

# *American Baptist Women Great Rivers Region Spring 2022 Ripples*

**Rev. Sharon Farral**  
**GRR ABWM president**

*“Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed,  
for His compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”*  
Lamentations 3:22-23.

The last couple of years have been difficult. God has been and always will be faithful. We have missed our times together. Now is the time to join together in worship and fellowship – to celebrate together God’s faithfulness.

Our National ABWM theme is ***“Let the Walls Fall down.”*** Theme verses include ***“He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*** Micah 6:8. ***“...Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*** John 13:34. We have many boundaries, walls, which hinder fellowship with other Christians and the world: racial, economic, ethnicity, language, health, handicaps, social status, and more.

To find program information go to **[abwomensministries.org](http://abwomensministries.org)** home page. Click on **events** then **webinars**. At the bottom of this list are the recordings of each six-week session series. There are many topics from which to choose. There is more information under Mission Focus including articles on Immigration and Domestic Violence. As Christian women, we need to stand up for the isolated, the marginalized - be the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities and around the world.

I urge you to remember we belong to a special family, American Baptist Churches USA. We cannot save the world, but God has given us a niche, a calling, to serve Him here and around the world through prayer, communication, projects, and support. You can find projects under 'White Cross' at [internationalministries.org](http://internationalministries.org). February 26, 2022, GRR ABWM was privileged to sponsor a zoom meeting with six of our **Global Servants**. This is recorded; please share these conversations. I can send you the link, just email me at [sharonfarral5@aol.com](mailto:sharonfarral5@aol.com).

For more information check our website: [www.grr-abwm.org](http://www.grr-abwm.org)

**Coming events:**

National ABWM Tea – March 26, 2022 – virtual – register now

**Great Rivers Region ABWM Spring Rally for each area**

Area 1	April 30, 2022,	FBC Elgin, IL
Area 2	April 12, 2022,	FBC Decatur, IL
Area 3	April 2, 2022,	Deer Creek, IL
Area 4	April 30, 2022,	Crainville Baptist in Carterville, IL

**Celebrating Women in Ministry Green Lake Conference Center,**  
**June 15 – 18, 2022**

**GRR ABWM Annual Conference July 22-24, at Decatur, IL**

Please send your "Marks of an Active ABWM" (see attached) to me soon. I want to hear from every group so we can share experiences. Even if you feel you have done little, I want to hear from you: Sharon Farral 3413 4<sup>th</sup> Street, East Moline, IL 61244 [sharonfarral@aol.com](mailto:sharonfarral@aol.com)

## **Missions and Service Coordinator** **Pat Reed**

Taken from an article in International Ministries newsletter. It emphasizes the cost of being a global servant.

After 20 years as IM missionaries, **David and Joyce Reed** have taken on the position of Global Coordinators of Spiritual Care. The position of spiritual care models how to walk with global servants on a daily basis so they thrive for the long-haul. Cross cultural stress stems from a variety of sources: cultural fatigue, burnout, trauma, historical views of mission, managing international partnerships, the constant demand of funding and unexpected events like a global pandemic. The goal is to provide tools that allow global servants to navigate these stressors with enhanced self-awareness so that self-care, soul care, and community care are amplified and life with God deepens.

The stress of constantly managing another climate, a new diet, new language and customs, new friendships, ministering with national partners, rewires the brain to accept these as normal. Throw in unexpected illness, accident, natural disaster, and the stress is amplified.

Joyce and David's ministry focus is to assist global servants in maintaining healthy boundaries. They have discovered that by simply bearing witness to their colleagues' pain, grief, struggles, and exhaustion, they build trust, authentic relationships and give them the courage not to give up. The Reeds' therefore offer spiritual guidance, workshops, and retreats. They walk through significant times of transition, transformation, grief, and loss. They mentor new global servants during their first years of cross-cultural ministry.

Why is this important? When global servants are self-regulated and grounded in Christ, then they can lead others with grace, humility, and joy. Ministry flows from a genuine life-giving well that draws others to God's love and mercy.

## **Student AID**

### **Brandy Trussel**

We currently have two recipients for the 2021-2022 school year: Noah DeLong who is attending Olivet Nazarene and Kaylie Malenius who is attending Judson University.

I spoke with both of them yesterday (thanks to technology) via Facebook to check in and see how the school year was going and see if there was anything they needed from the ABW.

