



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

*Be a vessel that God can pour his love through.
Let It Flow*

April 2018 No 1

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
Online edition interactive

web: www.abcgrr.org

2018 Calendar

April:

14: **Area III Annual Meeting**

15: **Area IV Annual Meeting**
FBC Murphysboro, IL

20 - 21: **Face To Face**

27 - 28: **Clergy Spouse Retreat**
Lake Springfield Camp

28: **Area I Annual Meeting**
Blackhawk Baptist Camp

May:

12: **Professional Boundaries Course** - GRR Resource Center

June:

8 - 10: **ABWM GRR Annual Conference**, Northfield Inn & Suites and Conference Center, Springfield, IL

22 - 23: **AB Men's Conference**
Bloomington IL First Baptist Church

July:

4 - 7: **World Mission Conference, Green Lake, WI**

August:

24 - 25: **American Baptist History and Polity Course**
GRR Resource Center

Great Rivers Region Area I Annual Meeting

Theme: **"Working Not Weary"**

Saturday April 28th
9:30 a.m - 3:00 p.m.

BlackHawk Baptist Camp
4491 West Henry Rd.
Oregon, IL 61061

Guest Speaker:

Rev. Muriel Johnson has served as Area Minister for Area V for the past 17 years. Her desire to introduce people to Jesus Christ and the love of God is a primary and persistent motivator for her life and ministry



Ministry spotlights from Rev. Darren Leopke and Rev. Daniel Yeager

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.
The program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Cost: **\$10.00** (includes lunch)

You can register with **Bobbie Rose**:

Mail to: 40 W735 Powers Rd, Huntley IL 60142

Email: bobbierose10@yahoo.com



A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister

Fresh Expressions USA, ACT to end racism, ABCUSA Leaders meeting, Q Commons, Area V meeting, Area II meeting....a busy few weeks. DC, DC again, Green Lake, Nashville, Peoria, Murphysboro...and then I am home for a while. All of these have been wonderful meetings that will be meaningful to our region as we move ahead. If you don't know what they are, google them and find out. We know what the area meetings are, and they are always a good experience filled with good food, fellowship, and worship.

Right now I am with a group of pastors at the Q Commons meeting in Nashville. Wow, are we being challenged and motivated. They are a great group. (from left to right): sitting Patty Bilyeu, David Bilyeu; standing: Josh Sabo, Wade Allen, Mike Moore, John Withum, Dezo Desauguste, Paul Gibson.



Three things I am asking you to be thinking and praying about:

1. **Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)**. We are just about ready to roll with it. Wally Holt will be sharing more about it in just a few weeks.

2. **World Missions Conference at Green Lake** this summer. Consider going....a great place to meet and greet over 20 of our missionaries.

3. **Our annual gathering in Bloomington this September** We have both Dave Fitch and Shane Claiborne to help us get in touch with what Jesus would want us to do. Don't miss it.

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.***



Sturgis Mission

The ABC Emergency Services Center mission project will be open August 4 - 12 during the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally in and around Sturgis, South Dakota. Prayerfully consider this opportunity as a church. Find out more by downloading the flyer: <http://abcgrr.org/abc-usa/SturgisFlyer2018.pdf>



**American Baptist Women's
Ministries GRR
Annual Conference**

Celebrating 50 Years

June 8 - 10, 2018

**Northfield Inn Suites & Conference
Center**, 3280 Northfield Drive, Spring-
field, IL

Missionary: **Betty Martin**, Executive
Director of Murrow Indian Children's
Home

Bible Study Leader: **Rev. Muriel
Johnson**, Area V Area Minister

50th Anniversary Celebration

Special Music by : **D. Scott Kramer
and Rachel West Kramer**

Send registration to:

Lori Hill, 26 NW 40th St., Kansas City,
MO 64116, Email: **Lori.hill@gmail.
com**

**American Baptist Men
Annual Conference**

Each year, the men of Great Riv-
ers Region join together for a time of
fellowship, renewal, food, fun, work-
shops, speakers, and challenges. Our
2018 Gathering will be held in **Bloom-
ington, Illinois at First Baptist
Church on June 22-23**. Mark your
calendars to attend.

Here is the registration site:
**[https://docs.google.com/
forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScX5Q_
BrxrGhFu7z8q4oOo9mnhxb2UiF-
p2rWlvMX8SllYoPZg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScX5Q_BrxrGhFu7z8q4oOo9mnhxb2UiF-p2rWlvMX8SllYoPZg/viewform)**

World Mission Conference

The World Mission Conference
will be held at: Green Lake Confer-
ence Center, Green Lake, Wiscon-
sin from 6:30 p.m. on July 4 through
9:00 p.m. on July 7, 2018.

Discover how International Min-
istries global servants and partners
make disciples for Jesus Christ
through ministries of health and
wellness, economic and community
development and the abolition of
human trafficking.

Celebrate the 4th of July as you
interact with global servants and
international leaders from dozens of
nations, participate in global wor-
ship and conversation and explore
ways to be more involved in global
mission.

Church News



Lindxi Zhu was licensed to preach
by the **First Baptist Church of El
Paso, IL** on March 18, 2018. The
licensing ceremony was lead by
Nancy Greene, the church modera-
tor. Lindxi, pictured with Rev. Paul
Gibson (left) and Interim Pastor
Russel Zehr (right), is from Guangxi,
China. She is currently serving as
associate pastor at the church. She
graduated with her M. Div from
Sioux Falls Seminary in 2017.

Clergy Spouse Retreat

“Growing Into an Effective Minister’s Wife”

Friday Evening, **April 27** - Saturday Afternoon, **April 28**, 2018

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp
5878 Iron Bridge Road
Springfield, IL

Retreat Leader:
Sharon Malone,
is a member of St. Luke Baptist Church in Rockford, Illinois, where she serves as teacher, mentor, and counselor.



All spouses of clergy (pastors or church staff) are welcome to attend.

Cost: **\$40.00**
\$20.00 First Timers

Send Registration To:
Judi Mills
7812 Hunt Road
Springfield, IL 62712

Mainstream Contact Information

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

Linda Ricks
232 Devron Circle
East Peoria, IL 61611

Ricks4LR@comcast.net

New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

First Baptist Church, Sparland, IL Welcomes: Pam Snyder, Sherri Van Dehy, Zack Allen, Trenten Allen, and Anna Allen

Grow Healthy



Join Michael Lukaszewski in Grow Healthy, a workshop for pastors and church leaders, hosted by Decatur First Baptist Church May 18 and 19. Free

to participate. **Download information | Form to fill out, then scan or fax.** Details on form.

Ron French, host pastor, “This workshop is intended to help churches consider their vision and mission and develop a strategy unique to their situation that will help them grow and blossom as lights in their community.”

If you have any questions, please call the First Baptist Church and ask for Pastor Ron, 217-875-8034, or e-mail him at **revfrench@comcast.net**

GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks:
Email: **revrick4@comcast.net**