



Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)

With great excitement we introduce to the Great Rivers Region churches the **Church Revitalization Initiative (CRI)**. The Church Revitalization Initiative is designed to help committed pastors and church leaders who are willing to do what it takes to revitalize their churches. The Initiative is comprised of pastors and church leaders who have helped lead their churches to healthy revitalized congregations.

If you are feeling stagnant and/or undecided how to move forward, please email me; (wallyholt63@gmail.com) and we can discuss your situation and determine if the team can be of service to you. We know that we are living in difficult times and that is why we want to be of assistance to you. In Proverbs 20:18, we read the following: "plans succeed through good counsel;...". Since we are all one family (of God), the Great Rivers Region has put together this initiative so that all will know we are here for each other. If you think you may be interested in some counsel concerning the health/vitality of your church, please contact me.

Wally Holt, Coordinator

New Members of the Churches of the Great Rivers Region

FBC Decatur, IL Welcomes: Barb Reed and Paul Reed

2018 Annual Gathering Church Highlight Pages

It was so GREAT to see last years' highlights sent by churches to be included in the Annual Gathering Program Book. Last year we asked for churches' highlights of the 50 years we celebrated as a Region. Your great response has led us to request this again this year.

If your church would like to be involved, please submit one paragraph describing a particular highlight(s) that took place along with a photo/photos depicting that highlight, keeping it to one page giving each church in the GRR the opportunity to share a specific highlight to be published in our Program Book this year.

Please submit your paragraph/photo(s) **NO LATER THAN August 6th** .

Send to debbie@abcgrr.org

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



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

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

July 2018

Email: debbie@abcgrr.org
Online edition interactive

web: www.abcgrr.org

2018 Calendar

August:

4 - 12 **Sturgis Mission**

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

September:

27: **GRR Ministers Conference,**
First Baptist Church
Bloomington, IL

28 - 29: **Rivers Growth Conference**
First Baptist Church
2502 East College Avenue
Bloomington, IL and'
The Chateau Hotel
1521 Jumer /Drive
Bloomington, IL - Breakfast meetings, Saturday.

October:

20: **American Baptist Professional Boundaries Course**
GRR Resource Center

November:

14 - 16: **Space For Grace: Thy Will Be Done**
Philadelphia, PA

Rivers Growth Conference

September 28 - 29, 2018

The Rivers Growth Conference (Formerly, Annual Assembly) will be held at the **First Baptist Church of Bloomington** located at 2502 East College Avenue, Bloomington IL. Please note that this is a change from previous years. **All meetings and meals except Saturday morning breakfast meetings will be held at the church.** The breakfast meetings will be held at the hotel.

We will be staying at **The Chateau Hotel** located at 1621 Jumer Dr, Bloomington, IL. The hotel is a short distance from the church. **Use the Block Code ABCGRR to receive the discounted rate of \$99.00 + tax per night (available until Aug. 24th) Call the hotel at (309) 662-2020.**

The Ministers Conference will be held on **Thursday, September 27** at First Baptist Church of Bloomington.

Speakers for the events will be **David Fitch, Shane Claiborne, Tony Campolo, and Sharon Koh.**

Please make plans to attend this very important meeting of our region.

Registration Information: Rivers Growth Conference: \$20.00
Ministers Conference: \$15.00

Download form or register online @ www.abcgrr.org/#growth



A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister

Melissa and I were blessed to be able to attend the **World Mission Conference** at Green Lake a couple of weeks ago. What an inspiring time! We met many missionaries who are home on leave, including our very own **Larry and Becky Stanton**. We also met several missionaries who are preparing to begin their mission work. Two couples that will soon be heading to the mission field are **Brian and Lynette Smith - Haiti**, and **Mark and Alise Juanes-Thailand**. These two families are wonderful people and would appreciate your prayers. Thanks to **Sharon Koh** and our own **Reg Mills** for putting on a great conference.

