

Stephanie Swigert, Morgan Taylor,
Kevin VanOs, Dustin Walker, Rikki
Weger, Rebecca Wiegand, Russell
Zehr

**2009 – 2010 Harold O. Long
Scholarship Recipients:**

Matthew DeBall, Jonathan Foiles, and
Paul Rollet

Skwim 2010

When: January 15 - 18, 2010

Where: Greenlake Conference Center
Greenlake, WI

What is SKWIM?

SKWIM is a ski/swim retreat that hopes
to create a shared experience for stu-
dents and adults. Middle school, high
school, and college students are
welcome.

Cost:

Conference Cost - \$130.00
(includes room, food, and program-
ming)
Additional cost for skiing and swimming
(See brochure)

Speaker and Worship:

The Spark will be leading worship.

Brandon Grant will be leading the ses-
sions. His is the young adult pastor at
Eastview Christian Church, Normal, IL

For more information, forms, and
resources go to www.skwim.org

**Our Great Rivers Region
Family Is Growing!**

**Eldred Baptist Church, Eldred,
IL Welcomes:** Hank Hubbert and
Barb Hubbert

**First Baptist Church, Lincoln, IL
Welcomes:** Chris Baker, Richard
Williams, Cindy Williams, Alexandra
Williams, Anthony Zimmer, Don
McCrea, and Deb Thompson

**First Baptist Church, Mt. Carroll,
IL Welcomes:** Carol Endre, Bill
Gamlin, and Ruth Gamlin

**Muncie Baptist Church, Muncie,
IL Welcomes:** Bruce Cadman,
Mala Cadman, and Penny Sands

**2010 Camp Schedules
Are Available**

**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**



The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

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

GRR Calendar

2010 - Thy Kingdom Come

January 15 - 18 - **SKWIM 2010**

February 20 - **Trivia Night**
Lightbody Conference Center
Lake Springfield Camp

March 6 - **Area III Annual Meeting
Less Clutter Less Noise
with Kem Meyer**
FBC Champaign
Savoy, IL

March 13 - **Area V Annual
Meeting**
Second Baptist Church
Kansas City, MO

March 14 - **Area II Annual Meeting**
Central Baptist Church
Springfield, IL

March 20 - **Area IV Annual
Meeting**
FBC Centralia, IL

March 21 - **Area I Annual Meeting**
FBC Sterling, IL

April 16 - 17 - **Clergy Spouse
Retreat,**
Lake Springfield Camp

April 23 - 24 - **GRR Missions
Conference**
Cherry Hills Baptist Church
Springfield, IL

**GRR Ministry Board
Decides Changes in
Staffing and Camping**

Regional Staffing Changes:

The Ministry of Planning & Review
submitted a written proposal to the GRR
Ministry Board for future regional staff-
ing. The plan would reduce the present
ministerial staff by one, leaving a total
of five. The resulting model has come to
be called "3 - 1 - 1". In this plan there
will be three field ministers with area
ministry responsibilities, one Executive
Minister and one region wide specialist.
The responsibilities of the specialist will
be decided by the Ministry of Planning
& Review based on goals and objec-
tives to be developed and adopted by
the Regional Ministry Board. The Board
voted unanimously at the meeting on
October 30, 2009 to adopt this plan.

While the plan won't be fully imple-
mented for several years, recent chang-
es in staff have caused some imple-
mentations to take place immediately.
Areas II and IV are being serviced by
Dr. John Grisham. Beginning January
1, 2010 Areas I and III will be serviced
by Dr. Richard Ricks.

**Creation of New Corporations for the
Two Camps:**

The task force on camping has
been working to discern the will of the
churches of the Great Rivers Region
with regard to the camping program.
Growing financial and liability concerns
make it impossible to [continued]

continue our present organizational arrangement for camping. In May, the task force on camping asked the Board of Ministries to initiate the work of creating independent camp corporations. This was approved by the Board.

It is the understanding of the task force that these corporations would be autonomous from the Region and responsible for all aspects of the camping program from fund raising to staffing to programming. They would still retain a connection to the GRR in much the same way as our campus ministries do at present. Designated contributions for each camp would be reported as American Baptist Mission Support, just as it is now.

