

Ripples Special Edition

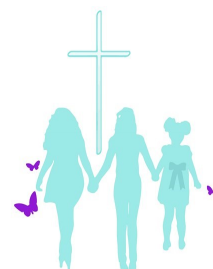
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Sharon Farral, President

These are difficult times like none of us have seen before. Very few of us remember the stock market crash of 1929 - 1930 but may remember hearing our parents talk about it. Some of us are inconvenienced by COVID 19. Yet, we know many are suffering: illness, death, job loss, inability to pay bills, food shortage. Solomon says we can't see 'the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.' Our role is to wait patiently, trusting our God who sees all of history. Sisters, more than ever, we need to be praying for those who are suffering and those who are on the front lines fighting this 'enemy.' I urge you to increase your prayer list and your time spent in prayer during these days. Two verses for meditation: ***"Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most,"*** Hebrews 4:16. ***"In my distress I cried out to the LORD: yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to Him reached His ears."*** Psalm 18:6.

We have a long list of things for you to know and consider as we look forward to another summer and fall and opportunities to serve others that God may be glorified.

- We have cancelled our GRR ABWM annual conference for this year. We do have the same weekend, same place – Alton, IL, for 2021. The national ABWM conference at Green Lake is also cancelled.



Sisters Seeking Wholeness

- Praise! Women's dorm at NEICU build by our 2018-2019 Special Project named Wallick-Peterson House to honor Sue Wallick and Ruth Peterson
- GRR ABWM needs a secretary and a Special Project Associate – suggestions please!
- We would like to include in Ripples FEATURE ARTICLES of women who have been leaders and mentors in ABWM. These can be active, alumnae, or those enjoying heaven. This will be an ongoing section. Send to Sandi rog-er.sandi.mckee@att.net or Sharon sharonfarral5@aol.com. When you know of the passing of an active ABWM sister, please let us know.
- New CEO at Peoria Friendship House is Marcellus Sommers
- **Special Project 2019-2020 National Support**, will be collected until August 1, 2020. Please send donations to your area ABWM treasurer.

President, cont.

- **Need at Project?** Make masks to give away locally. Use the White Cross pattern for Congo or find are simple patterns online.
- Check out our national website ab-womensministries.org for program ideas, webinars, coming events. Information for GRR ABWM is at <https://www.grr-abwm.org>
- You may send your “Marks of an Active ABWM” until August 1, 2020.

Blessings,
Sharon Farral, GRR ABWM president
sharonfarral5@aol.com

Pat Reed, Coordinator of Missions & Service

CHANGES – We certainly have seen a lot of changes this spring with the Coronavirus in our life these days. It’s been hard for our missionaries to travel around within their areas of ministry. Even traveling within the United States to visit churches to build their support has been almost impossible, between not being able to travel and not being able to enter churches that are closed. Please pray for those

missionaries who are home who cannot fulfill their needs. Better yet go into their page in the International Ministries website and offer some financial support. Help them build to their 100% requirement. www.internationalministries.org

Speaking of changes, the Peoria Friendship House has a new director. His name is Marcellus Sommers and he has taken the place of Robert Montgomery who has gone to Chicago to fulfill another position.

Another change is for our newest Great Rivers Region Special Interest Missionary, Peter and Sarah McCurdy, Area V. They have been in Costa Rica but as of this spring will be going to Mexico City to work with the Baptist Theological Seminary. Peter will focus on theological education, spiritual direction and spiritual formation. Sarah, a former French teacher, will be working as an educator and spiritual director.

Pray for them as they arrive in Mexico City.

It’s been hard for our missionaries to travel around within their areas of ministry.

Marcia Wimmer, Secretary

Last week as the GRR ABW Board met for our spring meeting, it was different! No hugs, no snacks to share, no late night domino games, no walks around the grounds of Lake Springfield Baptist Camp to take in God's world, instead we looked and listened to each other through little screens on the big ZOOM screen. While we were fortunate to be able to meet this way and complete our business (which needed to be done) it was so different. It is sometimes scary and overwhelming to think of our future and how different it will be. Will we get those much needed and loved hugs? Will we worship together as church families? How long will it be till these things happen and how different will things be?

