

The American Baptist Youth Board of the Great Rivers Region
presents

THE GATHERING 2009



**“Where your treasure is,
your heart will be also.”**

**November 6-8, 2009
First Baptist Church
Decatur, Illinois**



**"Where your treasure is,
your heart will be also."**

THE GATHERING 2009

Cost:

\$50 for Youth \$35 for Youth Leaders

Open to youth in grades 8-12

College Freshmen and Sophomores

SPEAKER:

Kathy Hutchins

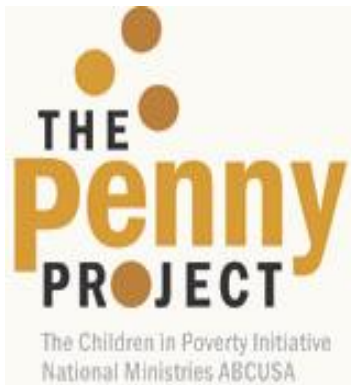
PRAISE BAND:

Day 40

FRIDAY NIGHT:

Improv Group

MISSIONS:



**Our Goal:
50,000
pennies**

WORKSHOPS:

Improv/Drama

Relationships

Music

Book of James

Missions

Sports & Faith

College & Faith

Counselor Training for Camp

And More!

**FAITH, FUN,
FELLOWSHIP**

**American Baptist Youth Gathering
November 6-8, 2009**



Dear Youth and Youth Leaders,

Welcome to The Gathering 2009! We are looking forward to spending a weekend full of faith, fellowship, and fun with you and your youth. The theme for this year's Gathering is *He's Kinda A Big Deal* based on *Matthew 6:19-21*.

First Baptist Church of Decatur, Illinois (www.fbcdecatur.org) will be our host. They have been planning and working hard to get ready for The Gathering. Once again this year, you will have two housing options: to stay with host families or to stay in a hotel. We can guarantee housing with families for the first 75 participants who register. A list of hotels has also been included in this packet of information. The church will provide lunch and supper on Saturday.

Our speaker this year will be the Reverend Kathy Hutchins. Kathy is the associate pastor of Rolling Prairie Baptist Church in Rochester, and is a long-time director of Sr. High camp, both at Lake Springfield and Blackhawk. Praise and worship will be led by the band, Day 40 (www.day40.net). Friday evening will feature an Improv Group.

Youth and leaders will also have the opportunity to participate in 2 workshops, a mission project, and small groups. Workshops will be held on Saturday afternoon; the topics and leaders are selected by the ABY Board. Our mission project is the Penny Project sponsored by National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches, USA. More information regarding the project is in the packet. Small groups will meet on Friday evening, after the two worship/speaking sessions on Saturday, and on Sunday morning.

Enclosed you will find a registration form which can be copied for your youth, a tentative schedule, a listing of hotels in the Decatur area, and information about the ABY Board, and how a youth can become a part of that group.

Yours in Christ,

Katie Jenkins

Katie Jenkins

President, American Baptist Youth of the Great Rivers Region

**American Baptist Youth Gathering
November 6-8, 2009**



Individual Registration Form:

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Sex _____

Church _____

Youth Pastor/Pastor _____

Youth Pastor/Pastor Signature _____

Church Address _____ Phone _____

Parent's Signature _____

Request Housing from Host Family YES NO

Hotel Name & Address _____

Hotel Phone _____

Disclaimer

I agree by signing this that the American Baptist Youth Gathering and associated organizations will not be held responsible for any physical injury or loss of property incurred at the American Baptist Youth Gathering.

Sign Here: X _____

**Registration: \$50 for youth \$35 for adults
Additional \$5 per person for housing with families (covers background checks for host families)
Make checks payable to First Baptist Decatur**

Mail form(s) to:

**THE GATHERING
C/o First Baptist Church
1320 Arbor Drive
Decatur, IL 62526**



Raising
awareness

Raising
change for Change

Raising
14 million pennies
to represent the number of children
living in poverty
in the United States and Puerto Rico

A four-person family earning less than \$22,050 a year sets the poverty standard. Based on that “definition,” at least 14 million children, newborn to age 18, live in poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Double a family’s annual income to \$44,100—which still qualifies as low income, or 200% of poverty level—and the number of children living in low-income situations grows to more than 28 million.

Members of low-income families often struggle with a variety of negative consequences, depending on the presence or absence of extended family and community support:

- Inadequate health and dental care
- Limited access to transportation
- Low-quality education
- Low self-esteem
- Hunger
- Homelessness
- Frequent moves
- Isolation
- Illiteracy
- Domestic violence

The youth of First Baptist Church (FBC) in New London, N.H., are calling the youth of American Baptist Churches USA to raise both money and awareness for children in poverty nationwide.

