

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

Dates of Interest:

- Oct. 7, Area IV Fall Rally
- Oct. 17, Area II Fall Rally
- Oct. 21, Area III Fall Rally
- Oct. 28, Area I Fall Rally
- Nov. 3, CWU World Community Day
- Nov. 6, Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- Dec. 10, CWU Human Rights Celebration
- Additional dates can be found on **ABW-GRR** website: www.grrabwministries.org/

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Ripples Fall 2017

Lori Hill, President

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer. Conference is over and the fall rallies are at our doorsteps. As I reflect on the summer activities, my first thought is of conference. I want to thank Karen Standerfer and Shirley Rogers for all their work on the 2017 ABW-GRR conference. I also must thank Doris Kaisner for being our conference registrar for 20 years. I had the honor of recognizing her during our conference. For those of us whom served as conference co-chairs, we know how much work and dedication she poured into being our registrar. She trained us, assisted us, was our "go to" person on everything and quickly became our friend. What a treasure the Great Rivers Region has had in Doris! Thank you Doris!

The board met in August and started the planning of conference 2018. I am happy to share with you that the 2018 conference will be held June 8-

10, 2018, at the Northfield Inn, Suites and Conference Center in Springfield, IL. Please mark your calendar now. Save the Date cards will be available at the fall rallies and at the Great Rivers Region Annual Assembly in September. 2018 will mark our 50th year of "doing business". It will be a special conference and I hope you will do everything you can to join us. Our theme will be "Feel" and our scripture offered for study is Luke 8:43-48; Acts 17:27-28 and I Samuel 2:1-11; each scripture addressing a different type of feeling. We will be examining and studying this theme for the next 2 years.

Finally, I want to remind everyone in the region that ABW GRR is sponsoring a mission trip to Deborah's House, Tijuana, Mexico, November 2-9, 2017. The cost is \$350.00 plus round trip airfare to San Diego. Your application and money need to be sent Becky Jones, RR#1 Box 102, Roodhouse, IL 62082 by September 15th. This is a

great opportunity at a nominal cost. I hope you will consider going. As you know, we adopted Deborah's House last year as our special project and this is your chance to see firsthand the work they are doing.

I hope to see you at the 50th Great Rivers Region Annual Assembly, September 29-30, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Saint Louis, Chesterfield, MO.

Blessings,
Lori



Becky Jones, Treasurer

I wanted to update and thank every member of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Great Rivers Region on reaching our goal on the 2016-2017 Special Project-Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico. The final total of this Special Project was \$15,768.81. It always looks like when conference time rolls around that we are not going to meet this goal and then, as has happened so many times, the funds just keep coming. American Baptist women have always displayed great determination and spirit for whatever the challenges may be.

I have concerns that my church will one day fall by the wayside as far as Mission giving is concerned. As in so many churches, the older, dedicated ladies are gone and with

no one left to take up the reins, where will our missions be?

Many who attend my church have come from other churches, which may not have missions challenges as the American Baptists have. It is up to me and those left to carry on this very important job to educate our congregations and keep them up to date on what the American Baptist Missions mean to all of us and to let them know the important work our missionaries are doing. I believe it is the important job for all of us American Baptist women to never give up and keep our great mission work alive!

Wishing all of you many blessings as you work in your churches for so many great American Baptist causes!

"As in so many churches, the older, dedicated ladies are gone and with no one left to take up the reins, where will our missions be?"

Peggy Dunn, Associate for White Cross

Note:
If you **haven't** yet received your White Cross packets, please contact Peggy!

peggyd09@yahoo.com

620 Hawthorne Lane
Liberty, MO 64068

And if haven't seen it yet, Kathy Niles (our IM Missionary and White Cross Coordinator serving in Congo) recently put out a journal detailing the arrival of White Cross materials; complete with pictures.

Visit the link below to check out her journal:

<https://www.internationalministries.org/read/65596-unpacking-white-cross>



Rolling bandages at June Conference, 2017.

Marcia Wimmer, Secretary

Godly Leadership Qualities

This last weekend the women of the GRR ABW Board came together at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. I look forward to these meetings with some anticipation but mainly with joy. It is always good to be among Christian sisters and to find out what is going on in the churches of our region. We learn about missionaries, our special project and what will be happening in the coming months to prepare for our Annual Conference – our 50th!

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Leadership – One life influencing another.

- Seek God's will before your personal desires or ambition – Matthew 6:33
- Seek God's direction – Proverbs 16:1
- Commit to the Lord, whatever you do – Proverbs 16:3
- Be modest not proud – Proverbs 16:5
- Be Humble – 1 Peter 5:6, Proverbs 16:18
- Be a Peacemaker, live at peace with the Lord and he will cause our enemies to make peace – Proverbs 16:7
- Be Fair & Just – Proverbs 16:8
- Serve Others – Matthew 23:11
- Walk by Faith – Hebrews 11:6
- Practice Patience – Romans 8:25
- Be Teachable – seek wisdom from others. Proverbs 4:7

- Consider the interest of others even above your own. Philippians 2:4
- Believe the impossible can happen. Luke 18:27
- Empower others to do what they can do. Ephesians 4:12

I share these because I often question myself as whether I should be holding an office or serving on a board or committee. A devotion I read said, that these are not just principles for leadership but also principles for life. If you are being asked to serve on a board or committee at your church or in your community, remember serve by following the principles established in God's word. Walk with him in faith and he will guide you. Influence a life by living out God's principles!

