

Ripples Spring 2021 Edition

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Sharon Farral, President

We welcome spring with anticipation and with joy. It has been a long winter not only with the cold, snow, and ice. We have experienced the darkness of this pandemic keeping most of us inside, away from loved ones, and yes, away from worship and fellowship together in our churches. Now light at the end of the tunnel - spring time! Vaccinations are available plus with continued safety precautions we are beginning to renew our face-to-face fellowship. I urge you, unless you have a medical reason, to get the vaccine. Being vaccinated is a compassionate courtesy not only to protect yourself but to protect others.

Spring time! A time of new growth! I love perennials that come up year after year. This is a reminder that Christ died and rose again. How can an ugly, withered plant come back to life and produce beautiful flowers? How could it be, only because of unconditional love, the Father sent His Son to die for our sins and to be risen again? How is it than when we give our lives to Christ we too die to our old self and become new creations in Christ.

We have had to do many events online mostly by ZOOM. Please, if you do not know how to do this seek out someone who can help you. If you do not have internet join with one to two others to view these events:

GRR ABWM has a wonderful day with five of our Global Servants on February 27. This is recorded and may be viewed at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3vItgArMvtecvzhNNiuh0DlvW7rKcjTYxe-OPf87NdOrvnPj-9ppNmgWN-HF1uOpjz.jj7cjRvFooG7-BVO> Passcode ^X!j4oy This program is about 2 ½ hours long so you may want to watch it two segments. If you need help let me know.

Area Spring Rally: Area 1 'virtual' April 17, Area 2 April 13 Whitehall, Area 3 April 10 Deer Creek, Area 4 Fall Rally being planned, Area 5 no rally planned. Check with your area president to get the link or more information.

Webinars: free but must register at www.abwomensministries.org to get the link. April 1, 8 p.m. COVID 19 impact on women (last of series for now) April 8 and June 3, 7 pm Sisters in prayer.

WOMEN'S DAY – Theme: Let the Walls Fall Down. On ZOOM Your opportunity to attend our national annual conference. (In the past we have had to travel, stay in hotels – very expensive) There is a cost but it is minimal, probably to pay speakers. Registration is now open at www.abwomensministries.org.

There is much more – check the national website frequently. Also visit our GRR ABWM website www.grrabwministries.org

GRR ABWM Annual Conference 2021 – plans are on to meet in person in Alton, July 30 – August 1. Mark your calendar and keep praying.

Blessings to each of you



Sisters Seeking Wholeness

Pat Reed, Coordinator of Missions & Service

On February 27, 2021 we had a wonderful event featuring five of our special global servants. Here are some of the highlights of 4 of the 5 presentations.

Larry and Becky Stanton – Hungary – Larry has been working with the refugees and in Croatia due to the earthquake there. He worked on a barn there for a farmer. In Hungary the schools are open but the high school is closed due to Covid. Ruth, their oldest will be going to high school in 2 years. Pray for her. They say “thank you for your support”.

Katie and Taku Longkummer – Northeast India – They are working with the Council of Baptist Churches of NE India. There are 8100 churches there. NE Christian University, our special project 2 years ago, is preparing missionaries. We gave \$15,000 for the women’s dormitory and was dedicated in 2019 by Rev. Dr. Joseph Huse. There are 250 acres in Nagaland. There are computers for the students. The school is offering a certification for health care providers, as well as liberal arts and theology.

Brian and Lynette Smith – Dominican Republic – They are now in La Romana settling in learning the local language. They still work with the Haitians in DR and speaking Kreol. God stretched them across the island by being a bridge from DR to Haiti. Brian is working construction. Lynette is instructing the women in creative art. The boys are making friends with the local children.

Deliris and Moise Carrion-Joseph – Tijuana, Mexico – They are working at Deborah House with refugee women and children victimized by domestic violence. They have a daily devotional, vocational training, such as sewing and beauty. Great Rivers Region raised \$15,000 to complete the library and a classroom. They serve Haitians and Africans in Tijuana. They have a dental and medical clinic and help migrants get papers to work in Mexico. Moise is translating at the border.

Please keep these wonderful global servants in your prayers and donate to their monthly support, as they are all in need of funds. Also pray for Scott and Tan Coats who are stationed in Myanmar but cannot get there due to military uprisings. They are in Thailand near the border.

