

Mission & Service	2
Special Project	2
Church & Community	3
Student Aid	3
Area Reports	4-5
National News	6
Seasons	7

Mission

AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

Vision

Every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community and serve God's world.

Purpose

As servant leaders, we serve American Baptist churches by encouraging existing vital ministries with women and girls and empowering churches to build such ministries

Sharon Farral, President

RIPPLES is the newsletter of Women's Ministries of Great Rivers Region (Illinois and Missouri, American Baptist Churches). You will receive six issues of RIPPLES this year.

We invite you to share with us the many ways your women share the love of God in your community and around the world. We also invite you to participate in some of our events: some face-to-face and we have zoom meetings and webinars.

Please check out our region website for local events.
www.grr-abwm.org

Our national ABWM (American Baptist Women's Ministries) website is abwomensministries.org

Our 2023-2025 ministry theme is **BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS**. You will find Bible verses and other helps for study and programs related to this theme at the national website.

Our Be Strong, Be Courageous webinars series begin this month; please see page 6 for the full list .

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9*



ABWM Board Reports

Missions and Service Coordinator – Pat Reed



Spotlight – Kristy Engel

News from Kristy tells us that she will be returning to Eastern Europe in about 6 months for a year to continue

working with Ukrainian Internally Displaced Persons by invitation of Hungarian Baptist Aid and the Transcarpathian Baptist Charity. She is really excited to continue working with IDP's who have limited access to health care. She will help build systems to make sure they receive appropriate services. There are a lot of logistics to get worked out, including specialized training for her dog, finding a home, vehicle and raising funds. Please pray for her as she prepares for her new adventure. More news will be sent via newsletter when she has more to tell. Her work Facebook page is Kristy Engel, Global Consultant for Health.

Home Missions—Assigned to Great Rivers Region

Bethel Neighborhood Center
Mang Sonna
14 S. Seventh St. Kansas City, KS
www.bethelcenter.org

Peoria Friendship House
Marcellus Sommerville
800 NE Madison Ave.
Peoria, IL 61603
www.peoriafriendshiphouse.org

Coordinator of Special Project—Karen Dainty

The Great Rivers Region Special Project for 2023 - 2024 Blackhawk Camp \$15,000

Funds raised will go toward purchasing a commercial freezer (\$5,500) and commercial refrigerator (\$3,500) for the kitchen.

Our other requests include:



replace mattresses (\$200 each); replace washer-dryer (\$1,200); and replace hot water heaters for three

cabins (\$550 each).

The camp was established in 1959. It consists of 160 beautiful wooded acres in Northern Illinois. The 2023-2024 ABW GRR Special Project will help support the camp mission of having proper equipment and facilities for our campers. The current freezer is 23 years old and the refrigerator is 40 years old. Please visit www.blackhawkcamp.org to learn more about the camp..

2022-2023 Special Project ; Medical Assistance to Congo Update:

The ABWM-GRR Board is happy to report we exceeded our \$15,000 goal and raised an amazing \$22,885 for Congo. Thank you for your generous support.



Church and Community Coordinator—Karen Dainty

As I write this article, it is a beautiful morning. I awoke to a gorgeous sunrise, thinking thank you Lord for your beautiful creation. Looking at the sunrise, I pondered what the day would bring and all I had to do. Yet, I was reminded of a sermon I heard recently from Colossians 4: 5-18.

The pastor was talking about each of the people mentioned as either a beloved brother, Tychicus and Onesimus; or a fellow prisoner, Aristarchus, Mark; or a servant, Epaphras, Luke, and Demus with Paul. Each of the people mentioned had a special message for the Colossian church and each delivered their message. It took all of them to deliver the writings and teachings that Paul wanted to convey.

We each have a message, the message, to bring to our church and our community. If we are in an ABW group, reach out to friends that may not have attended in a while. If we are in a prayer group, pray not only for those who are on your prayer list, but also for those who are troubled in your community. Not only pray for them but find something we can do for them; bring them food, volunteer at your local food pantry or soup kitchen. Walk or take a ride around your neighborhood and pray for those in each house as you go by. Or get involved in a group, or different group, in your church than you are already a member of.