Noah responded that he was doing very well, school was going great, and that he was currently on Spring Break, so he was hoping for a little relaxation. He continues in his journey as a History Education major and reports being a member of the Concert Singers group there on campus. He expressed this was an impressive opportunity, as the group gets together once a month, has an event, and gets to study the Bible together. Noah comments that it has been a great semester for him, and that God has truly been blessing him through his time at Olivet. Noah thanked us for checking in and our continued prayers and then asked if there was any way he could pray for me or our American Baptist Board Members. I expressed to him that we had just recently had an in-depth conversation about all the things we want to do as a women's group but are limited simply because we need more active women. Noah wishes us well and will lift this concern up in his prayers for us.

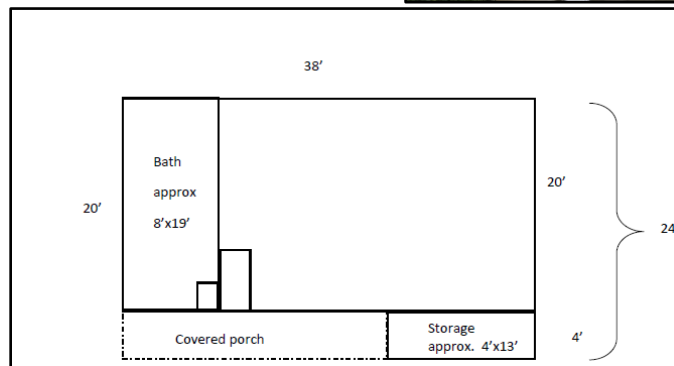
I was also able to speak with Kaylie last night. She also thanked us for checking in on her. She also reported being on Spring Break this week but would not get much relaxation due to being on tour with her University Choir. She asked us to pray for safe travels and health for this group.

Kaylie reports working on her Senior Project in hopes of graduating this May! She is currently working on a graphic design internship with a non-profit called Generation Distinct. She is optimistic of looking for employment after graduation. She again thanked us for our thoughts, prayers, and financial support through her college career.

Anyone who would like an application for a scholarship, should contact

**Brandy Trussell at**  
**[brtrussell@msn.com](mailto:brtrussell@msn.com) or 217-521-4696**

## Special Project Benton Legacy Cabin Karen Dainty



It is a beautiful spring day, and you can just see some of the buds on the trees and bushes. It will not be long until camps all around the country will be welcoming campers, some for the first time, and many more returning for another summer of fun and learning. I loved being a camper; friendships were formed that are still intact today, skills learned, and most importantly the nurturing of my relationship with God. I still remember having morning watch (devotion time) out on the hill after breakfast. Each camper and counselor would find a place to sit on the hill, enjoy the beauty of creation and have a quiet time with God. I loved those mornings with the Lord.

Cabin pictured above is the Blair Cabin. It is meant to show the outside of a completed cabin

I also remember another camper, named Carol, who walked with crutches because her legs were not strong enough to hold her. She enjoyed those morning watches as much as I did, but I remember her struggling to sit on one of the big rocks that were on the hill. She would set her Bible down, then maneuver her crutches to be able to sit on the rock, then pick up her Bible and begin her devotions. She was

always one of the last to finish her devotions, but she loved looking out at the beauty of the cabins and lake. I marveled at her each morning. She would tell me and all her cabin mates that God is good, and she was thankful that she had the opportunity to experience camp.

Our Benton Legacy cabin, with special needs accessible rooms and bathrooms, will give someone like Carol, or any special needs child, a way to experience camp without fear or worry that they will miss an activity or miss the fun of camp. Currently, we have raised \$4500 of our \$15,000 goal. We would love to go over and above our goal to provide a wonderful camping experience for all kids and adults.

## **Church and Community**

### **Karen Dainty**

“Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, ‘Peter is at the door’.” Acts 12:13-14  
One of my favorite scriptures is that of Peter’s release from prison, being led out to the city, and going to Mary’s house in Acts 12:1-17. The people gathered at Mary’s house were in fervent prayer (Acts 12:5) Yet, when Peter was released from prison, and knocked on the door, Rhoda was so overjoyed that she closed the door, ran, and told the others that Peter was at the door; but the others did not believe her. So, Peter knocked repeatedly. Finally, someone opened the door, and they were astonished (Acts 12:16). I love this scripture passage because it shows us that even if we do not think we can do anything or feel like we are not part of God’s plan, WE ARE very much a part of God’s plan. Can you imagine Rhoda’s surprise, delight, and happiness at seeing Peter? She was so excited that she left him at the door knocking again.

As winter turns into spring, we too can be a part of God’s plan by asking Him for ways we can serve our communities. Maybe it is going to an Assisted Living facility to visit; maybe it is walking your neighborhood and praying for those in the houses you pass. It is being involved in your community soup kitchen or food pantry programs. Or it is being a prayer warrior for your town or city and the issues it is facing.