The task force on camping recommended that the Executive Minister be authorized to complete the actions to create a Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Corporation and a Blackhawk Baptist Camp Corporation and transfer legal, financial, and operational responsibilities to these corporations by the end of 2010. The Region would continue to own the Blackhawk Baptist Camp property and lease it to the new Blackhawk Baptist Camp Corporation. The lake lot lease from the City of Springfield for Lake Springfield Baptist Camp would be transferred from the region to the new Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Corporation before June of 2010. After discussion, the board voted unanimously October 30, 2009 to accept the recommendation from the task force.

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Henson Resigns As Regional Associate Minister for Area I

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Henson has given her resignation as Regional Associate Minister for Area I effective December 31, 2009. Cheryl has accepted the call as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas.



After serving in the GRR for over eighteen years in the pastoral ministry, Cheryl joined the ministerial staff of the Great Rivers Region in December of 1999. She was recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Great Rivers Region in Peoria, IL for her ten years of service.

During her years of service, Cheryl served with faithfulness and energy. Along with the other staff, she has diligently applied herself to the changing world of regional ministry.

In addition to area ministry, Cheryl served in the recruitment and development of professional church leaders. She also served as staff team leader for Natural Church Development.

Cheryl had responsibilities for the curriculum for the Camps. She was very involved in the management, staffing, and recruitment for Blackhawk Camp.

Cheryl's husband, Mike served the region as the Camps Property Manager.

Cheryl and Mike will be missed in the GRR. We pray for God's richest blessings on them as they move on to a new ministry in Kansas.

Rev. Don Winters Receives Award from Northern Seminary

Rev. Don Winters, pastor of First Baptist Church, Carthage, IL received The 2009 Faculty



Scholastic Award. This \$1500.00 award is given to the Northern Seminary student with the highest cumulative grade point average who is expected to graduate the following June. The award was presented on November 5, 2009.

Keith Ingold Licensed to Preach

First Baptist Church of East Peoria held a licensing service for Keith Ingold on November 8 during worship. On November 1 the church had voted to license Keith. Keith has been taking courses in the Alternative Ministry Education Program of the GRR.

In the service, **David Comstock**, Interim Minister, preceded the licensing with words of encouragement and challenge to Keith. Keith brought the morning message. A reception followed the worship service.



Great Rivers Regional Scholarship Programs

These scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people who are members in Great Rivers Region American Baptist Churches to secure a college and/or seminary education. Scholarships for any college student (regardless of major) or seminary student from the Gernenz-Shurtleff / Wilcoxon Scholarship are available. Ministerial students attending ABC-related schools and seminaries in preparation for ministry can also apply for the Harold O. Long Scholarship. All applications must be received in the GRR office by April 1, 2010.

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to: Scholarship Committee, Attn: Sharon Downs, PO Box 3786, Springfield, IL 62708, phone: 217-726-7366; fax: 888-922-2477, email: Sharon@abcgrr.org

2009-2010 Gernenz-Shurtleff & Wilcoxon Scholarship Recipients:

Chuck Bosworth, Brandon Rhea, Ivan Greuter, Robert Haley, Reid Ackerman, Rukiya Anthony, Daniel Baltz, Zachary Bansner, Whitney Benefiel, Brittany Berk, Ryan Bressner, Angelica Bruce, Carol Byrd, Jan Byrd, Abigail Cash, Antoine Charlier, James Combs, Clint Davis, Nathan Elder, Nikki Folk, Katie Galle, Ryan Hagan, Elizabeth Harkness, Sarah Harkness, Lyndsay Harwood, Mario Herrera, Chayla Hurd, Hayley Jackson, Kyle Keever, Michelle Law, Rachel Lobos, Jerika Long, Derek Maninfor, Alecia Merriman, Luke Nelsen, Sarah Olson, Sabrina Park, Matt Pickett, Gabrielle Poe, David Rogers, Nathaniel Rohrsen, Clayton Smith, Shannan Smith, Rachel Street, Rebekah Street, Elizabeth Surbeck, (continued on p. 4)



Recordings of speakers and workshop leaders from the 42nd Annual Assembly of ABCGRR are available. Contact Debbie Naugle: debbie@abcgrr.org.