Please Pray

International Ministries has recommended that all Global Servants in Hungary return to the States due to the current COVID situation. Coronavirus cases and deaths are hitting new record highs with the third wave. Both the Stantons and the Goodes have returned to the United States. Please pray for our Global Servants returning from Hungary and the ministry and friends that they had to leave behind.

Please keep these
wonderful global
servants in your prayers
and donate...

Marcia Wimmer, Secretary

Even in this topsy-turvy world we live in where our hearts are pulled in every direction, let's be women who speak of the goodness of God.

As I looked over the past year – I had plenty of time to draw closer to God – but did I?

There were no in person Bible studies – so I tried on my own - not always successful.

I was very thankful when we got back to in person church services – I wanted not only to hear God's Word but also wanted to grow in it.

I purchased a new Bible with large print with a gift certificate I received for Christmas - easier to read.

I started a new Daily Devotional Book "The Songs of JESUS" by Timothy Keller and I am finding it very interesting and fulfilling. I have shared the book with a friend who has been struggling.

Our sermons have been about immersing ourselves in God's Word and preparing to share it with others. I feel as though I am making progress at drawing myself closer to God and being a woman who can share the goodness of God with others.

SO.....

THIS YEAR I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS

Hang out with sinners

Upset religious people

Tell stories that make people think

Choose unpopular friends

Be kind, loving, and merciful

Take naps on boat

WILL YOU JOIN ME?

*...let's be women
who speak of the
goodness of God.*



Sandi McKee, Associate for Communications

Communication (from Latin *communicare*, meaning “to share”) is the act of developing meaning among entities or groups through the use of sufficiently mutually understood signs, symbols, and semiotic conventions.

Learning how to share with those who matter to us during the past year has become an adventure in new things. Families and churches now use ZOOM to meet face to face, prayer groups use conference calls to update prayer lists, families keep up through Facebook or Instagram, we check in with loved ones by texting, or phone when we used to meet face-to-face to fellowship. But the way we communicate with God has not changed.

So, how do we share with God?

1. Pray wherever you are, any time day or night.
2. Use prayer to express your thoughts and emotions. God as a loving, infinitely wise parent will hear you.

3. Set aside a few minutes to dedicate to prayer and reading the Bible
4. Keep a prayer journal if you like to write or keep a prayer jar to fill with your prayers.
5. Offer wordless prayer through your actions.

Our conversations with God may be spoken or written or in our minds. It may be in our prayer closet alone or with another person or in a group. We may pray for God to intercede, for blessings, for healing, for praise, for thanksgiving, or just because we need to feel his presence.

We can be confident that he hears us and that the Holy Spirit will hear the groaning of our hearts and what we have no words to express. Romans 8:26 says, *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, We do not know what to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”*

Paula Costanza, Associate for Student Aid

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

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 given in scholarships will depend on the amount of funds available at the time of July 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

Olivet Nazarene

506 Ninth Avenue

Mendota, IL. 61342

ph.:815.538.2520

D.O.B.: 9/23/2001

noahdelong25@gmail.com

Kaylie Malenius

Judson University

805 Holiday Dr.

Champaign, IL. 61821

ph.: 217.372.1785

D.O.B.: 5/21/2000

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

*Application deadline
is May 1st*

Karen Dainty, Coordinator Of Church and Community

Micah 6:8: He has shown you, O man, what is good. To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. (NIV)

This is my life verse as I learned it at camp when I was a teenager and pondering all that life would bring. What would I do? Where would I go to college? How will God use me and my gifts He has given me?

God has given each of us gifts to use to further His kingdom. As a teen and then in college, I would have never dreamed that in my lifetime, I would experience a pandemic and the loss of being able to gather together as God's people. Yet; through technology, phone calls, letters, and cards; we have experienced God's grace and His showing us what is good.

We have had time to think, talk about, and act justly. One ABW ministries missions focus is Addiction. One ministry, which shines God's glory, is Teen Challenge. Our church has been blessed to have the men from Peoria/Pekin teen challenge share their testimonies with us. They are more than willing to come to your church to share the love of God with you and for you to act justly toward those fighting with addiction. If you would like contact information for Teen Challenge in your area, please contact me at krdainty@earthlink.net or contact your Area President. There is also a webinar on April 1st: Please register on the ABW Ministries website

Please register on the ABW Ministries website: [ABW Ministries Webinar Event](#)

COVID-19's Impact on Women: An Emphasis on Addiction, Treatment, & Recovery

April 1, 2021 9PM EDT/6PMPDT

Presenters: Dr. Brenda Edwards, Edwards Counseling and Consulting, LLC

We have also had time to slow down, pray more, read our Bibles more, and truly walk humbly with God. Rather than say what we can not do, let us rejoice that God has given us a time to reconnect with Him, get re-energized for ministry, and truly Walk humbly with him.

