

## Green Lake To Celebrate 75th Anniversary

The American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, WI is hosting a 75th Anniversary Conference, August 6 - 9, 2019. Workshops, presentations, and special events are planned for Tuesday evening through Friday evening. The program fee for this event is \$100.00 per adult, \$50.00 per child age 5 - 11 and free for children 4 and under. Register for the conference by calling (920) 294-3323. Lodging and Day & Overnight Packages that include food and lodging are available. Contact Green Lake for more information.

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## 2019 Biennial Mission Summit



Register now to attend the American Baptist Churches

**USA Biennial Mission Summit**, June 21 - 23, 2019 at the **Virginia Beach Convention Center**, Virginia Beach, VA. The theme is “**Summit by the Sea**”.

Speakers include **Dr. Howard Stevenson**, clinical psychologist and researcher; **Elijah Brown**, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; **Dr. Joene Erlacher**, founder, trainer and consultant at Leading Tomorrow; and **Ngwedja Paul Msiza**, BWA President.

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](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org) Web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://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](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org).

## Church News

First Baptist Church, Sullivan, IL invites you to a retirement ceremony and reception for **Rev. Gene Godfrey**



on **Sunday, May 26, 2019**. The church service will begin at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be **Rev. Vince Godfrey**. A reception will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

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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](mailto:Ricks4LR@comcast.net)

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## GRR Website

GRR Webmaster: Richard Ricks  
Email: [revrick4@comcast.net](mailto:revrick4@comcast.net)

## Videos of Rivers Growth Conference Speakers Now Available

Videos are available in streaming (**from this site**) and dvd formats. (Contact the office of the GRR for dvd ordering information.)



# The Mainstream

## News of Ministry and Mission

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

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Email: [debbie@abcgrr.org](mailto:debbie@abcgrr.org)

web: [www.abcgrr.org](http://www.abcgrr.org)

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## 2019 Calendar

### May:

31 - June 2: **GRR ABWM and AB Girls Conference**  
Radison Hotel & Conference  
Normal, IL

### June:

21 - 23: **ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit**  
Virginia Beach, VA

28 - 29: **ABMen's Summer Gathering**  
FBC Edwardsville, IL

### July:

20: **Area V Annual Meeting**  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Columbia, MO

### August:

6 - 9: **75th Anniversary Conference**  
American Baptist Assembly,  
Green Lake, WI

### October:

19: **Area IV Annual Meeting**  
26: **Professional Boundaries Course**  
GRR Conference Center

## Camping 2019

Camping season for 2019 is coming soon. It is time to register for camp. Blackhawk and Lake Springfield Baptist camps offer opportunities for all ages.

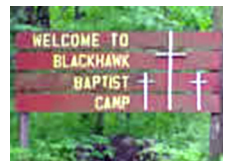
### Lake Springfield Baptist Camp & Conference Center ([www.lsbconline.com](http://www.lsbconline.com))

is a year-round facility on the shore of Lake Springfield in Springfield, IL. The managers for Lake Springfield Camp are John and Kelsey Parrish. Several new camps are planned for this year. Descriptions of the camps and registration forms can be found on the camp's website.



### Blackhawk Baptist Camp is a

wooded camp in northern Illinois near White Plains State Park and Oregon, IL. Bruce and Bobbie Rose are the managers of Blackhawk Camp.



Camping is a wonderful experience. Fun camping experiences AND life changing spiritual experiences give campers and staff opportunities to grow closer to the Lord.



**A Word From Paul Gibson**  
 ABCGRR  
 Executive Minister

**Did I see you at the Resource Leadership Conference?** I sure hope so. It was fantastic. Special thanks to Judson University and Northern Seminary for teaming up with us to put this event together.

**CHANGES**—They are not always easy to deal with. Many churches and organizations are faced with a downturn in giving, for many reasons, and sometimes that means you must make changes and cuts. Our Region's main sources of funding come from United Missions (UM) giving and the America For Christ (AFC) offering. Every year for the past 10 years, giving to UM and AFC has declined. This has forced our Board to make some very difficult decisions.

**The decision was made to let go of one Regional Associate Minister and one of our full-time office staff.** Our Regional Board made that decision at their last meeting on May 6. It was a difficult decision, but I believe it was the right response to the downturn in giving. Regional Associate Minister, Rex Rogers, will be relocating this summer and his position will not be filled due to cutbacks. Also, Debbie Naugle, one of our full-time office staff, will be leaving the GRR office due to cutbacks. We are currently working on a way to honor both Debbie and Rex for their service to our Region and will give you more information regarding that in our next newsletter.

We have been spending more than has been coming in, but in these days of good returns on our investments, we had hoped that giving might pick up. Unfortunately, that hasn't happened. Churches are having to make hard decisions about paying staff, providing medical coverage, deciding if they might have to go from full-time staff to part-time, or even having to deal with the real possibility of closing the church. We understand your struggles and are praying with you and for you. We also know that things might even get worse before they get better.

**So, what is the good news in all of this?** There is always good news, but sometimes we cannot see it right away. **Our job is to stay rightly related to God and find our joy there, and then out of us will flow rivers of living water. We will continue to be a vessel that God can pour His love through.** Right now, we are laying everything before God and waiting on Him. He is moving, I'm just not sure what He is saying. It is so hard to wait when things aren't going the way you want them to go, or the way you hoped they would go. I trust that soon we will be able to say, "You see, God had a plan all along". Let It Flow!



## American Baptist Men's Gathering 2019

"Called to be Servants"

June 28-29, 2019

**First Baptist Church**  
**534 St. Louis St.**  
**Edwardsville IL**

Join us for a weekend of worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, food, and activities

**June 28:** Registration @ 5:00 - Dinner @ 6:00 - Evening Session @ 7:00; **Speaker - Robert Montgomery from Friendship House in Peoria**

**June 29:** Breakfast @ 8:00 - Morning Session: 9:00 - Noon; **Speaker – Rev. Paul Gibson, GRR Regional Executive Minister**

Worship Leaders: **Jack & Joel Jochums**

**Registration:** (includes dinner, breakfast & snacks)  
 Adults: \$40 (\$30.00 before May 25th); Friday Only \$25 / Saturday Only \$25  
 Youth: (18 & under) \$25; additional youth from the same family Free!  
**Register 3 men from your church and bring your pastor for Free!**  
 Register on-line at: <https://forms.gle/nN1nM2y3gEb8Pw6E8>

**Lodging: Country Hearth Inn and Suites** \$82.96 plus tax double occupancy until May 28th, then the rate increases to \$105.  
 For Reservations call: 618-656-7829 (ask for American Baptist Men's gathering rate)  
 Address: 1013 Plummer Dr, Edwardsville, IL 62025

## American Baptist Women's Ministries AB G.I.R.L.S. Great Rivers Region Annual Conference

"It's Time"

*LIVE with faith, LOVE with family, LAUGH with friends!*

May 31, June 1 - 2, 2019

**Radisson Hotel and Conference Center**  
 8 Traders Circle  
 Normal, IL 61761

### Friday Night Special Event:

Guest Speaker: **Jill Savage**  
 Jill is the founder of **Hearts at Home**. She is an author and speaker who is passionate about encouraging families. She is the author or co-author of twelve books.

Special Music: **Cheryl Jennings**

Missionary: **Jae Stockton** will be a missionary in Mexico once she is commissioned.

**Special this year:**  
 Conference for girls entering 7th to 12th grades

Conference for girls entering 3rd to 6th grades

Call Brandy for information:  
 217-521-5696

**Registration on website:**  
[www.grrabwministries.org](http://www.grrabwministries.org)