I pray that each of us, like Rhoda, looks for ways God can use us to serve your community. May we be overjoyed by the opportunities God gives us to serve Him.

## **Regional Report**

### **Judy DeRolf, President, Area I**

Because of the Covid 19 Pandemic, there have not been many activities in Area 1 for the past two years. We were able to have our Fall Festival last year on October 23rd at the First Baptist Church of Dixon. There were around thirty in attendance for the meeting. Aaron and Valerie Osterbrock, our Global Servants in Indonesia, spoke to us about their experiences during the pandemic and how difficult adjusting to the culture and all of the visa and moving around during that time. Both Aaron and Valerie are theologians and were teaching at one of the seminaries but had to evacuate to Singapore where Valerie's parents live. They had their third child during their first term and now have a fourth child while in the US on home assignment. They brought their youngest child (at that time) with them, and he was a delight to the audience as his parents shared many wonderful stories of how they coped with the difficulties. They have been in the States for over a year but have remained teaching by zoom as they have traveled all over the States doing deputation.

In the afternoon we had a delightful music presentation by two local musicians: Rachel Cocar on the Clavanova and Jim Miller on the Keyboard. Sharon Farral gave the closing worship by portraying Mary Magdalene taking a walk and sharing her love of Christ. Her portrayal was very impressive and brought tears to our eyes.



We are looking forward to this year's Spring Spiritual Feast on Saturday April 30th at Elgin First Baptist Church beginning at 9:30 am when we will have a light breakfast before the meeting begins at 10:00 am. Our speaker will be Renee Edsall, Fox Valley Christian Action Development Coordinator. She will give us an update on the various programs they have for children and adults at the camp and in the communities around Kane County. Each church will provide a salad and dessert for the luncheon ending the day with a musical program.

There will be an Area 1 Board Meeting on Zoom on Monday, March 28th from 9:30-1:00 pm. If you would rather meet in person, come to Elgin First Baptist church. Three members of the board are members of First Baptist so we will meet in the conference room where we can meet the other members on zoom. Let me know what you will do so I can send the link for the zoom meeting.

Because we have not had many meetings in the last two years our treasury needs a little assistance from our members. The balance in the treasury as of 3/1/2022 is \$1,202.56 and only \$217.00 has been given towards the Special Project. This year's Special Project is to help the Baptist Camp in Springfield build a cabin for children with special needs. It will be air-conditioned and will include a ramp and special equipment needed for people with disabilities. The goal \$15,000 for the Great Rivers Region ABWM is to go towards the construction, so let us do our best to meet our goal.

## **Regional Report**

### **Marcia Wimmer, President, Area 2**

#### **GRANDMA'S VOICE**

Several years ago, I was given the devotional book "Grandma's Voice" by Pearl Rainwater. The author tells stories with a lot of Christian insight. Each time I pick it up to read, I have to smile and marvel at the way God works by using other's stories to bring home the power of His love in our lives.

Last weekend at our Regional Board Meeting we had a time of sharing on Friday night. We were to share a story about our best (or worst) vacation, a childhood



story, or whatever was on our heart. We shared popcorn, laughed till we cried, and smiled from ear to ear as each woman shared her story.

Each person was to have three minutes to tell her story, after the first story we realized that you cannot put a time limit on sharing our special memories. So, it took a little longer, but we had nowhere to go but to bed. At the end of the last story, it occurred to me that we each shared a time about family and how blessed we were to have had God's guidance and love in our lives.

My grandma would tell me that we were put on this earth to be useful. So be thankful for life, stop complaining, and get on with it. I am not sure what the future is for myself and all the women that shared their stories that night, but I believe that each of us will give a full measure of each day that God gives us.

Pearl Rainwater wrote in her book - "Through his Son, Jesus Christ, God has made us his special people. There will always be changes in our lives, but God directs them all, so we do not need to worry. It all works out for the good of those who love him."

*Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,  
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
**Ephesians 5:20**

As I think back on the stories shared that evening and the love of the Lord that filled the room, I know that no matter how many times we discuss and worry about the future of the ABW, I know that God has the future in His hands, and we need to pray and listen for His direction.

May we remember our purpose is to lead persons to a growing relationship with Christ and to always be Christ like and to strive to have a heart like His.

May God Bless each of you as you choose to serve.

## **Regional Report**

### **Joan Leitzen, President, Area III**

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32*

Doris Kaisner  
Heritage Health 509 N. Adelaide St  
Normal, Il 61761

I am happy to announce that Peoria Friendship House has exceeded over \$1000 from Area III. Other projects in our area include knitting of scarfs, dish rags, mini pads, and here at Bloomington we stuff sixty-five bags for Sugar Creek Elementary School every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. It is amazing, we now have two retired men join us to assemble the bags.