May we continue to thank God for this time and rejoice that we can impact our church and our community by living out Micah 6:8 and act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Judy DeRolf, Area 1

Area 1 has not met in person since our Spring Spiritual Feast in Mt Carroll in April of 2020. We met on zoom for our Fall Gathering in October of 2020. Karen Schultz the Chicago area City Director for Refuge for Women spoke to us about her work with women living in difficult situations. We also had Sue Hagerty share about Camp Ochomogo in Cost Rica, our GRR ABWM Special Project this year.

*May we continue to thank
God...*

Becky Jones, Treasurer

I wanted to share with you how we have tried to keep mission giving alive in our church, First Baptist Church, White Hall Il. I resigned as church treasurer at the end of 2019 after serving 15 years as church treasurer. Part of my job was to forward to ABC Great Rivers Region the mission giving from each weekly church offering. I found over the years that fewer and fewer of our congregation was giving to missions. This was due mainly to the fact that we have lost so many of our older ladies, all who were strong supporters of missions. The make-up of our congregation today is very different from what it was even 15 years ago. We have very few ladies who were involved in our Inez Green Mission Circle. We have a lot of members who have transferred to our church from other churches or baptized into our church later in life. We do have a lot of our younger and middle aged members who grew up in our church too. These younger members tend to lean more on supporting local community ministries or projects, and our church does support the local community very well.

Therefore, as treasurer when our finance committee prepared the budget for the year, I ask that we budget from our general offering a certain amount for mission giving, institutional giving and also our Inez Green Mission Circle giving. This was a guarantee that a certain amount would be given to those missions our church has always supported.

This worked fine over the 15 years I serviced as treasurer. But then, when contemplating retiring, I realized that the new treasurer was not familiar with ABC missions . Beverly Moulton, the former president of our Inez Green Mission Circle, has always, very effectively promoted the four American Baptist Churches' annual offerings. That still left the other mission giving to the treasurer to delegate and forward to ABC/Great Rivers Region. I did not want to overwhelm our new treasurer with this added duty as she is also our town City Clerk, and very busy.

Fortunately, I came up with the solution. I proposed to the finance committee that I would continue to fill out and decide where each month's funds would go. I then forward the form and my request for her to cut a check and forward the form and check to ABC/GRR. I so greatly appreciate that our dedicated church members have allowed me the opportunity to continue this very important part of First Baptist's love for missions.

Giving to missions

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.

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

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 Fri 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 Fri & Sat programs & meals on Sat
- * **\$25.00 Friday Night Only Seats Limited**

Hope to see all of you Next SUMMER! God Bless and Stay Healthy

Let the Walls Fall Down

Women's Day 2021

Saturday, June 12, 2021

1:00-3:30 PM EDT

Get ready for Women's Day! Come and gather with women and girls for worship and fellowship.

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is hosting our first Women and Girls' Virtual Weekend on June 11-12, 2021. On Friday, June 11, 2021, at 8:00 PM EDT, ABWM hosts our [first virtual Gala](#). We will begin with worship, our keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley, Regional Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York. Plan now to put on your dancing shoes and best disco swag as we celebrate the disco era in fellowship, music, and dance.

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 1:00 PM EDT, our biennial Women's Day program will be held. Women and girls from across the country and Puerto Rico will gather via Zoom for Women's Day. Our theme is "Let the Walls Fall Down/Derribando Las Barreras," based on Ephesians 2:14 NIV. Special guests include Rev. Aracelis Vásquez Haye (keynote speaker), Linnita Hosten (keynote speaker for AB GIRLS), and Lauren Thomas-Moyett (music leader). When you register please sign up for community service.

Register online today!