We too can be like those in Colossians 4, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to our communities and 'fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord. ... Grace be with You.' Col 4:17-18

Coordinator for Student Aid, Brandy Trussell

My name is Brandy Trussell and I am your Great Rivers Region Student Aid Coordinator. I'm excited to announce that we currently have five American Baptist Women's Sallie Peck Scholarship recipients. Three of these individuals are new and two are already familiar to us and continuing to receive a scholarship from us this 2023-2024 school year. Our continuing recipient's are Noah DeLong and Sarah Good. Noah has just started his senior year at Olivet Nazarene University, as a history education major, and Sarah is in her second semester, of education study, at the University of Debrecen in Hungary.

Our new recipient's include Josephine Lohr, Ryan Blaise, and Matthew Wimmer. Josephine has just started attending Greenville University studying early childhood education. Ryan is attending the University of Kentucky to study human health services. Matthew has just begun his studies at Illinois State University where he will be focused on Marketing (Graphics).

Please join me in congratulating and supporting our recipients this school year. These students appreciate knowing that the American Baptist Women are praying for their continued education and safety. If you are interested in what else you can do to support them, please contact me at brtrussell@msn.com.

Recipient Name	Contact Info.
Josephine Marie Lohr Date of birth: 05/05/2005 Phone: 618-830-9818 Email: joeymlohr@gmail.com	College/University: Greenville University 315 E. College Ave. Greenville, IL 62246 Early Childhood Education Place of Church Membership: Bethel Baptist Church Jerseyville, IL
Ryan Blaise Date of Birth: 09/06/2004 Phone: 618-534-3630 Email: ryanblaiseguitar@gmail.com	College/University: University of Kentucky 401 Administration Drive Lexington, KY 40506 Human Health Sciences Place of Church Membership: First Baptist Church of Murphysboro
Matthew Wimmer Date of Birth: 07/19/2005 Phone: 217-855-3025 Email: jahmnwimmer@gmail.com	College/University: Illinois State University 100 N University Street Normal, IL 61761 Marketing (Graphics) Place of Church Membership: First Baptist Church Decatur
Sarah Good Date of Birth: 08/22/2003 Phone: +36 20 517-9770 Email: sarahegood22@gmail.com	College/University: University of Debrecen 4029 Debrecen Kazinczy utca 8, Hungary Education Place of Church Membership: Baptist Church of Debrecen
Noah DeLong Date of Birth: Phone: 815-538-2520 Email: noahdelong25@gmail.com	College/University: Olivet Nazarene University 506 Ninth Avenue Mendota, IL 61342 History Education Major Place of Church Membership:

Area I

Fall Rally—October 28, 2023—FBC Moline.

Speaker: Sarah McCurdy, Global Servant

Collecting paper products for Baptist Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University, Dekalb



Area II—Marcia Wimmer, President

A Change in Season

The fall decorations are beginning to adorn the front doors and porches, pumpkin spice drinks are all the hit and we are beginning to need our cozy and comfy sweaters to take the fall chill off in the evenings and mornings. The Bible says there is a season for everything. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says 1. For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

2. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.
3. A time to Kill and a time to heal. Time to tear down and a time to build up.
4. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.
5. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. Time to embrace a time to turn away.
6. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.
7. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
8. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

Every season has its gifts and share of challenges. What season are you in today? Are you raising kids, or enjoying grandkids? Are you building a career or enjoying retirement? Are you enjoying good health or battling ongoing aches and pains? Many times we want to stay in a season because it is comfortable, we don't have the energy to change, we are too old to change, we are not willing to step aside and let a new season begin.

What season are we in as American Baptist Women? Are we prepared to face changes to carry us into the future? Can we accept that there needs to be changes? Are we praying for God's direction? Whatever the season, it is a part of us and we are never alone in any season. God is always with us and He never changes.

Lord, let us be ever thankful for the ministries of American Baptist Women. Help us to be rooted in the trust we have in you for our future. Fill our lives and hearts with opportunities to serve and love others, Amen



Area III—Joan Leitzen, President

BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS,

With this new wonderful theme let's read the words that are written:

As we walk shoulder to shoulder, connect heart to heart in God's call on this ministry to lift up women and in doing so we lift up our denomination. We continue to seek holy wholeness the, divine discernment to "Let the Walls Fall

physical walls, and now we will be bold and courageous with love.

Consistent with Joshua 1:9, God has commanded us to Be Strong and to be Courageous. We will not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord our God is with us, wherever we go.

