

2017 Calendar

June

23 - 24: **American Baptist Men's Annual Gathering**
DeKalb, IL

28 - **ABCUSA Biennial**
July 2: Portland, Oregon

July:

27: **Senior Day - Lake Springfield Baptist Camp**

August:

18 - 19: **Baptist History and Polity Course**
ABC-GRR Resource Center, Springfield, IL

September:

28: **Minister's Conference**
Chesterfield, MO

29 - 30: **GRR Annual Assembly**
Chesterfield, MO

October:

14: **Professional Boundaries Course**
ABC-GRR Resource Center, Springfield, IL

GRR Website

E-mail GRR Webmaster, **Richard Ricks: revrick4@comcast.net**

Spotlight Five: South Sudan

South Sudan is an interesting planting project because we really can't say a whole lot about it because of the sensitivity of the area. We will be involved with a number of church plants in this area, but they will be doing things a little bit differently. One of the plants will be using our money to buy a generator to help provide electricity in the region. Where this plant is located they do not have electricity for more than two or three hours a day. They will provide a generator for the community to use, and in that way they will be showing the love of Jesus. Another plant will help provide transportation's in an area where getting around is very difficult. There will be five different projects around south Sudan that will help the people in those areas experience the love of Jesus. Please keep all of them in your prayers as they reach out with the love of Jesus in a very Muslim world.

Mainstream Contact Information

Send your stories of mission and ministry. Please also send the names of new members to:

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The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the
Great Rivers Region



God's New Thing

June 2017

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
Online edition now interactive

web: www.abcgrr.org

New Area Minister Serving Areas I and III Dr. Rex Rogers



The Rev. Dr. Rex Rogers will begin serving the Great Rivers Region as Area Minister for Areas I and III on July 1, 2017. He is no stranger to the GRR. He has been a part

of this region since he became pastor of the First Baptist Church, Belvidere, IL in June, 1992. During his 22 years as pastor at Belvidere he was also involved with churches in Area I. He has recently been serving as a Pastoral Care Consultant with Judson University, giving him opportunity to be in touch with many more churches of our region

Rev. Rogers is a native of Indiana where he also found his wife Constance. They have two grown children, a boy and a girl, both of whom are married and have presented them with three grandchildren. Rex is an American Baptist by choice. His earlier years were involved with other denominations where he found Christ and was nurtured in his faith. But, when choosing where to invest his life, he felt

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New Area Minister Serving Areas II and IV Rev. Patty Bilyeu



The Rev. Patricia K. Bilyeu, better known as Patty will begin serving the Great Rivers Region as Area Minister for Areas II and IV on July 1, 2017.

Patty is no stranger to the GRR, having served with her husband, Rev. David Bilyeu, in churches in Areas I & III, and now in Area IV at FBC Greenville where they have been for the past five years. Patty and David have three sons, two of whom are grown.

Rev. Patty Bilyeu is a native of Ohio. She was born on a Monday and her American Baptist family brought her to church the next Sunday! Her commitment to Christ came early and she has been involved with American Baptists her whole life. During college, she became part of a ministry team at her home church and soon acknowledged God's call to full-time ministry. She started her formal training at the University of Toledo (Ohio) with her Bachelor's degree. For her seminary training,

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Rex Rogers (continued)

God's leading to ABC - USA "because of its emphasis on missions and the associational process." Beginning during seminary days he has frequently attended cluster, associational and area meetings as part of his learning

The educational attainments of Rev. Rogers include, a Bachelor's degree from Purdue University, a Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, IL. He has served as both a Minister of Youth and a Campus Minister.

He is currently a member of the GRR Regional Ministry Board, a member of the Board of Directors of Green Lake Conference Center and a member of Judson University's President's Advisory Council.

For many years, Rex has had an interest in the work of Area Ministers and describes this interest as a "call." This interest was demonstrated when he chose the subject for his Doctoral Dissertation. It was on "how pastors can be contacted and supported by Area Ministers in an efficient and effective way." This interest and his obvious excitement for this ministry was no doubt part of what impressed the search committee.

The search committee nominated Rev. Dr. Rex A. Rogers as its choice for Area Minister for Areas I & III of the Great Rivers Region and the Regional Ministry Board affirmed this by calling him to serve in this position.

American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit will meet in Portland, Oregon, June 30-July 2, 2017



Patty Bilyeu (continued)

she earned her Masters of Divinity degree at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary (Lombard, IL) This is also where she met David.

Having been ordained in ABC in 1994 she has been active in Baptist life wherever she has been. While in Ohio she actively participated in the Ohio ABC Region and in 2009 was the President of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio. Since returning to the Great Rivers Region Patty has served as a member of the GRR Regional Ministry Board while Moderator of Area IV.

Patty is currently the Assistant Area IV Area Minister working with Rev. Muriel Johnson. In this position, she works with the Area IV Program Board and helps provide direction and support to pastors. She also has been serving First Baptist Church, Highland, IL as Interim Pastor.

Patty describes herself as having an outgoing personality, a sense of humor, agrees that she exudes enthusiasm and that she is well organized. It can also be said that she brings a welcome warmth and graciousness to each situation, whatever it may be.

The search committee nominated The Rev. Patricia K. Bilyeu as its choice for Area Minister for Areas II & IV of the Great Rivers Region and the Regional Ministry Board affirmed this by calling her to serve in this position.

A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister



WOW, summer is here, and now we are making plans for the fall and winter. I do hope that you and yours have time to get away and "vacate" for a while this summer, and enjoy family and friends.

Our Big Thing coming up this fall is our Annual Gathering at the end of September in Chesterfield, MO. The Ministers conference is on Sept 28, and the Annual Gathering of our churches is Sept 29 - 30.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE. **Karl Slaikou** will be with us for our Ministers Conference. Karl is an expert in helping pastors and churches deal with conflict in a productive way. I wish I would have had some of this when I was a younger pastor. We feel so strongly about the importance of this, that we are not charging for the conference or the meal following. We just need to know who will be coming, so let us know.

50th ANNUAL GATHERING OF ABCGRR. This will be a special event as we celebrate 50 years of being the Great Rivers Region. We will have two very special guests. **Dr. Marvin McMickle** will be our special speaker for the gathering. Marvin is the president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and has been a pastor for many years. Our second special guest is the new **General Secretary of our denomination, Dr. Lee Spitzer.**

Lee was just elected in June and will be able to spend three days with our region. We are excited to have him with us. We will have some special things happening during this time to remember and celebrate our 50 years as a region. **PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.**

We are almost through with transitions. **Adrian Lamkin** will be finishing his part time position with Area III at the end of June. We want to thank him for all that he gave to us during this time of transition. On July 1, **Patty Bilyeu and Rex Rogers** will begin their positions as our new Area Ministers. I am excited for all of us as they begin their work. They are both wonderful people, and I am so glad that God led us to them, and them to us. We will be having **services of installation** for both Patty and Rex in the coming months. Rex will be having his on **July 30**, in the afternoon, at **First Baptist in Ottawa**. Patty will be having hers on **Sept 17**, in the afternoon, at **First Baptist of Greenville**. We will have the specific times later.

Keep praying for **Paul Rollet**. Paul is at home in Chatham recovering from injuries that happened from a fall in the Philippines. The recovery is going well, but slow, and Paul wants to get back to the field. Keep the prayers coming.

Enjoy your summer, and remember, be rightly related to God and find your joy there, and out of you will flow rivers of living water. Be a vessel that God can pour His love through.