Blessings for a beautiful
Fall and Winter!

Sharon Farral, Area I President

Area I Spring Spiritual Feasts met April 1, 2017, at FBC Orion and April 8, 2017, at FBC Aurora. At both meetings guest speakers were from local Habitat for Humanity programs. As American Baptist Women we are challenged and blessed when we participate in meeting physical and spiritual needs in our communities.

Some of you know I have been "laid-up" for most of the last five months. All beginning with a broken ankle in March, severe reaction to pain medication, and most recently a total hysterectomy including removal of a cyst larger than a baseball. During this time I have been on the prayer list of

many friends and several churches. I am reminded of the sign at the entrance to the Baptist Leprosy Hospital in Burma. **WE TREAT, GOD HEALS.** I have great respect for the knowledge and dedication of our many doctors, nurses, physical therapists and caregivers. They are truly evidence of God's working through the hands of people. **All these treat...God heals.** I had two ankle surgeries including a plate and several screws. Yet, it was during my nine weeks of no weight bearing to all my ankle to heal and weeks of quiet as my body healed from more surgery that God did the healing.

2 Corinthians 1:11, ***"as you help us by your prayers then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."*** The Apostle Paul is telling us God's favor is granted in answer to the prayers of many. Do we realize how important prayer is? Our prayers allow us to participate in the miraculous healing power of God. We all know many who need our prayers. Please, become part of the healing ministry of God...continue to pray specifically for those who need your prayers.

Blessings, Sharon

Jean Bode, Associate for Student Aid

ABW-GRR Scholarship News:
Louisenie Deauguste graduated from Central Baptist Seminary August 29, 2017 with a Master in Divinity. She writes:

“I want to thank you (GRR ABW) for your generous scholarship. It has been a blessing to me for these past three years. It has lightened my financial burden which allowed me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. It definitely has made seminary less stressful. The classes at seminary have equipped me to be a better leader. I am currently applying for pastoral positions. I am also working on the ordination

process. Thank you again for your generosity and support. What you have done for me will have great impact on the future of the church and missions for years to come.”

Anna Loeppky graduated from Judson December 2016 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education and is currently working at a local high school

Michaela DeLong graduated from Judson in May 2017 with a degree in Music Business.

Emma Loeppky is a new scholarship recipient this school year (2017-2018). She is attending Judson and is working toward a degree in Business Management.

Nathanael DeLong is working toward a degree in Music Business at Judon.

Lauren Visser will graduate June 2018 from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Russell Zehr is continuing at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Matthew Briggs is continuing his educational path toward a degree in Communications at Judson.

We currently have five scholarship recipients to help support. We wish the graduates will in their respective journeys. Please encourage these students and keep them in your prayers.

Jean

“Thank you for your generosity and support. What you have done for me will have great impact on the future of the church and missions for years to come.”

Linda Watson, Area IV President

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16, NIV

Our Spring Rally was hosted by the ladies of Crainville Baptist Church on Saturday, April 22, 2017. There were 10 churches represented with 34 ladies and girls present.

Our guest speaker was Vivian May (Becky Stanton’s mother). She reported that Larry and Becky would be in Illinois for 6-8 weeks this summer. After lunch, several ladies rolled over 100 bandages for White Cross.

Our 49th Annual Gathering of Area IV churches was held

at Mattoon First Baptist Church on April 30, 2017. Dr. Molly Marshall was our speaker, Rev. Paul Gibson welcomed Area IV members, Rev. Muriel Johnson delivered the message, and Rev. Patty Bilyeu was introduced as our Area Minister for Area IV (and II). This was an excellent opportunity to visit with many church members in Area IV.

Our Area IV Board Meeting was held in March at Mt. Vernon FBC. Plans were finalized for the Fall Rally to be held at Highland FBC. We planned together.

Our Area IV ABW Ministries Fall Rally will be October 7th at First Baptist Church of Sullivan. There will be three churches involved with our fall rally.

Linda Jent, President of the Arthur ABW, Ardys Carpenter, President of the Mattoon FBC ABW, and Karen Standerfer, President of the Sullivan FBC ABW have planned an exciting day of events. Jon and Amanda Good will be our missionary speakers. The theme for the rally is: *He is the Light of the World.*

Blessings,
Linda Watson

Sue Wallick, Assoc. Love Gift/Special Project

Our 2017-2018 special project is Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, OK (<http://www.murrowindianchildrenshome.org>).

Since 1902, when two Indian tribes donated land for an orphanage, Murrow Indian Children's Home has provided loving care for hundreds of Native American children. Ministries include residential care, and day care for children of teen mothers who are in high school and attend parenting classes.