I am so proud of our units in Area 3. Our secretary Joyce Topping always calls when funds come in from our ladies. It just enforces the compassion women have for ABWM.

And we give thanks for hopefully the closing of this pandemic. We cannot get back to the way things used to be, but we can strive to make it be better.

## **Regional Report**

### **Linda Watson, President, Area IV**

I am very thankful for our dedicated officers of Area IV. We are getting comfortable with our Zoom planning meetings and board meetings.

Our Spring Rally will be in-person. It is April 30, 2022, at Crainville Baptist Church of Carterville, IL.

I do not know about you, but I am so relieved that it is after Easter. I know many churches are planning a wonderful Easter Service and celebration before Easter. I spoke with Vicki Roth, and they are planning a great Spring Rally for us.

These are few of the activities Vicki and her ladies have planned:

1. Speakers from groups in the community who will share their special activities;
2. Youth group presenters who will share their mission trip to Alaska;
3. Special music;
4. White Cross ideas;
5. Brandy Trussell will have some great activities for the girls.
6. Reports by Coordinators
  - a. Veronica Ross attended the Global Servants ZOOM meeting on February 26, 2022, and she has lots of information to share.
  - b. Vicki Roth's church held a special event and collected money for the Special Project. She will provide ideas on how to raise money for our Special Project.
  - c. Brandy Trussell has names of candidates for Student Aid.

As I reflect on events in 2021, I realize we adjusted, changed, and had cancellations. God always shows us a way to get things done. Looking forward to 2022, I think it is time to look at what our Mission Statement is telling us. We are to "provide opportunities for each woman and girl to: (1) Become and develop as God's person; (2) Build God's faith community; (3) Serve God's world."

Now, as an educator, when there is a numbered list, I like to address each item as if it were prioritized.

At our Spring GRR Board Meeting, everyone agreed that our groups are becoming smaller in number and there is a lack of AB G.I.R.L.S. participation. I believe we need to make (1) and (2) a top priority this year.

Blessings,

## **Regional Report**

### **Lori Hill, President pro-tem, Area V**

It has been too long since we last met. COVID has kept us from gathering safely. As a result of not meeting, all of our officers have rotated off the board. It is time to begin rebuilding Area V in 2022. So, this is a call for each of you to pray for Area V and to consider serving. If you would like more information about the board positions or have ideas/suggestions for 2022, please contact Lori Hill at 816-455-0364 or at [lori.hill234@gmail.com](mailto:lori.hill234@gmail.com).

The board positions include President, Secretary, Treasurer/Love Gift, Coordinator of Mission and Service, Associate for Communication, Coordinator of Church and Community and Associate for White Cross.

Currently we have not scheduled a spring or fall rally, so we need to jump on board and start planning our year.

## **ABWM GRR 2021-2022 Conference**

### **Nancy Johnson**

The 2022 American Baptist Women's Ministries and AB G.I.R.L.S. Conference will be held in Decatur, Illinois on July 22 & 23. (Option for 24<sup>th</sup>) The event will take place at the

**First Baptist Church**  
**1320 W Arbor Dr.**  
**Decatur, Illinois**

We will be lodging at the

**Comfort Inn & Suites  
5170 North Wingate Drive  
Decatur IL 62526**

Friday, July 22 Hotel check in starts at 3:00 pm  
Conference Doors at the Church open at 5:30 pm

Friday, July 22 Program begins at 6:15 pm

**Friday Evening Special Event  
“A Visit from Corrie Ten Boom” featuring Gayle Haas  
Special Music from “Echoes of Grace”  
Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundae**

Program on Saturday, July 23, will start at 8:30 am and end by 5:00 pm. For those interested in staying over on Saturday night, a Zoom program will be offered at the Hotel to watch the Speaker for the Sunday morning Church Service from the National Women's Baptist Conference. You may also want to attend church services at the First Baptist Church of Decatur.

Please see the attached registration forms for ABWM and AB G.I.R.L.S. for more information. Your Registration forms are available in printed form from your Area Presidents. You may also access them from the website of the ABWMinistries of the Great Rivers Region at [Upcoming Events | ABWM GRR \(grr-abwm.org\)](https://www.grr-abwm.org)

To all those who have Women from your Church who have gone to their final Home, we would like to recognize them in the ROSE Ceremony at Conference. Please send Barbara McKean ([mckean\\_b@msn.com](mailto:mckean_b@msn.com)) a note listing these wonderful women.

Please include:

Name, Church, Town, Region along with her activities in ABW and her Church. If available, include a picture, date of Birth and/or date of Death

With Great Love