Registration fee is \$50; \$65 after May 1, 2021



Registration information available at abc-usa.org/how-we-serve/events



American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

*Special Project, 2020-2021***Camp Ochomogo IN Costa Rica
Goal \$15,000****Total Received to date: \$10,093.56**Camp Ochomogo,
Costa Rica

Have you ever been to camp in the middle of summer? I remember going to, and then being a counselor at a camp on a lake in Maine and hoping that the activities I had were on the water. I remember teaching archery and air riflery in the hot summer Maine sun. I can only imagine trying to teach, play, and watch basketball in the hot sun of Costa Rica (and I thought Maine was hot.) Our \$15,000 will build a pavilion over the basketball court. This will allow relief from the hot sun, useable on rainy days, shade for Bible study, available for kids' games, and for larger group meeting. The pavilion would enable much more efficient use of the basketball court.

We have an amazing start to our \$15,000 goal and only have \$4907 to go. Maybe you haven't met in person but have some extra funds in your treasury; the Special Project would be a great way to donate the extra and make a difference in Costa Rica. Maybe you are looking for a project to give to the camp:

Take a special Easter offering in your church for the camp.

Have your youth group do a sub sandwich fundraiser, for pickup, during March Madness Basketball tournament.

Have an after-church soup and sandwich pickup fundraiser.

Have a special offering during your Spring Rallies, even if they are Zoom, specify the offering should be sent to your area treasurer.

There are a number of ways that we can get to our \$15,000 goal. We can do it!

White Cross



There are changes to White Cross. Yes, White Cross continues and is much needed. However, our National ABWM does not consider White Cross to be a function of ABWM.

Throughout over 100 years we as American Baptist women have supported our ABC family, including our missionaries and mission centers both overseas and overland. We are a part of our large ABC family and family helps each other as needed. Here is how we will continue our outreach to missions through White Cross.

Overseas White Cross through International Ministries

All needed information is online under internationalministries.org/white-cross/. Look for White Cross Projects, Giving Opportunities, and White Cross

Gifts. All this can be downloaded. If you are having difficulty getting the information, please send an email or phone Sharon Farral and she can send it to you 'snail mail'. sharonfarral5@aol.com 309-235-9537 She can get information to you and probably answer your questions. One urgent need now is Baby Birthing Kits for Congo. Updated directions are on the above website.

Overland White Cross is now called **Operation Planting Hope** through American Baptist Home Mission Societies. There is a new booklet describing Operation Planting Hope. If you would like a copy let Sharon know and she will mail it to you. The information is also at abhms.org. The booklet suggests we can spread out and do more but gives no tangible projects. We are small groups, mostly senior. Many of us do mission work in our own communities such as helping at Food Pantry, homeless shelter, etc. For many years we have helped Peoria Friendship House and Bethel Neighborhood Center, both associated with ABC and in our region, which can be our priority. One directive under Operation Planting Hope is, "Direct donations of goods to the ministry of your choice." Their needs at Peoria and Bethel are ongoing. Each group can give as they are able – no quota. For example, Marcellus at Peoria reported they give out on average 60 personal hygiene items each week such as disposable razors for homeless men and toothbrushes. The leaders at Peoria and Bethel have expressed their appreciation for all donations received.

We are re-writing our GRR ABWM bylaws. There will be no White Cross Coordinator. The Mission and Service Coordinator will encourage us to continue doing White Cross as described in this letter with an emphasis on ministry within our ABC family. There will be no recording or reports to send in.

If you have questions or comments please contact Sharon Farral.
sharonfarral5@aol.com 309-235-9537

We are part of our large ABC family and family helps each other as needed.

**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
2021**

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sisters in Prayer | April 8 |
| Domestic Violence Training Conference | April 23-24 |
| Sisters in Prayer | June 3 |
| Women's Day | June 12 |
| Annual Meeting | July 17 |
| AB Women's Ministries Sunday | September 18 |
| ABWM's 70th Birthday Celebration | September 18 |
| Baptist Women's Day of Prayer | November 1 |
| World Community Day (CWU) | November 5 |
| Human Rights Celebration (CWU) | December 10 |
| Celebrating Ministering Women: Radical, Redeemed, and Ready | June 15-18, 2022
at Green Lake |

Check the website abwomensministries.org for more information and registration for webinars and events and to be informed of any cancellations.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries for our Winter Webinar series. The webinar series will be focused on COVID-19, addressing senior support, leadership, and vaping addiction.

The Value of a Breath: Vaping and Our Youth- What it is, What it Does, and What Should Concern Us -- March 18, 2021 The webinar on vaping was most informative. Please take the time to watch it. It has been archived on the abwmnistrries.org website.

COVID-19's Impact on Women: An Emphasis on Addiction, Treatment, & Recovery -- April 1, 2021 9PMEDT/6PMPDT