years. Miranda and Patricia are high school seniors and Edgar is a freshman. Because all three have demonstrated leadership qualities, we decided to help them gain more experience by making them part of our program staff. Both Miranda and Patricia have been hired to work with the kindergarten through 3rd graders in the Lantern Club which meets each Monday and Tuesday. Edgar has been added to the program staff as a volunteer with the same club.

All three are participants in our expanded Bethel youth program which meets each Wednesday afternoon during early release from high school. Among their peers, these three also are well respected and continue as leaders. We are proud of these youth who are faithful in their work at Bethel and contribute to our planning process in program staff meetings.

Both Patricia and Miranda plan to attend college after graduation from high school this spring.

For information about Bethel visit us at www.bethelcenter.org, or call us at 913-371-8218.

Ed Baxter
Interim Executive Director

Being Church for All Generations... A Seminar for Church Leaders and Pastors

Seminar Leader: Dr. Eddie Hammett
Senior Coach for Lake Hickory Learning Communities & Valwood Christian Leadership Coaching, and a founding partner of the Columbia



Partnership. He is the author of four books dealing with how the church can be prepared for more effective ministry in the 21st century.

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church
2502 E College Ave
Bloomington, IL 61704

Cost: \$30.00 - Includes lunch, notebook, and one copy of Hammett's book for the Pastor, and 3 lay leaders (Additional people from a church will be charged \$5.00 each for lunch)

Clergy Spouse Retreat

April 17-18, 2009

Lake Springfield
Baptist Camp

Theme: Choose Joy

Retreat Leader: Ruth Shipman