In 2008, when FBC youth learned that 60,000 children were living in poverty in their state, they wanted to visualize that number. They decided to collect a penny to represent each child, so FBC youth canvassed the community, asking for pennies from church members, schools, and nearby neighborhoods. Within six months, they amassed 60,000 pennies!

Before donating the money to local food pantries, homeless shelters, and other organizations, they raised awareness by taking the pennies to the state house, where they met with the governor and state representatives.

Now FBC youth implore you to join their efforts to raise at least 14 million pennies by April 2010 to represent the number of children living in poverty in the United States and Puerto Rico.

The youth of the Great Rivers Region are joining in reaching this goal. We are asking every youth and their church, family and friends to help us collect pennies from now until The Gathering, November 6-8, 2009. Our goal is to have 50,000 pennies.

Here's What We're Asking You To Do Between Now And The Gathering:

- In your church, collect not only pennies – but nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins
- The money you raise will be used to help families with children in your local community; your church will decide how the money is distributed in your community
- We ask that you don't distribute your money until after The Gathering
- Every couple of weeks, email your total to Kathy Hutchins (kathy-hutchins@hotmail.com); the totals will be sent into the National Ministries office

Here's What You Need To Bring To The Gathering:

- Your containers of change (you'll be taking them home with you), if you could count them before you come, that would be helpful
- We will display all of the containers of coins during The Gathering
- We will have a dedication service on Saturday before all of the change goes back to local communities to change lives

How You Can Make This Project A Success:

- Check out the website at www.nationalministries.org/CIP and click on the Penny Project; here's some of what you'll find on the website:
 - Brochure and Poster that can be downloaded
 - Clip art that can be downloaded
 - Stories
 - Stickers that can be ordered
- Place jars in strategic locations around your church
- Encourage families to collect coins
- Invite schools and community organizations to participate
- Promote the program in your local newspapers
- Invite individuals from local agencies to share with your youth group and church how this money will help

Please feel free to continue collecting change after The Gathering. The ABY Board will continue to send in our totals if you send them to us.





Tentative Schedule

**“Where your treasure is,
your heart will be also.”**

Friday, November 6

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Welcome and Small Group #1
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Improv Group
10:00 – 10:30 p.m.	Coffee House
10:30 p.m.	Meet Your Host Family/Hotels

Saturday, November 7

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Gathering
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Small Group #2
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Penny Project
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	ABY Board Informational Workshop
1:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Workshop #1
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Workshop #2
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Free Time
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Supper
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Gathering
8:45 – 9:30 p.m.	Small Group #3
9:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Coffee House
10:15 p.m.	Find Your Host Family/Hotels

Sunday, November 8

9:30 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Head for Home

AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH BOARD
GREAT RIVERS REGION
SELECTION PROCESS

The American Baptist Youth Board is composed of high school and college young adults who plan and lead The Gathering each year. This board is selected through an interview process with the adult advisors to the ABY Board. Keys to selection include commitment to Christ, leadership abilities (both current and potential), ability to make meetings, and support of the home church and family. All of the decisions involved with The Gathering are made by the youth members of the board; the adults simply act as guides and mentors in the process.

The ABY Board usually meets six times a year (January, March, April, July, September, and October) plus the weekend of the Gathering (November). The board meetings are held on Friday nights beginning around 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. and go through Saturday morning. The ABY Board meets at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. While we know that school, church and family conflicts can arise, we encourage youth and adults on the board to make all the meetings if at all possible. A term on the ABY Board runs from January through November of the year.

The ABY Board consists of five officers: Past President (lend experience to the new Board), President (lead all meetings, make and supervise assignments, communicate with prospective speakers, musicians, etc.), Vice-President (leads meetings in absence of President, carries out duties as assigned), Secretary (keeps minutes of Board meetings), and Editor (maintain the website and publicity). In addition, there are four to five Older Youth Representatives. These youth are usually Juniors or Seniors in high school or college students. There are also four to five General Board Representatives. These youth are often Freshmen and Sophomores in high school. Both the Older Youth Reps and the General Board Reps will have assignments of finding workshop leaders, bands, T-shirt design, etc. All Board members have assignments during The Gathering. We encourage students entering their Senior year of high school to apply for the board even if they may be leaving the area in the fall for college. If the student can make it back for the meetings in September and October, that is fine. If distance and studies prevent that, it is understood. The college board member is certainly welcomed back for The Gathering and will be given duties as needed.

