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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.



2025 – 2027 New Ministry Theme

Building God's Community.

Focus Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:9

***“For we are co-workers, working together:
you are God's field, God's building.”***

The theme reminds us that we are called to be “cultivate spiritual soil, lay strong foundations, and build together for God's glory.” (ABW National website) We are to build one another up for the kingdom and glory of God by collaboration, working together for a common purpose; that of bringing all to Christ Jesus. Along with our new theme, there is a new devotional “Belonging” designed to guide individuals and groups in exploring what it means to truly belong to God, to one another, and to the work of building God's kingdom. To purchase the devotional, please go to the National ABW website

<https://abwomensministries.org/building-gods-community-ministry-focus/>

Continued from front page

2025 – 2026 Mission Focus Belonging

God said that “we are all equally made in the divine perfect image” (Genesis 1:26-28) and we are ALL deeply loved by God. I experienced firsthand how we are all part of God’s community. In 2023, I went through radiation for breast cancer. The gentleman that was the patient right after me has become a very good friend as has his fiancé. We are attending his wedding in September. We are part of God’s community as we shared a common experience. I have also been reminded of how we are all in God’s community this past week, as my niece is in the hospital in Ireland. When a patient is having a test or procedure, they all gather around that patient’s bed, encourage them, tell them it will be okay, that they will be back to their room soon and “it will be grand”. I am sure we all have shared experiences like mine, so let us unite in commitment and call to Build God’s community in our neighborhood, churches, and GRR.

As Linda Barnes Popham, Pastor Fern Creek Baptist Church, KY says... *“We are not called to sit, soak, and soar, we are called to serve.”* Let us serve one another and BUILD GOD’S COMMUNITY.

Blessings,
Karen Dainty
GRR ABW President

Meet Your ABWM Executive Board & Area Presidents

President:	Karen Dainty (2027)
Secretary:	Marcia Wimmer (2026)
Treasurer:	Becky Jones (2028)
Coordinator of Communications:	Lori Hill (2027)
Coordinator of Student Aid:	Brandy Trussell (2027)
Coordinator of Special Project:	Paula Bender (2028)
Coordinator of Missions & Service:	Kathy Ogundipe (2028)
Coordinator of Young Adult Women:	Ashley Young (2026)
Coordinator of ABGIRLS	Linda Watson (2028)

Area Presidents

Area I	Pat Reed
Area II	Marcia Wimmer
Area III	TBA
Area IV	Linda Watson
Area V	TBA

The ABWM GRR Board welcomes Kathy Ogundipe as our new Missions & Service Coordinator.



Notes of Appreciation

Thank you to Nancy Johnson & Marilyn Koch for serving as Conference co-chairs the last few years. This requires many hours of work and planning. Nancy & Marilyn have made a wonderful team, bringing us great speakers and musical guests. Thank you for all your work.

We must also thank Marcia Wimmer who has served as conference registrar for the past few years. This on top of her many other responsibilities. We appreciate you!

Thank you to Pat Reed for serving as Missions & Service Coordinator. She has served so faithfully in keeping the women of the region informed of the work our global servants do and bringing them to conference. Pat also initiated the Global Servant Virtual Visit. Thank you very much.

Thank you to Joan Leitzen for serving as Area III President. Joan recently resigned as Area President. She served Area III and the ABWM Executive Board faithfully. She will be missed.

ABWM-GRR Officer Reports

Missions & Service

Pat Reed, Missions & Service Coordinator

Spotlight on Global Servant Spotlight - Brian and Lynette Smith



In 2018 Brian and Lynette and their two boys, Calen and Ricky were commissioned to Haiti. After being there a few months Brian became very sick and they had to return to the United States for hospitalization. In 2020, they were reassigned to Dominican Republic, where the schools were good for the boys. Here they began to build relationships with the local people. Brian began to train the people to study the soil and encouraged them to plant and fertilize crops. There were fires from use of oil lamps, so they were able to install electricity

for the students to study. As Brian said, "God gave him blessings that he could share". Ricky is now attending college and Calen returns to school in the DR. We were blessed to have them at the Great Rivers Region Annual Conference this July and pray for safe return to Dominican Republic.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

2025-2026 Special Project
Fox Valley Christian Action & Blackhawk Baptist Camp
GOAL - \$10,000
Paula Bender, Special Project Coordinator