Upcoming Date:

AREA III Fall Rally, October 21st at First Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL

Forever in Christ

Area IV—Linda Watson, President

The Area IV Fall Rally was held on Saturday 16, 2023 at Greenville First Baptist Church. Rev. Bilyeu. (Patty's Husband) opened the program with a welcome and brief history of the town and church.

Rev. Patty Bilyeu, Executive Director of Great Rivers Region introduced our guest speakers, Rev. Jon and Amanda Good, Global Servants.



Karen Dainty, GRR Coordinator of Special Projects and Church & Community invited everyone to visit the Special Project Displays in the Fellowship Hall.

Joan Leitzen, President of Area III was baptized in First Baptist Church of Greenville so it was a 'coming home' celebration for her.

Special thanks to:

Our Area IV Coordinators and Officers provided a good business meeting with reports and comments about their programs. We had 49 at our rally!

Veronica Ross' husband and crew for a wonderful breakfast and lunch. Veronica Ross for planning the program for the rally: Speakers, Musician, Devotional Speaker.

Brandy Trussell's three granddaughters presented the projects they made during their ABGIRLS session.

Area V

Area V is looking for women to serve on it's board. Our goal in 2024 is to elect a full board and plan an area meeting. If you or your church would like more information about being a part of women's ministries in Area V, please call Lori Hill at 816-455-0364 or lori.hill234@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving

November 23, 2023

*Praise ye
the LORD.*

*O give
thanks
unto the
LORD; for
he is good:
for his
mercy
endureth
for ever.*

Psalm 106:1

*Happy Thanksgiving from the ABWM
Executive Board.*

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 100:4

ABWM National News



2023-2025 Ministry Theme Be Strong, Be Courageous

In keeping with our 2023-2025 Ministry theme, *Be Strong, Be Courageous*, the following fall webinars are offered. Go to www.abwomensministries.org to register.

Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7:30 PM (CDT)
Be Strong! Be Courageous! Follow Examples God Gave Us!

Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 7:30 PM (CDT)
Leadership: Enjoying the Journey

Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7:30 PM (CD-
The Power of Persistent Prayer

Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 7:30 PM (CDT)
Finding Strength to Lead Using God's Gifts

Gourmet Popcorn Fundraiser

November 2-6, 2023

begins at 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 2, 2023, and ends on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 11:00 AM EDT



Support American Baptist Women's Ministries by ordering gourmet popcorn through our Double Good popup store. Each of Double Good's unique ultra-premium flavors is handcrafted in small batches and made to order so that you always receive the freshest popcorn with the perfect crunch. ABWM receives 50% of every bag sold. Proceeds support our ministry and mission for women and girls!

Each gift allows ABWM to share free webinars, scholarships, leadership training, and build beloved community. You affirmed our ministries for and with women, young adult women, and girls! Your investment enables ABWM to persist with ministries focused on critical issues that are relevant today. Together we are stronger, and we move forward addressing spiritual growth, advocacy, equity, wellness, and fellowship. Go to www.abwomensministries.org for more information.

Seasons In Life

by [Cindy Wyatt](http://cavaliersonly.com)
<http://cavaliersonly.com>

To everything in life there is a season
with every phase a purpose and reason

When one season ends a new one will begin
gaining wisdom from where we have been

A season to press forward to what lies ahead
leaving the past behind and by Jesus being led

A season to labor in the harvest field
and a time to rest while in comes the yield

A season to weep and a time to rejoice
a time to be silent and a time to lift up our voice

A season to meditate on God's love and His word
a time to tell the gospel to others as you have heard

A season to be healthy, robust, and strong
a time of weariness and pain and for Heaven long

A season to abound and a time to suffer need
all the while ploughing to sow the gospel seed

A season to be active and a time to be still
all things according to God's perfect time and will

A season to be born and a time to die
when we fly away and go to our home on high

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Which spiritual season are
you in?

Growing Season

Pruning Season

Wilderness Season

Harvest Season

Be sure to check out "*The 4
Spiritual Seasons*
by Christina Patterson

Visit Christina Patterson's website to
search for this video and many others.
Belovedwomen.org

Next Publication

Christmas Special Edition

December 1, 2023

**If you have any questions re-
garding this publication, please
contact Lori Hill, Coordinator of
Communications at
lori.hill234@gmail.com**

