

# Ripples Fall 2018

## Dates of Interest:

- Sept. 15, Area V Fall Rally East
- Sept. 22, Area V Fall Rally West
- Sept. 28-29, Rivers Growth Conference
- Oct. 6, Area IV Fall Rally
- Oct. 16, Area II Fall Rally
- Oct. 20, Area III Fall Rally
- Oct. 27, Area I Fall Rally
- Additional dates can be found on ABW-GRR web-site:  
[www.grrabwministries.org/](http://www.grrabwministries.org/)

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## Sharon Farral President

I have just returned from my 22<sup>nd</sup> summer serving as a volunteer at Green Lake Conference Center. Every day there is a blessing as we visit and serve with our American Baptist brothers and sisters and the many in our larger family of Believers. Now I am taking on a new role as your GRR ABWM president: a role God truly has been preparing me for throughout the years. My prayer is that as sisters in Christ we will reach out with compassion, serving others that God may be glorified. ***"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*** Matthew 5:16

We are familiar with WWJD – What Would Jesus Do, a challenge which has been around for many years. Here is a new twist. WWJHMD – What Would Jesus Have Me Do? This calls us to make a conscious decision to love our neighbors as ourselves. What does this look like?

Everyone needs HOPE. How do we provide HOPE? What is the need at my door, your door?

LOOK! SEE! DO!

A. What would JESUS have me do? Love our neighbors as ourselves

B. By putting love into action where we are

C. See a need...make a difference

### Some things to do...

**VITAL PARTNERS** give regularly, \$10 per month or more, to National Support for the continuation of our ABWM national staff and administration. This is essential to continue our organization to the next generation. If you have not yet become a Vital Partner please consider doing this.

**Bible studies** are currently available on Facebook and prepared by our Young Adult Women's Ministry. A way to 'connect' with one another and feast on God's Word!

### Roadmap to Recon-

**ciliation** by Brenda Slater McNeil is suggested reading by our national ABWM board. A good book to read and then participate in group discussion.

**ABWM and Women in Ministry Conference** at Green Lake Conference Center summer of 2020. Plan to attend! Watch for dates and more details.

**Pray**, support, invite, correspond with our International Missionaries, ABHMS sites and projects. God hears our prayers and moves in powerful ways.

**Speaker or coffee time:** If you would like me to speak to your group about ABWM, preach, share mission tours I have taken to several countries, or visit over coffee let me know at [sharonfarral5@aol.com](mailto:sharonfarral5@aol.com)

*May your day be blessed  
May you walk with God  
May you find joy  
And end your day in peace.*

Blessings,  
Sharon Farral

## *Pictures from June Conference, 2018.*

*Courtesy of Linda Watson!*



*Live quilt auction*



*"Paint Like Me" workshop*



*Rev. Muriel Johnson and AB  
Girls serving communion*



*Betty Martin, Exec. Director  
of Murrow Indian Children's  
Home, speaks to the women*

*"It's a real life*

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## **Pat Reed, Mission & Service Coordinator**

Have you read the book "The Extraordinary Story of Ann Hasseltine Judson. A Life beyond Boundaries" by Rosalie Hall Hunt? It's a must read for the story of how missionary ministries began.

Adoniram and Ann sailed off in 1812 from Massachusetts, landed in India and went on to Burma, arriving in 1813. The story describes the emotional side of Ann, her strength and endurance of hardships, of losing 3 children, of comforting her husband through his nearly 2 years of horrifying imprisonment, of working with women and children, teaching and

preaching to the Burmese people. She became a woman of spiritual depth with excellent translation skills. It's a real life narrative with pain, excitement, suspense, turbulence, and tragedy, leaving a legacy that is still alive nearly 200 years later.

Blessings,  
Pat Reed

## Barbara McKean, Coordinator of Church & Community

Greetings,

It certainly was an interesting summer. In this Ripple articles I would like to review the Church and Community Ministries which includes **Relationships, Community Outreach and the Faith Community.**

**Worship-** September 16 is AB Women's Sunday! Be a witness to your congregation on Sunday, September 16, (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 that you can download, print, and photocopy.

**AB GIRLS – Over** the year encourage girls to come to the retreat in 2019.

**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 28 and 29 in Bloomington, Illinois and at Area events. Plan to attend the National ABC Women's Day, June 21, 2019 which will be held on the day before the ABC Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**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 November 5, 2018 (the first Monday in November) for Baptist Women's day of Prayer.

**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. The church and community has an

opportunity to be involved in the 2018-2019 mission focus of "Domestic Violence". Domestic violence crosses all socio-economic and racial barriers. What a powerful place of safety, healing, and recover a women's ministry and a congregation could be for those experiencing or having experienced domestic violence.

*"...to bring good news to the poor...proclaim release to the captives... let the oppressed go free..."*  
Luke 4:18-19

Barbara McKean

For more information go to:  
[www.grrabwministries.org](http://www.grrabwministries.org)

## Joan Leitzen, Area III President

Empowerment for Women

Do you remember the movie "Help"? The maid of this family had to look after the young daughter and how she held her as a precious child as one of her own. Many a times you hears her say to this young child, "You is kind, you is smart and you is important."