\$5,000.00 - Fox Valley Christian Action (FVCA) in St. Charles, IL is committed to providing young children and teenagers from low income communities with opportunities to grow in their Christian walk all throughout the year. Over the past 48 years, God has allowed FVCA to minister to thousands of kids and families through their summer and school year programs. They accomplish this by providing children and teens the opportunity to attend summer camp at no-cost to their families. They also provide a weekly school year program for middle and high school students, which encourages teens in their Christian walk and helps them prepare for future career and college opportunities. The passion at FVCA is seeing lives transformed by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For more information see www.FVChristianAction.org

\$5,000.00 - Blackhawk Baptist Camp in Oregon, IL was established in 1959. It serves campers from Littles, infants to 5 years through seniors in high school. There are also events for Senior Adults and church groups. The original 66 year old lodge has a new name and purpose. It has been named the Peterson Lodge in honor of Rev. Drs Ruth and John Peterson, long time NIU Campus Ministers, Interim Ministers, and Camp Blackhawk Advocates! The Peterson Lodge will be our next renovation project. Plans are underway to replace all windows and doors, new steel roofing, remodel the bathrooms and more. The goal is to make The Peterson Lodge into an art, craft, and woodworking area for the campers. For more information see www.blackhawkcamp.org or pictures of the renovation on Facebook



2024-2025 Special Project
Mini Libraries for Talita Cumi Girls Clubs—Latin America

The final total received toward our 2024-2025 Special Project was \$13,505.51.
Thank you for supporting this vital ministry.

Student Aid Coordinator Brandy Trussell

Please pray for our 2025-2026 college students:

Recipient Name	Contact Info.
Josephine Marie Lohr Date of birth: May 5, 2005 Phone: 618-830-9818 Email: joeymlor@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: September 6, 2004 Phone: 618-534-3630 Email: ryanblaise@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 Home Address: 1224 Glenn Road Murphysboro, IL 62966
Sarah Good Date of Birth: August 22, 2003 Phone: (217) 314-9308 Email: sarahgood22@gmail.com	College/University: Judson University 1151 N State St, Elgin, IL 60123 Biblical Studies Place of Church Membership: Covenant Baptist Church in Michigan Current Attendance: First Baptist Church Elgin Home Address: 888 1750th St. Lincoln IL, 62656
Faith Roberts Date of Birth: December 21, 2005 Phone: 217-730-5348 Email: faroberts05@gmail.com	College/University: Illinois College 1101 West College Avenue Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 Nursing Place of Church Membership: Greenfield First Baptist Church
Brodie Reif Date of Birth: March 31, 2006 Phone: 217-473-4527 Email: brie8@gmail.com	College/University: Lincoln Land Community College 5250 Shepherd Road Springfield, IL 62703 Agribusiness Management Place of Church Membership: Greenfield First Baptist Church
Ian Lohr Date of Birth: ?? Phone: 618-946-4091 Email: ianilohr@gmail.com	College/University: Greenville University 315 E. College Ave. Greenville, IL 62246 Business and Marketing Place of Church Membership: Bethel Baptist Church Jerseyville, IL Home Address: 29541 Kane Rd. Jerseyville, IL 62052

Communications Coordinator Lori Hill

The Ripples newsletter is published quarterly with 2 additional special editions throughout the year. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically or prefer to receive by mail, please contact me at 816-455-0364 or lori.hill234@gmail.com.

Tentative Ripple publish dates are:

Fall Edition (Sept.-November) —September 1, 2025
 Christmas Edition—December 1, 2025
 Winter Edition (Jan.-March) - January 1, 2026
 Women's History Month Special Edition—March 1, 2026
 Spring Edition (April-June) - April 1, 2026
 Summer Edition (July) - July 1, 2026

Area President Reports

Area I—Pat Reed

September 13, 2025
Area I Annual Meeting
9:30am-2pm
Blackhawk Camp, Oregon, IL

Area II—Marcia Wimmer

September 16, 2025
Area II Board Meeting (Zoom)

October 14, 2025
Area II Rally
FBC Whitehall

Area III

There is not a Fall Rally
scheduled at this time

Area IV—Linda Watson

September 23, 2025
Area IV Board Meeting

September 27, 2025
Area IV Gathering
10am-4pm
First Baptist Church Centralia

Area V

Area V is looking for women to serve on it's board. Our goal 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
from your ABWM Board

