

**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

March 2009 No. 2 Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org web: www.abcgrr.org

**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?**

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## 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)

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## Clergy Spouse Retreat

April 17-18, 2009

Lake Springfield  
Baptist Camp

Theme: *Choose Joy*

Retreat Leader: Ruth Shipman