A gift of \$15,732 will allow for Murrow to purchase four new 25.2 cu. ft. refrigerators for the cottages. The current refrigerators are old with loose seals. Each new refrigerator costs \$999.90. In addition, funds would be used to replace and relocate three of the six hot water heaters. The cost of each hot water heater is \$440.90 and the cost to relocate them is \$1,815.25 each. Three of the hot water heaters are over 30 years old and relocating them would allow for more efficient use of space. The remaining funds would be used to purchase a commercial freezer at \$5,000 to store commodities and donated meat until it is sent to the cottages.

Please keep Murrow and the children they serve in your prayers, and prayerfully give what you can to help raise support for a worthy and much-needed ministry.



at church

Providing cultural experiences



House-parent teaching vital life skills



“Investing in these students’ futures is an investment in all of our futures.”

Pat Reed, Mission & Service Coordinator

Life is full of changes. God always provides new leaders where He wants them. That said, there has been a change at the Peoria Friendship House in Peoria, IL. The new Interim CEO/President is Sandy Arreguin. She is a longtime veteran of Peoria Friendship House. Originally from Chicago, she found her home in Peoria 20 years ago. She obtained her degrees from Bradley University and carries a wealth of knowledge and well-rounded experience as she steers this 66-year old Neighborhood Action Program in its mission.

Driven by her passion to improve people’s lives and her faith to serve, Sandy

works tirelessly to enhance sustainability throughout the many initiatives that are carried out at Peoria Friendship House that work to instill hope and guidance towards self-sufficiency/transformation in people’s lives; youth and adults alike. She says “With the great Lord’s hand bestowed upon me, hope and opportunities led me to a different path. Peoria Friendship House is that opportunity and hope, it is that guidance, that support, that bridge from crisis to success.” Sandy’s life philosophy with a smile and a good cup of coffee “Morning is God’s way of saying one more time, go make a differ-

ence, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day”.

Mark your calendars – Rev. Dr. Jon Good and Amanda will cover some of Illinois speaking at 3 of Great Rivers Region ABW Ministries fall rallies. Saturday, October 7 Area 4 in Sullivan, Tuesday, October 17 Area 2 in Decatur and Saturday, October 21 Area 3 in Mahamet. For more details, contact me or the area president.

Blessings,
Pat

Cana Roth, Assoc. for Communications

As you may have read in some of the other articles, this year is a big year for our region's ABWM. We are celebrating 50 years of ministry! How exciting is that?

But wait, there’s more... this coming June (2018) we will also celebrate our 50th annual business meeting! That may not sound as exciting, but the whole conference will be one big half-a-century of ministry celebration.

So, mark your calendars now for our 50-year celebration ABW-GRR conference, **June 8-10, 2018** at the Northfield Inn and Suites in Springfield, IL.

Start saving money now, consider sponsoring a woman or girl to go to conference,

and maybe clean the dust off some old pictures and memorabilia to share as we celebrate 50-years of amazing ministry in the name of Jesus. It’s all to God’s glory!



Barbara McKean, Coordinator of Church & Community

Greetings,

It certainly was an interesting summer with the August 21 solar eclipse as a highlight.

In this Ripple articles I would like to provide an overview of Church and Community Ministries that being **Relationships, Community Outreach and the Faith Community.**

Worship - September 17 is AB Women's Sunday! Be a witness to your congregation on Sunday, September 17, (or a Sunday that is convenient for your church) and let them know the amazing things that happen because of American Baptist Women's Ministries. A bulletin insert is available at abwministries.org that you can download, print, and photocopy.

AB GIRLS – Over the year encourage girls to grow in leadership skills, knowledge, and heart. You can contribute to the Women and Girls Mission Fund.

Pastor and family - Let your pastor know what your group is doing and remember to support his/her family too.

American Baptist Family – Encourage attendance at the Great Rivers Region Annual Assembly on September 29 and 30 in Chesterfield, Missouri and at Area events.

Ecumenical Involvement – Cooperate with other denominations in community events. Women meet together for World Day of Prayer on the first Friday of March. Baptist women meet the first Monday in November for Baptist Women's day of Prayer which will be November 6, 2017.

Families – Christian Family week is usually observed in the month of May.

Laity and Clergy –By working together, we can more effectively build God's faith community.

Mission Focus: Economic Empowerment – I am taking the following from the ABW Ministries website. "To empower a woman is to empower a family. To empower a family is to empower a community. To empower a community is to empower a nation Studies have shown that the economic empow-

erment of women has been proven to have a crucial impact that extends for generations. American Baptist Women's Ministries is directly involved in the economic empowerment of women through grants to organizations and microloans to individuals, allowing women to support themselves, their families, and their communities. The church and community has an opportunity to be involved in the 2017-2018 mission focus of "Homelessness in the United States and Puerto Rico".

Below: Pictures from June

Conference, 2017.

Courtesy of Linda Watson!



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.

For more information

go to:

www.grrabwministries.org

American Baptist

Women's

MINISTRIES

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.