

2009 Katrina Mission
Rebuilding Homes
Reclaiming Hope

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.

This spring, Church World Service and its members will host a four-week ecumenical work project in New Orleans. In partnership with the Crescent Area Recovery Effort, we hope to help 12 more families return home. Join us as we show the world how people of faith, working side-by-side, can make great things happen for our neighbors in need. Volunteer groups will arrive on Sunday, begin work Monday and leave for home on Saturday.

The weeks of the project are:
 Sunday, April 19 - Saturday, April 25
 Sunday, April 26 - Saturday, May 2
 Sunday, May 3 - Saturday, May 9
 Sunday, May 10 - Saturday, May 16

Join us in this celebration of hope!



The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region,
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Our Great Rivers Region
Family Is Growing!

First Baptist Church, Benton, IL Welcomes: Andrew Neal, Rosemary Roffler, and Stanley Davis

First Baptist Church, Cordova, IL Welcomes: Jon Noland and Sheila Noland

Eldred Baptist Church, Eldred, IL Welcomes: Justin Kutte

First Baptist Church, Jerseyville, IL Welcomes: Trent Mizulski, Amanda Ealey, and Anna Hausman

First Baptist Church, Peoria, IL Welcomes: John Dusek, Jennifer Dusek, and Jonathan Lewis

Central Baptist Church, Springfield, IL Welcomes: Elaina Davis, Della Phillips, Jeannie Meyers, Grant Wade, and Erin Wade

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
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The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

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GRR Calendar

2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest

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

June

- 5 - 7 - GRR Women's Ministries (formerly ABWM)
Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL
- 20 - 50th Anniversary of Blackhawk Baptist Camp
- 25 - 29 - Biennial Meeting of ABC-USA, Pasadena CA



Mission and Ministry You Support with Your Gifts

- * Regional and Area Ministry
- * *Children in Poverty (CIP)*
- * Neighborhood Action Programs (20% of National Ministries' portion)
- * *J. Alfred Smith Sr. Institute (Speak Until Justice Wakes Conference)*
- * Christian Citizen Magazine
- * *Chaplaincy Programs*
- * Volunteer Ministries (e.g. Katrina)
- * *Discipleship Partner Training*
- * Discipleship Church Conferences and Seminars
- * *Partnerships with ABCUSA Colleges and Seminaries*
- * *Student Campus Ministries*
- * National Youth Conferences (about every four years)
- * *Judson Press Discipleship Resources*
- * Refugee Resettlement Initiatives (e.g., Burmese)
- * *National Evangelism Team (NET) Training & Grants and more...*

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

9:00 - 10:55 a.m. - 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

Great Rivers Region Camping

The Great Rivers Region has
2 camps: **Blackhawk Baptist
Camp** near Oregon, IL and **Lake
Springfield Baptist Camp** near
Springfield, IL.

As spring begins to make its pres-
ence known in the Great Rivers
Region, it is time to think about get-
ting our camps ready for the camping
season. This involves both spiritual
preparation and physical preparation.

Prayer is the first step in spiritual
preparation:

- For directors, counselors, and
campers as they prepare their
hearts and minds for camp.
- Pray and encourage children and
youth to participate
in camp. We are
facing a critical time
in our camping pro-
gram as fewer chil-
dren and youth are
making the commit-
ment to come to camp. Without
campers the regional camping
program can't exist.



Physical preparation begins with
your personal involvement.

- Help pay someone's expenses
to go the camp
- Offer to provide transportation to
get them there.
- Share your own camp experi-
ences-the special closeness
to God that comes from camp
ing experience.

Camping Continued...

- Give your time, talents, and mon-
ies to make a difference.

**One pressing need is repair-
ing the upper bathhouse at Lake
Springfield.** Repairs are immedi-
ately needed to make it safer for
the campers and satisfy the health
department codes. Major needs:

- replacing the roof
- replacing light fixtures
- replacing shower fixtures.

Cost for materials is around \$6,000.
**All the work will be done by vol-
unteers but the money has to be
collected before the work can
begin.**

**Would you and/or your church
help in this way?**

Mission: Higher Education - Volunteers Help Make It Happen



Recently
Judson
University
received the
help of vet-
eran electrician **Ron Kinner and
wife Glenda of Chatham, Illinois.**
The couple did some much needed
electrical repairs in the old Benjamin
Browne Library. They experienced
life at Judson first hand, spending
a week on campus working with
staff, eating in the cafeteria, and
staying in one of the apartments on
campus. Judson is indebted to the
service of its volunteers and their
ministry .

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 deal-

ing with how the church can be pre-
pared 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, note-
book, 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