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

Thanksgiving Word Search

A	C	G	B	T	S	R	O	Y	T	D	A	T	M
T	H	R	X	Y	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	S	N
H	G	A	H	T	U	M	O	U	Y	N	V	E	P
A	N	T	B	W	M	O	U	T	B	N	O	P	R
N	E	I	T	O	P	I	E	S	T	E	R	E	A
K	O	T	T	N	K	N	O	T	G	R	A	V	Y
S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	F	L	A	A	T	E
G	I	D	B	R	N	N	R	T	T	I	N	E	R
I	V	E	Y	E	R	T	A	P	P	L	E	S	S
V	S	U	T	N	R	W	V	I	I	O	P	T	O
I	V	F	A	M	I	L	Y	C	H	E	R	O	U
N	L	E	K	O	P	E	R	I	V	B	W	T	T
G	I	A	N	U	Y	A	W	A	S	L	L	T	U
L	M	S	A	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	O	R
E	A	T	W	Q	Y	E	U	A	T	S	U	M	K
F	D	A	L	L	E	S	R	C	A	S	R	E	E
T	P	M	I	F	A	L	T	T	H	I	S	T	Y
T	I	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	N	E	S	S
C	G	H	I	L	L	O	L	R	E	G	R	T	A
M	A	E	C	L	H	I	P	K	A	S	S	E	T
W	E	R	T	H	U	T	A	E	P	O	N	G	H
C	T	H	U	R	S	D	A	Y	B	M	P	O	K



Thanksgiving
Stuffing
Pilgrims
Gravy
November
Blessings
Turkeys

Feast
Family
Gratitude
Fall
Pumpkin
Dinner
Apples

Leaves
Pie
Thankfulness
Prayer
Thursday
Eat

ABWM NATIONAL NEWS

National Events

September 4 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EDT—What's Up ABWM?

Typically, What's UP ABWM is done by region, however, this particular gathering is for all regions of ABWM. All regions join us for updates from the national office.

Registration required to receive the link. To register, go to

www.abwomensministries.org

September 26-27, 2025—Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry Conference

Pre-Conference: Thursday, September 25th, 2025 Conference: Friday, September 26th thru 27th, 2025 Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland 140 Richmond Road Euclid, Ohio 44143

\$75

October 10 - October 12, 2025— 2025 Shalom Retreat

1183 10th Street Oakland, CA 94607 1183 10th Street, Oakland, CA, United States Women and Girls, the national office of AB Women will be on the West Coast! We are thrilled to announce our Shalom Retreat will be held from Friday October 10 - Sunday October 12, 2025, at the Beth Eden Family Life Center in Oakland, CA.

\$150

For more information and to register for events, go to: abwomensministries.org

<p><i>Count</i></p> <p>Count your blessings instead of your crosses Count your gains instead of your losses Count your joys instead of your woes Count your friends instead of your foes Count your smiles instead of your tears Count your courage instead of your fears Count your full years instead of your lean Count your kind deeds instead of your mean Count your health instead of your wealth Count on God instead of yourself</p> <p><i>Your Blessings</i></p>	<p><i>Count your Blessings</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.
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Dates to Remember

2025

September 1, 2025	Labor Day
September 4, 2025	What's Up ABWM (Zoom)
September 13, 2025	Area I Annual Meeting - 9:30am-2pm Blackhawk Camp, Oregon, IL
September 16, 2025	Area II Board Meeting (Zoom)
September 23, 2025	Area IV Board Meeting
September 26, 2025	Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry Conference—Euclid, Ohio
September 27, 2025	Area IV Gathering 10am-4pm—First Baptist Church Centralia
October 10-12, 2025	2025 Shalom Retreat Oakland, CA
October 13, 2025	Columbus Day
October 14, 2025	Area II Rally—FBC Whitehall
November 7-9, 2025	GRR Youth Gathering—First Baptist Church, Bloomington, IL
November 11, 2025	Veterans Day
November 26, 2025	Thanksgiving
December 24, 2025	Christmas Eve
December 25, 2025	Christmas

2026

February 22, 2026	Global Servants Virtual Visit
April 25, 2026	Area I Spring Spiritual Feast
July 28-31, 2026	IM World Mission Conference—Orlando, FL

2027

June 10-13, 2027	2027 Biennial Mission Summit Rochester, New York
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Next Publication: December 1, 2025

If you have any questions regarding this publication or would like to be on our mailing list, please contact Lori Hill at 816-455-0364 or lori.hill234@gmail.com.

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

Colossians 4:2