

GRR Calendar

August 19 - **Senior Adult Day**
Lake Springfield Baptist
Camp

September 17-18 - **GRR American
Baptist Men's Gathering**
Lake Springfield Baptist
Camp Springfield, IL

September 18 - 19 - **Lake Benton
Baptist Camp Reunion**
Camp Manitowa,
Rend Lake, IL

September 25 - **American Baptist
Women's Ministry
Area III Fall Rally**
FBC Fairbury, IL

September 30 - **Ministers'
Conference,**
Holiday Inn
Mt Vernon, IL

October 1 - 2 - **GRR Annual
Assembly,**
Holiday Inn
Mt Vernon, IL

October 30 - **GRR's American
Baptist Men's
Disaster Relief Team
Leaves for Haiti**

November 5 - 7 - **ABY Gathering**
FBC Pontiac, IL

Our Great Rivers Region Family Is Growing!

**First Baptist Church, Kansas City,
MO Welcomes:** Linda Alexander,
Nancy A. Robinson, Lisa Goodman,
Sharla Rogers, Nathaniel Baggerly,
Carla Thomas, and Alexandria King

**First Baptist Church of Wood
River, IL Welcomes:** Sondra
Blotvogel, Dawson Brown, Juan
Hernandez and Rebecca Hernandez



A big thank you to AB Men George Meyer, Don Cox, Brian Romanowski and, pictured, Cliff Hopwood and Chuck Searcy, who put a new coat of paint on the 312 House trim and replaced a bathroom floor at Sutton Place for the Baptist Student Foundation in Champaign, IL the week of July 12.

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
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East Peoria, IL 61611
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The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region

August 2010 No. 1

Email: grrabc@abcgrr.org

web: www.abcgrr.org

2010 Assembly of the Great Rivers Region



Holiday Inn Conference Center
Mount Vernon, Illinois

**2:00 p.m. October 1 to
noon October 2**



Our guest preacher will be **Dr. Jeffrey Johnson**, National Coordinator for National Evangelism Team, Specialist for Evangelism American Baptist Home Mission Societies. He will be preaching during the Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions



Dr. Alistair Brown, President of Northern Seminary, will be teaching on Friday afternoon on the topic, **A 1st Century Book in a 21st Century World.**



Angela Sudermann, Coordinator of Volunteers in Global Mission, International Ministries ABC/USA, will be the speaker for the Mission and Ministry Banquet on Friday evening.

2010 GRR Annual Meeting

General Schedule:

Friday, October 1:

12:00 p.m. - Minister's and Spouses Luncheon

2:00 p.m. - Dr. Alistair Brown, Business Session

5:00 p.m. - GRR Mission and Ministry Banquet with Angela Sudermann

7:30 p.m. - Evening worship with Dr. Jeffrey Johnson

Saturday, October 2:

7:00 a.m. - **Breakfast Opportunities**

American Baptist Women's Ministries
Speaker: Ramona Shawver

American Baptist Men of GRR

Northern Seminary

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - **Workshops**

God's Word at Work in Mexico
Charles & Ramona Shawver

God's Word on the Screen
Garland Criswell

Tech Tools for Ministry
Muriel Johnson

Tech Impact on Christian Education
Mark Keyser

11:00 a.m. - Closing Worship with Dr. Jeffrey Johnson

GRR Ministers Conference

Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL

Thursday, September 30, 2010



Dr. Harry Riggs, Senior Pastor, FBC Lincoln, NE (formerly Director of Congregational Transformation, National Ministries, ABC/USA) will be teaching **Biblical Preaching in a Facebook Age**

Time: Registration - Noon
Seminar 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 (This is a separate registration from Annual Assembly. Fee includes seminar, snacks, dinner, and GRReat Networking.)

Central Baptist Church Springfield, IL Celebrates 180 Years

On July 17, 1830 the town's first Baptist church was organized by eight early pioneers. By 1834 a small frame building was erected at the corner of Seventh and Adams Streets.

By 1848, it was evident that the church needed a new structure. Donations for the new building were received not only from church members, but also from townspeople. Among them were such leading citizens as Abraham Lincoln and Ninian Edwards. A decade later a square tower was added and a clock and 3,000 pound bell were placed in it.

In 1860, members were dismissed to form the North Baptist Church. Almost 20 years later First Baptist Church and North Baptist Church (continued)

agreed to merge for a more effective witness, forming **Central Baptist Church**. Together the members built a new house of worship at Fourth and Capitol Streets in 1881.

Continuing in its early tradition of missionary expansion, letters were granted to organize the South Seventh Street Baptist Church, (now known as Cherry Hills Baptist Church), Elliott Avenue Baptist Church and Harvard Park Baptist Church.

The church's continued growth made it necessary to erect a new building. In 1965, ground was broken for the current church at Fourth and Capitol which was dedicated in December of 1966

The church continues with outreach efforts. In January of 2010 the United Baptist Church of New Berlin merged with Central Baptist Church providing two locations of worship..

The mission of the church today is to Love God, Love People and Serve The World. The current Senior Minister is **Dr. Reg Mills**.

Special events celebrating the anniversary included an ice cream social on July 17th. On July 18th special services and a reception were held at both locations. The guest preacher was Rev. Wade Allen of the First Baptist Church, Muncie, IN, a former Associate Minister at Central Baptist Church.

Disaster Relief Team Going to Haiti

GRR's American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief ministry is sending a team to Haiti Oct. 30. (continued)

John McConnel, Area I team leader, is coordinating the team. Plans are to meet on Aug. 21 in Bloomington, IL to finalize details.

The team will leave on Saturday, Oct. 30 and return Friday evening or Saturday morning, Nov. 5 or 6 Herb Rogers of ABC International Ministries is coordinating the plans with John, which will include on site reconstruction from the earthquake in Grand Goave, Haiti.

John says: "Eight healthy, preferable construction trade experienced men, are needed." The mission will include one or more of the following: demolition work, construction or remodeling of a school, church or hospital This mission will pay all the expenses for each team member.

Interested? Know of someone who is? Please contact John at 815-244-4005 or email me at elifestyle@yahoo.com for more information."

Senior Adult Day 2010

Taylor Pensoneau, a local author from New Berlin, IL will be speaking at Senior Day 2010 on **Thursday, August 19 at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp**. His books include: *Illinois Governors, Brothers Notorious, The Sheltons, and Dapper and Deadly Charlie Harris*. Books will be available for purchase (\$18.95) and signing.

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. Plans also include visting with one of our ABC missionaries via SKYPE, singing, devotions, and ABC updates from Dr. Dwight Stinnett, Dr. John Grisham, and the LSBC Camp Board. The cost for the day, including lunch, is \$12.00