As this time of self-isolation, stay at home, and mask wearing times began, a dear friend and sister in Christ shared the following prayer and scriptures with me. It was on a post card she had stuck in her Bible and it happened to fall out at that opportune GOD MOMENT. She shared that her such comfort that she wanted to share it with me. I have since shared it with many. I hope it will bring you the same peace and hope that I have received from reading it and praying the scriptures and highlighting them in my Bible. May God's peace be with you and your loved ones during these new times we are living.

A Prayer for Trusting God in Hard Times

Lord, I believe that you are all-powerful and that nothing is greater than You are. I kneel before you all too aware that I am unable to defeat my enemies on my own. A spirit of fear has grasped my heart and mind and I find myself unable to shake it off. Yet, I know You can do the impossible. You can defeat the giant that stands before me. Help me to see You in this battle. Give me the strength to stand tall in the face of difficulty and discouragement. Teach me to see through Your eyes and know that you are in complete control. Hold my hand and keep me steady as we face together the arrows of fear and doubt. Show me the way to the place where I can trust You with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I will not let fear get the better of me but trust You in all things. Thank you; Lord, for Your guidance through this valley. "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4). In Jesus name, amen.

Scripture to Pray Through

Joshua 1:5,9

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 23

Psalm 27

Psalm 91:1-2

Psalm 121

Lamentations 3:32

Isaiah 40:28-31

Matthew 6:25-34

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Blessings,

Marcia Wimmer

Isaiah 49:14-16

Romans 8:15

Hebrews 13:5-6

1 John 4:18

Philippians 4:6-7

1 Peter 5:6-7

Psalm 37:3-7

1 Corinthians 10:13

Psalm 42

Romans 15:13

Trust & Peace

Sandi McKee, Associate for Communications

**"In Memory of" Submissions
for the Ripples**

Submissions can be made online or by mail to Sandi McKee. **Deadline for memorials is September 1, 2020.**

You or your group may write a paragraph (35 words or less) "In Memory of" a woman who was dear to you who has died since conference last year. This will be included in the fall issue of the Ripples.

In Memory of

Paula Costanza, Associate for Student Aid

Applications for the ABW Student Aid/Scholarship fund can be found at http://www.grrabwministries.org/docs/sallie_peck_scholarship_student_aid_7-16-18.pdf

This Scholarship is available to students active in an ABC GRR (American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region) church and want to attend a school or seminary affiliated with ABC (American Baptist Churches). **The deadline is May 1st** and no application will be accepted after that date (to provide fair distribution of funds available).

The amount of \$ for those who want help next semester (fall 2019) will depend on the amount of funds available at the time of June conference and how many have applied and been accepted. This varies from year to year. Each recipient must be contacted or they must let us know if they want continued support. As long as they are still attending and making passing grades they will be granted continuing scholarship. They may have a scholarship for 4 years undergraduate and 3 years seminary but must request each year.

2020-2021 Recipients

Emma Loeppky
Judson University
5027 Orchard Ave.
Rockford, IL 61108
ph.: 815.200.7212
D.O.B.: 10/22/1998
eloepky98@gmail.com

Noah DeLong
Judson University
506 Ninth Avenue

ph.:815.538.2520 D.O.B.:
9/23/2001
Mendota, IL. 61342

[no-ahdelong25@gmail.com](mailto:noahdelong25@gmail.com)

Kaylie Malenius
Judson University
805 Holiday Dr.
ph.: 217.372.1785 D.O.B.:
5/21/2000
Champaign, IL. 61821
kaylie.malenius@gmail.com

These are the lives that have been impacted by your generosity. Please consider promoting the Student Aid Scholarship program in your area by handing applications to prospective students, so we may support the future generation. It will be greatly appreciated.

Many Blessings,
Paula Costanza

*The deadline is May
1st*

Barbara McKean, Coordinator Of Church and Community

American Baptist Women's Ministries turns 69 years old on June 11, 2020!

**Join us for a birthday celebration on
Thursday, June 11, 2020
7:00 PM Eastern Time**

Find registration
information on the
Events tab at
abwomensministries.org

Join us as we celebrate our past, our ministry today, as we respond to COVID-19 and sustain our ministries, as well as our hopes for the future. We celebrate the many ways that God is blessing ABWM to live our mission and to sustain our ministry focus on education and prevention of domestic violence and sex trafficking, building beloved community, leadership development, and so much more.

