Great Rivers Regional Scholarship Programs

Scholarship programs exist in the Great Rivers Region to assist young people who are **members of 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/Wilcoxen 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, 2018.

To receive an application for these scholarships, write to:

Scholarship Committee
Attention Debbie Naugle
PO Box 13457
Springfield IL 62791

Phone 217-726-7366
Email: debbie@abcgrr.org

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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, Virden IL Welcomes; Brendan Parrish, Lizzy Dunn, Kristin Mercer, Cole Dixon, Jesse Dixon, and Michael King

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Face to Face: A Help for Churches and Pastors Searching For God's Call

Face to Face is an opportunity for Search Committees of churches seeking full time pastors (not bivocational) to interview pastors and seminarians seeking to discern God's next step. Each participating church and each pastor will be able to paticipate in several interviews during the two day event. Look for information in the next few months about this opportunity on the GRR website. **www.abcgrr.org**

Host Church: **First Baptist Church Anderson, Indiana**

Dates: **April 20 - 21, 2018**

Who's Involved? The American Baptist Regions of Indiana / Kentucky, Greater Indianapolis, Michigan, Ohio, and Great Rivers (Team Member: Muriel Johnson)

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GRR Website

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

The Mainstream is a twice-monthly publication of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, 3940 Pintail Drive, Springfield IL 62711 Phone: (217) 726-7366 Email: **debbie@abcgrr.org** Web: **www.abcgrr.org** **To subscribe or unsubscribe** to The Mainstream or to change contact information, please send an e-mail to Debbie Naugle with your request: debbie@abcgrr.org.

The Mainstream

News of Ministry and Mission

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

November 2017 No 1 **Email: debbie@abcgrr.org** **web: www.abcgrr.org**
Online edition interactive

2018 Calendar

March:

2 - 3: **ABWM Regional Board**

10: **Area V Annual Gathering**
Grace Baptist Church
Kansas City, MO

11: **Area II Annual Meeting**
FBC Moweaqua, IL

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

June:

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

September:

27: **GRR Ministers Conference**

28 - 29: **GRR Annual Assembly**
The Chateau
Bloomington, IL

A Word From Paul Gibson, ABCGRR Executive Minister

GO SLOW, BUT LET IT FLOW.

Wow, it's almost Thanksgiving, and then right around the corner is Christmas. Two very important times of the year for both families and churches. We get plenty busy during this time, but I want to encourage you to go slow and enjoy every minute of it. Take time to be thankful! Take time to express that to the people around you. Take time to appreciate each other and all that God has given.

LET IT FLOW. Let his mercy and love flow from you to everyone around you. Let them know that you are overflowing with the love of Jesus and you just can't stop it. Have fun, enjoy each other, enjoy the special gatherings, enjoy the food, and just enjoy the season.

As you are giving thanks remember all who are still recovering from the horrible things that happened in the past few months. Many people are still rebuilding, and the process will take a long time. Give thanks for the ABmen disaster relief teams from the GRR that have made four trips already, and are planning more.

(continued, page 2)

A Word From Paul Gibson
(continued)

We are waiting to hear of a plan to partner churches in Puerto Rico with churches around the country. We should know details by Christmas. It could be a great gift to give to another sister church who needs help in rebuilding.

Would your church be willing to partner with a church in Puerto Rico to help them on the road to recovery?

Our c**hurch revitalization team** should be ready by the first of the year to share details of how they will be moving ahead. Pray for **Wally Holt and the team** that he is assembling as they prepare to help us in this vital area.

At the end of this week there will be a **de-commissioning service at Valley Forge** as they prepare to move out of the old building and relocate a few miles down the road. Keep our national leaders in your prayers as they work this out. We will also have the installation service for Dr. Lee Spitzer at the end of this week. I will be attending that and be involved in the service. Please keep Lee in your prayers as he seeks God's will for direction as our servant/leader.

During this Holiday season, *may you be rightly related to God and find your joy there. Then out of you will flow rivers of living water. Let it Flow*.

Great Rivers Region

First Baptist Church Centralia, IL Holds Jug Breaking Service

On Sunday, August 27, 2017, **First Baptist Church of Centralia, IL** celebrated their 134th Jug Breaking for missions. John Smith shared the history of Jug Breaking with the congregation. The tradition began in 1883 when Carrie Perrine gave each child in her Sunday School class a jug to collect their mission pennies. The whole church got involved and mission money is raised each year. Rev. Greg Alvis and Rev. Rodger Randolph called for the presentation of the mission jugs which were broken by Jay Stanley. Several members of the congregation counted the contents during the presentation on a recent American Baptist-sponsored Mission Trip.

Guest speakers for the Worship Service were part of the Costa Rica Mission Team from First Baptist Church of Mattoon, IL: Pastor Dennis Strawn and wife Melinda and Tina and Matt Coverstone. They shared stories and a video about their recent mission trip to Costa Rica where they helped build part of a church structure, hauling cement for the floor by bucket brigade. Everyone then enjoyed a light lunch in the church fellowship hall.

FBC Decatur Hosts Annual Nativity Tour

First Baptist Church Decatur, IL will be hosting the **Annual Nativity Tour on Sunday, November 26, 2017** from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at 1320 Arbor Drive, Decatur, IL. This year will mark the largest Nativity display in Illinois with over 500 displays.

Members of the church designed and constructed a custom Nativity from the Winfield Collection. It is a lighted, life-size nativity that will be displayed on the front lawn of the church. The Annual Nativity Tour will kick off with the lighting of the outdoor Nativity at 1:00 PM.

Inside, the church will be filled with personal collections of Nativities loaned from members of the church and community. ***Collections are from all over the world.*** Displays include large and miniature, antiques, hand painted, hand crafted, family favorites, heirlooms, rare collectables, jewels, porcelain, china, wood, crystal and several collectors with very large collections. Each set will be accompanied by a story card telling how each has been touched by the story of the newborn King.

The tour will also include videos of the Story of The Nativity and live piano music by Pastor Mike Waltenberger and Abigail Turner. Refreshments will be served. Free Nativity souvenirs will be given to each attending. Come start your Christmas Season with the Story of Jesus.

For more information, contact First Baptist Church 1320 Arbor Drive, Decatur, IL. 62526 217.875.8034 **decaturfbc@comcast.net** Website: www.decaturfbc.com

SKWIM 2018

SKWIM will be **Friday, January 12th - Monday, January 15th at Green Lake, WI.** SKWIM is a ski retreat designed to create a shared experience between students and adults. Our hope is that your group will have a great time, experience God in a unique way through worship and teaching, and grow closer to one another through the activities and group time together. Middle school, high school and college students are welcome to attend! Mike Moore, a pastor and church planter in the Chicago area, will be our speaker and we will be led in worship again from a group of musicians from Springfield.

The cost of SKWIM varies depending on activities selected. You can find more details on the registration form and at **www.skwim.org/group-leaders/**. Also, like us on Facebook at **www.fb.me/SKWIMGRR**

Important things to remember:

December 4th
SKWIM Registration due
ABC SKWIM Releases due
$50 deposit for each person attending is due.

January 4th
Payments are due in full

Students should pay the churches they are attending with and churches should make a check payable to Area II Youth and mail it to:

Laura Rollet
101 Sandstone
Chatham, IL 62629

You can find more information at www.SKWIM.org. There is also a place on the site on the **Contact Us page** that allows you to ask any questions you may have.