Any interested youth may apply to be part of the ABY Board. The application process consists of the following:

Complete prior to The Gathering if possible and bring with you:

- A written testimony of faith from the youth
- A letter of reference from the youth pastor/leader or senior pastor
- A letter from the parents/guardians consenting to the commitment to get the youth to ABY Board meetings

At The Gathering:

- An interview with the ABY Adult Advisors at The Gathering

If you have any questions concerning applying for the Board, please feel free to contact one of the Adult Advisors:

Jon Lobos (pastorjon@parisfbc.org), Kathy Hutchins (kathy-hutchins@hotmail.com), Margaret Rush (sapphire_belle@hotmail.com) or Wesley Newton (wdnewton@gmail.com)

DECATUR HOTELS

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN & SUITES

450 E. Pershing Road
Decatur, IL 62526
217-877-7255

131 rooms. Restaurants within walking distance. Guest laundry facilities and an outdoor swimming pool (seasonal) are available.

BAYMONT INN & SUITES

Interstate 72 at U.S. 51 North
Decatur, IL
217-875-5800

103 rooms, restaurants nearby. Each room is equipped with iron, ironing board, hair dryer, in-room coffee service, free satellite movies and extra long beds. Complimentary breakfast.

COUNTRY INN & SUITES HOTEL

5150 Hickory Point Frontage Road
Decatur, IL 62526
217-872-4202

72 rooms, restaurants nearby. Meeting room indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, fitness center, free movie channel, free breakfast. Kitchen facilities, handicapped accessibility, airport shuttle available.

COMFORT INN OF FORSYTH

134 Barnett Avenue
Forsyth IL 62535
217-875-1166

This Forsyth location has 56 rooms with restaurants within walking distance. Amenities include indoor pool, sauna/whirlpool, free movie channel, free breakfast, kitchen facilities, and handicapped accessibility.

DAYS INN OF DECATUR

333 N. Wyckles Road
Decatur, IL 62522
217-422-5900

This newly remodeled Days Inn has 60 rooms and small meeting rooms. The hotel offers free movie channels, free breakfast, kitchen facilities and handicapped accessibility. Restaurants nearby.

DECATUR CONFERENCE CENTER & HOTEL

4191 U.S. 36 West
Decatur, IL 62522
877-352-8800

The hotel has 370 guest rooms and suites, two restaurants, sports bar, indoor pool, sauna/whirlpool, and an NFL-approved fitness center.

FAIRFIELD INN – by Marriott

1417 Hickory Point Drive
Forsyth, IL 62535
217-875-3337

100% smoke-free environment 62-room hotel with nearby restaurants and shopping experiences (adjacent to Hickory Point Mall). Guests can enjoy an indoor pool & hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast, free off-premise gym, business center access, Showtime movie channel and cable TV, 24-hour coffee service and complimentary WIFI.

HAMPTON INN FORSYTH

1429 Hickory Point Drive
Forsyth, IL 62535
217-877-5577

Newly renovated in 2006. Here you'll find clean, fresh, comfortable rooms standard with a coffee maker, iron and ironing board and complimentary in-room movie channel. Guests also enjoy the following complimentary items: hot breakfast daily, high-speed wireless internet access in every room (including lobby and public areas), indoor pool, whirlpool and on-site exercise facility. Hampton Inn is the leading brand of quality, value-priced hotels.

HAWTHORN SUITES, LTD.

2370 Mt. Zion Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217-864-9311

This all-suites hotel contains 60 suites. Each unit contains a fully equipped kitchen, sofa bed, queen bed and work area with desk. Guests can enjoy a complimentary breakfast each morning.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

5170 N. Wingate
Decatur, IL 62526
217-875-5500

The newest hotel flag in Decatur has 81 rooms, small meeting rooms, a spacious lobby and lounge area, indoor pool, fitness center and four Jacuzzi suites. Guests enjoy free high-speed internet, dual phone lines, free cable TV and cordless phones in each room. The hotel offers complimentary breakfast and is handicapped accessible. Close to shopping and many restaurants.

RAMADA LIMITED

355 Hickory Point Frontage Road
Decatur, IL 62526
217-876-8011

The Ramada has 61 rooms with restaurants nearby, indoor pool, sauna/whirlpool, complimentary breakfast. Airport shuttle available.

SLEEP INN

3920 Hospitality Lane
Decatur, IL 62526
217-872-7700

This hotel has 69 rooms, small meeting rooms, indoor pool, sauna/whirlpool, fitness center, free movie channel and handicapped accessibility. Conveniently located near ADM, Richland Community College and Progress City USA.

MOTEL 8

3141 N. Water Street
Decatur, IL 62526
217-877-8888

61 rooms, restaurants nearby, free continental breakfast, free movie channel, handicapped accessible and pet friendly.