Not in recent years has there been such a tie between the 'church' and the 'community'. Many churches are making their services available through on-line means such as Face Book live, pre-recording services and emailing out links to the service through Face Book, Zoom and other methods. On any given Sunday I have invitations to watch atleast 4 or 5 different services. In addition, there are still radio broadcasts and TV broadcasts of services.

What is your church doing to reach out to their members and subsequently to the community? In the next week, my church will be forming an 'Outreach committee' but not outreach in the traditional sense but with restrictions following the new Pandemic guidelines. First, we will figure out what the guidelines mean. Second, we will brainstorm ideas that follow those guidelines. Third, we will create a plan by which we can once again open our church building and begin holding Sunday worship services, Sunday School and other in-building activities.

How can you give a 'virtual' hug to people? Phone calls, write notes, or do drive-by parades for people who cannot get out of their homes? Do you make masks for medical staff as well as family and friends? Are you able to have a "virtual Sunday school class" or "get-to-gether"? Have you invited members of other classes to join yours if their class had decided not to meet? Have you listened to the American Baptist Women's podcasts that have been broadcast? There is a list of future and previous webinars that can be found at the American Baptist Women's website and then look under Events. Or you can [Click here](#) to find a registration for the ABWM 69th birthday celebration to be held on June 11. This be a virtual program held in Zoom.

Please consider how you can challenge your church can reach out to the community at this critical time in our nation's history. Please email me at mckean_b@msn.com and let me know the ideas you develop. I would love to be able to share a list of ideas with ABWM presidents that they can then share with churches in their Area. Or perhaps you would like to participate in the ABWM program called "Reset and Reimagine" to help shape the future. [Click here](#) to the ABWM website that contains additional details on this program

Thank you
Barbara McKean
Or you can mail me a list of activities at
Barbara McKean, ABWM
%Central Baptist Church
501 S. 4th Street
Springfield, Il 62704

Becky Jones, Treasurer

My first comment—all Treasurers—please notify your church Treasurers to send all dollars thru your Area Treasurer. Some of our churches are sending dollars directly to the Region Office.

It is exciting to share with you that the dollars for our new project—Van for Sarah Chetti is just above \$10,000. Our request for Sarah is

American Baptist Women's Ministries/Great Rivers Region
Proposed Budget for

| 2020-2021 | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Anticipated Receipts | Previous Year (2019-2020 Budget) | Year to Date (Actual as of 4/27/20) | Proposed |
| Balance Forward | \$1,850.00 | | \$1,850.00 |
| Offerings | \$1,775.00 | \$809.00 | \$1,725.00 |
| Dues to Region | \$1,750.00 | \$1,043.84 | \$1,750.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$5,375.00 | \$1,852.64 | \$5,325.00 |
| Anticipated Disbursements | | | |
| Officers and Associates | | | |
| President | \$1,500.00 | \$218.23 | \$1,500.00 |
| Secretary | \$25.00 | | \$25.00 |
| Treasurer | \$25.00 | \$31.55 | \$25.00 |
| Love Gift/Special Project | \$50.00 | | \$50.00 |
| Annual Directories | \$75.00 | | \$75.00 |
| "Ripples" | \$75.00 | | \$75.00 |
| Coordinators and Associates | | | |
| Student Aid | \$25.00 | | \$25.00 |
| Church & Community | \$25.00 | | \$25.00 |
| Mission & Service | \$25.00 | | \$25.00 |
| White Cross | \$25.00 | | \$25.00 |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| Travel-Mileage @ \$.15 per mile | \$350.00 | \$50.10 | \$350.00 |
| Use of Camp for Board Meetings | \$850.00 | \$195.00 | \$450.00 |
| ABW Scholarship for National Conference | \$900.00 | | \$1,250.00 |
| AB Girls Ministry | \$500.00 | | \$500.00 |
| AB Girls Conference Scholarship | \$500.00 | | \$500.00 |
| GRR Annual Conference Expenses | \$300.00 | | \$300.00 |
| Web Site | \$125.00 | | \$125.00 |
| Totals | \$5,375.00 | \$494.88 | \$5,325.00 |
| ABW/GRR 2020/2021 Proposed Budget | | | |
| Submitted 5/6/2020 | | | |