September 27 - 29, 2018 make plans to attend the best conference around. With speakers like **Dave Fitch, Shane Claiborne, Tony Campolo** and **Sharon Koh**, you will not find a more inspirational conference. **Dave Fitch (Northern Seminary) leads the Ministers' Conference on Sept 27th**, and the other speakers will join him for our annual assembly, September 28 - 29. This year we are calling our annual assembly "**The Rivers Growth Conference**". Register now on our web page.

MMBB is providing the meal for our **Ministers' Conference** and **ABC-GRR** is covering the cost of our **closing luncheon** together. This is a great deal--don't pass it up! Register now on our web page.

Missionaries. We are blessed to have **Corene and Phil Smith - Brazil**, and **Laura Parajon - Nicaragua**, joining us at the Growth Conference. They have great stories to share about what God is doing in their areas. We are also blessed to have **Sharon Koh, the Executive Director of IM** with us. Register now on our web page.

Mission Trip February 12 - 26, 2019, Philippines and Thailand. If interested, contact the regional office. Estimated cost of this trip will be around \$2,800/person.

Have you made your plans to attend the Rivers Growth Conference, September 27 - 29? I hope to see as many of our pastors and lay people there as possible. You will be challenged and inspired. We have scholarships available if you need help to attend. Register now on our web page.

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



GRR Website

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

God leading you to work in web design and related fields? Check out your local community college for training opportunities..

2018 - 2019 Gernenz-Shurtleff & Wilcoxon Scholarship Recipients

Mathew Briggs, Emily Bright, Hannah Brimner, Kayla Brimner, Hope Cash, Noah Cash, Caroline Costello, Melissa DeBall, Levi DeWitt, Kathryn Dunning, Madeline Dunning, Joshua Ekberg, Moses Gary, Alyssa Goss, Amy Gruschka, Max Gruschka, Joshua Henderson, Whitney Brianne Hirano, Elizabeth Ann Lamkin, James Leaton, Audrey LeVault, Emma Loeppky, Kamryn Malenius, Kaylie Malenius, Connor McBride, Matthew McGlaughlin, Taylor McGlaughlin, Adam Meyer, Lindsey Morgan, Mariah Myrtill, Andi Phelps, Kaycee Robinson, Clayton Savage, Kayden Savage, Anna Sawyer, Jared Shotton, Nate Shotton, Zachary Shotton, Braden Smith, Maw Rach Taw, Ryan Taylor, Hannah Warfel, and Alexandra Weber

2018-2019 Harold O Long Scholarship Recipients

Courtney Kliment-Haworth and Robert Lee

FBC El Paso, IL Celebrating 160 Years

First Baptist Church of El Paso, IL is celebrating 160 years of ministry on **August 5, 2018**. The celebration will begin with the morning worship service with communion at 10:30 a.m.. An open house will be held at South Pointe Park from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. featuring live music, games, a magic show at 2:00 by Rev. Ed Haun, and refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend.

20 Years of Service For Debbie Naugle



The Great Rivers Region would like to recognize **Debbie Naugle** for her 20 years of service in the GRR office. Debbie started working for the GRR on July 15, 1998. Debbie works very hard and is especially busy planning and coordinating the **Rivers Growth Conference** (Annual Assembly). Thank you Debbie for your continued service.

GRR Mission Discovery Trip To Costa Rica

Plans are in place for **Great Rivers Region Mission Discovery** to Costa Rica October 29 - November 6, 2018. The group will be limited to 20 persons.

- Meet IM missionaries Ruth Mooney, Sue Hagerty, Peter and Sarah McCurdy and Ingrid Roldan-Roman.
- Visit churches that have hosted recent GRR partnership groups as well as visit churches that may host groups in the future.
- Meet with FABCR church pastor and leaders.
- Visit places of historical and cultural interest in Costa Rica

GRR groups have joined in Partnership Projects in Costa Rica each year since 1985.

For information contact **Dr. John Grisham**. john@abcgrr.org. Cell/ Text: 217 - 553 - 1560