

**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 fourweek 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,  
 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711  
 Telephone: (217) 726-7366 Fax: (217) 726-7566  
 Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org Web: www.abcgrr.org

**Our Great Rivers Region**  
**Churches Celebrate**  
**New Members!**

**Olney First Baptist** welcomes:  
 Ruby Davis and Jacob Wendling

**Raritan Baptist** welcomes:  
 Jake Marsden, Glen & Julie Barber,  
 Jerry & Stephanie Hughes, and  
 Sadie Kugler, Becky & Travis  
 Peterson

**GRR Celebrates**  
**Church Ministries**

“Paving our way...” **Pastor Shaker Samuel, First Baptist Church of Murphysboro** (Area IV), describes a new ministry of the church that is gaining the attention of the city government and service clubs of the city. Watch the video to find out about this ministry initiative. Find the video on the GRR web site at <http://www.abcgrr.org/> Click on the “Celebrate Church Ministries” button in the left column then underneath the video frame, click on play.

**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](mailto:Ricks4Lr@comcast.net)**



# The Mainstream

*News of Ministry and Mission*

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

April 2009 No. 1 Email: [grrabc@abcgrr.org](mailto:grrabc@abcgrr.org) web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

## Breakthrough with Camping



- \* Community
- \* Leadership
- \* Personal Discovery
- \* Relationship with Christ

Get registration materials from your church office,  
 or call Sharon at (217) 726 - 7366  
 or download: [www.abcgrr.org/grrcamps/index.htm](http://www.abcgrr.org/grrcamps/index.htm)

**Help prepare the camps for the new season.**

**Download information: [www.abcgrr.org/grrcamps/](http://www.abcgrr.org/grrcamps/)**



*Look inside for GRR Calendar, Mission Conference and more...*

## 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

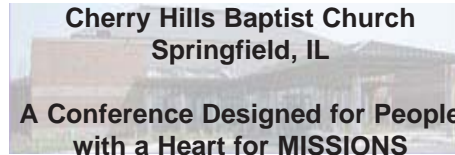
20 - 50th Anniversary of Blackhawk  
Baptist Camp

25 - 29 - Biennial Meeting of ABC-  
USA, Pasadena CA



## GRR Missions Conference

April 24 - 25, 2009



### 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

Register: [www.abcgrr.org/mission-sConf/index.htm](http://www.abcgrr.org/mission-sConf/index.htm)



## Clergy Spouse Retreat

with

Ruth  
Shipman

April 17-18, 2009

Lake Springfield  
Baptist Camp

Theme: **Choose Joy**

For more information about this  
retreat, contact:

**Judi Mills (217) 585-8292**

Download Flyer / Registration:  
[http://www.abcgrr.org/  
ClergySpouses/index.htm](http://www.abcgrr.org/ClergySpouses/index.htm)



BE RENEWED - BE REFRESHED  
BE EMPOWERED  
in Christ Jesus

ABW Ministries - GRR  
Annual Conference  
June 15 - 16 - 17  
Lake Williamson

with

**Henrietta Brown**

More Information:

[http://www.abcgrr.org/abwm/  
index.htm](http://www.abcgrr.org/abwm/index.htm) or call:

**Marcia Wimmer: 217-877-4128**

## 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)