Linda Watson, Area IV President

Our Spring Board Meeting and Spring Rally were cancelled. The plans for the Spring Rally were awesome so I would like to share some of them for Ripples:

Georgianna Schultz, Area IV White Cross Coordinator is organizing the workshop for the 2020 Spring Rally. If you were at our Fall Rally 2019 at Highland First Baptist Church, you had an opportunity to browse through the different White Cross projects available. There were examples, patterns, and handouts for you to take back to your church. At the 2020 Spring Rally, there will be a guest speaker and a workshop. Mark your calendars for an opportunity to fellowship, learn, and make & take.

April 18, 2020 Spring Rally to be hosted by First Baptist Church Societies of Arthur and Sullivan.

Our guest speaker will be Rachel O'Neill who is the Founder and Director of Little Dresses for Africa.org. If you visit the Web Site,

(www.Littledressesforafrica.org) you will discover a wealth of information about the many programs served by this organization. These little dresses are sent or taken not only to other countries, but also to our Indian Reservations and Appalachian areas in the United States. Who could imagine that a slightly used pillow case could be made into a cute little dress for a girl? Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:17, Matthew 19:13-15, and Mark 10:13-16 NIV.

Other News from Area IV

Georgianna Schultz has declined the offer to serve as our Area IV White Cross Coordinator for another term. According to our revised Area IV By-Laws, officers on the board may accept another term regardless of years of service. Officers may accept another term on a yearly basis until a replacement is nominated. Jean Bode is our Nominations Chairperson. Anyone may volunteer to be placed on the slate of nominees by contacting her. The Nominations Chairperson presents the slate of nominees and nominations from the floor are accepted at our Spring Rally. We vote on the slate of nominees at our Fall Rally. We do not wish to have an office remain vacant. The work is too important. This is the reason By-Law Revision must occur on a regular basis. Old By-Laws outlive their usefulness.

The mailing list for Area IV continues to shrink. Returned mail sent in April includes: Shiloh Baptist Church of Cobden, Camp Creek Baptist Church of Murphysboro, and Walnut Grove Baptist Church of New Burnside.

As president, I support all kinds of communication. During this time when church doors are closed, FBC of Sullivan continues to “get the message out” to all church members. It is difficult. Some of our members do not have Internet, some do not have CD players, and some are isolated. We use every means of communication possible. Pastor Mark checks on those who are isolated. We use Email, snail mail, Facebook, Church Web Site, YouTube, and CDs. Since March 15, a small group of us meet weekly at church to video tape the sermon, record hymns, and take pictures. Try singing through a mask and playing the piano/organ with gloves. It is a challenge, but God does not place challenges before us without His Love and Guidance. We just need to pray, seek, and ask.

Look Up! Look Around! Look Forward! I have mailed little notes and messages to my Sunday School Class. We have been studying the Old Testament Books these past two quarters. It was like God was preparing us for a time like this. Remember the plagues in Egypt and warnings. Look up and pray!

And now we are challenged with isolation from each other. Look around and accept this challenge by reaching out to others through phone calls, CDs, Emails, text messages, twitter, Zoom, Facebook, newsletters, YouTube, CDs, and Web Sites.

Also, in the Old Testament, we studied the Prophets. The books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel sound God’s warning of judgement but also hope of restoration. Look forward and greet God’s justice and mercy. Plan for re-opening, new ways to worship God, and more ways to spread the Gospel.

Blessings and Stay Healthy



Nancy Johnson and Marilyn Koch, Conference Co-Chairs

Our lives have certainly put us into a holding pattern, not knowing where we will be in the coming months. Our Annual Conference scheduled for the end of July and the 1st of August has been postponed. We are not cancelled, but postponed to the summer of 2021. Since we know that most summer events have been cancelled for this summer in Illinois, we feel that this is best for our ladies.

Now the "Good News" Our Annual Event will be held same time and place next summer (2021). Our Special Guest, Babbi Mason will be with us also. Praise the Lord!

**American Baptist Women's Ministries and AB G.I.R.L.S.
Great Rivers Region Annual Conference
July 30, 31 August 1, 2021
PREMIER/Best Western 3559 College Avenue Alton, Illinois**



Friday Night


Babbi Mason

The name Babbie Mason is synonymous with creative excellence in the Christian community. An award-winning singer-songwriter of Christian music, her ministry and career have blessed countless thousands for almost three decades. She is the daughter of a Baptist pastor, thus Babbie learned to serve others early in life. Babbi will also speak to the entire group on Saturday morning.

Marilyn & I are listing Prices for this event now, so you have an entire year for your church ladies to start saving for an Inspirational Weekend (Summer of 2021). AB Girls will be different. (Age Based)

- * **Full Time (2 Nights & 4 Meals)** Includes Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday Programs
- * **\$180.00 for 2 persons to a room** Includes Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday Programs
- * \$165.00 for 3 persons to a room Includes Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday Programs
- * \$150.00 for 4 or more persons to a room Includes Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday Programs
- * \$265.00 for 1 person to a room Includes Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday Programs
- * \$67.00 Saturday Only Programs (Lunch & Dinner)
- * \$150.00 **Part Time** (Friday night room) Includes Friday & Saturday programs & meals on Saturday)

**July 30 thru Aug 1
2021
PREMIER/Best
Western
Alton, IL**



Smile As You Serve

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on magnets. The next day, she included this question in a quiz: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the same response: "Mother."

I loved this as so many Moms are Home schooling during this time! Use it if you have time. We could all use a smile.

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

National Conference 2020
June 16-19, 2020
Green Lake Conference Center

This conference has been **cancelled**. Green Lake is closed for the summer.

Nominating Committee Report

The term for Secretary, Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries, and White Cross) Associate will be for three years ending in 2023. The term for Coordinator of Conference will be for two years starting at the close of 2020 conference and ending at the close of the 2022 conference.

ASSOCIATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS: Sandi McKee accepted to complete this term.

2021 Cana Roth CLROTH87@gmail.com
 1531 Seven Pines Rd Apt D Cell: 618/ 201-8639
 Springfield, IL 62704

ASSOC. FOR LOVE GIFT/SPECIAL PROJECT: Position is open.

2022 Sue Wallick (Dearly Beloved and Missed)
 120 Summit #6 815/ 962-3270
 Rockford, IL 61107

COORDINATOR OF CHURCH & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Position is open.

2020 Barbara McKean mckean b@msn.com
 112 Astoria Rd 217/ 652-991
 Springfield, IL 62704-6106

ASSOCIATE FOR WHITE CROSS: Accepted position for a second term.

2020 Peggy Dunn peggyd09@yahoo.com
 620 Hawthorne Lane 816/ 550-9465
 Liberty, MO 64068

COORDINATORS OF CONFERENCE: Would like to serve a second term.

2020 Nancy Johnson nanaisok@yahoo.com
137 E. Sixth 309/ 527-2672
El Paso, IL 61738 Cell: 309/ 830-4342

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Linda Watson, chair - IV
Sandi McKee - V
Judy DeRolf - I
Marcia Wimmer - Area II
Joan Leitzen - III

At the Executive Board meeting on May 6, 2020 they voted to recommend that the bylaws be suspended to allow Nancy Johnson to serve another term of office.

**American Baptist Women
of the
Great Rivers Region
American Baptist Churches**

We are attempting to be good stewards of our resources. Therefore, we no longer send the 'RIPPLES' via U.S Mail. If you know of someone who does not have computer access, please print a copy and share it with them.
To submit an e-mail address to be added to the list
E-mail: abwgrr@yahoo.com

For more information
goto:
www.grr-abwm.org

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.

**National Events
2020**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Baptist Women of North America (Rio) | July 17-20 |
| ABW Ministries Sunday | Sept 20 |
| Hi-e.S.T.E.A.M. for girls | Oct 24 |
| Baptist Women's Day of Prayer | Nov 2 |
| World Community Day (CWU) | Nov 6 |
| Life Lux Jazz 2020 | Nov 5-9 |
| Human Rights Celebration (CWU) | Dec 10 |



Check the website abwomensministries.org for more information and registration for webinars and events.