Do you have this kind of love to tell our young women how important they are in God's eyes? Looking through scripture I found a few verses that may be empowering for you to memorize or keep in mind when opportunity presents itself to you and others.

**1 Timothy 3:11** "Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things."

**Proverbs 14:1** "The wise women builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands"

**Luke 1:45** "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**Psalms 73:26** "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the of my heart and my portion forever."

**Joshua 1:9** "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Jeremiah 20:11** "But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed."

**Isaiah 40:31** "but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Joan Leitzen

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*"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."*

## Judy DeRolf, Area I President

### Area I ABWM Fall Gathering

**Date:** Saturday, October 27, 2018

**Church:** LaMoille Baptist Church, LaMoille, IL

**Time:** 9:30 am - 2 pm (9 am coffee and treats)



We are planning an exciting Fall Gathering in Area 1 this year. Deliris Carrion-Joseph, director of Deborah's House, will be the speaker

for our program. Several of our women did a mission trip to Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico last year and experienced God working through Deliris and her husband. Those of us who went to Tijuana are very excited to have Deliris share about the wonderful work she does with the children and mothers seeking help at Deborah House.

There will also be a concert with Michaela and Nathanael DeLong, Sally Peck scholarship recipients, performing for us. Michaela graduated from Judson two years ago and will be teaching pre-school this fall and Nathanael is still studying at

Judson but is willing to perform with his sister at our fall gathering.

The LaMoille Church women will provide coffee, tea, and breakfast snacks before the meeting begins for people arriving early. There will be a salad luncheon at noon and each church can bring either a salad or a dessert to share.

Please bring shower gifts for the students at the Baptist House at NIU.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone on October 27th at the LaMoille Church.

## Linda Watson, Area IV President

"Where there's a will, there's a way!" I sometimes refer to myself as a pragmatic idealist. I recall my first year as a teacher in Fall 1963 when the only physical education equipment consisted of 24 hockey sticks, half a dozen bows and broken arrows, and a huge deflated cage ball. Fast forward to the early 70's when I became an elementary physical education specialist, and the principal responded with one question: "What equipment room?" Teachers know how to improvise and make many decisions on the spur of the moment. We love our profession, we teach from the heart, and we find strength to face many daunting situations.

However, Luke 13:23-24 reminds us that we cannot enter the kingdom of God by working hard or doing good deeds. As Jesus journeyed the villages, He taught His followers and disciples with many parables (lessons). Jesus also faced many obstacles. During July, our Sunday school class studied these parables from the books of Matthew and Luke. I felt God was reminding me: 1. Earnest prayer comes when I realize my needs and dependence on God. Unanswered prayer is sometimes the problem with my patience. 2. It is *Thy Will* not *mine*. 3. I must constantly grow toward my faith. 4. The Word of God contains everything I need to know about God's grace and

salvation. 5. Serving God precedes serving others. Do not neglect God's priorities - commandments, mercy, love, and faith.

I am looking forward to our events this fall. I hope to see everyone at our Area IV Fall Rally at Greenville First Baptist Church in Greenville, IL on Saturday, October 6, 2018. Veronica Ross and her ladies have planned a wonderful day of events with a missionary speaker during the morning session. Brandy Trussell will have exciting activities for our AB Girls.

Please visit the Area IV News page on our church website: [www.fbc61951.org](http://www.fbc61951.org).



## Sue Wallick, Assoc. Love Gift/Special Project

Love Gift has been an arm of ABWM since 1931! It continues to help many through International Ministries. These funds are distributed throughout the world. Love Gift supplies (flyers, boxes, and envelopes) are available through Valley Forge. They are free except for shipping. Let's all promote Love Gift!

Our special project for this year is North East Christian University (NECU) in North East India. Our goal is: \$15,000.

NECU is the combined vision of 7,000 Baptist churches in North East India. Special attention will be given to educationally underdeveloped communities and marginalized groups like women, physically challenged, and socially discriminated individuals.

NECU will be a career oriented university with the enduring qualities of a liberal arts education and Christian values. The university provides a witness for Christ in the midst of Hindu, Buddhist, Communist, and Muslim religions. It has a wide variety of areas of study.

NECU's mission is to provide a wholesome education that is global in perspective and Christian in character. This is a great project for GRR!



*Above: Temporary location which will later be rented to provide revenue for the school.*

*Below: Jungle area, 247 acres on which University will be constructed.*



## Cana Roth, Assoc. for Communications

I came across this meme on Facebook. It's message was a great reminder for all of us, so I decided to share it with you:

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you, making you spill your coffee everywhere. Why did you spill the coffee? You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. The point is whatever is inside the cup, is what will spill out. Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which will happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled. So, we have to ask ourselves, "What's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills out? Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility? Or does anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions come out? You choose! Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, kindness, gentleness and love for others.

Although this cute story doesn't mention God explicitly, God is nonetheless in it. Throughout Scripture we are reminded of the truth that whatever is in our hearts is what pours out of us in times of trouble and peace (but usually more clearly in times of trouble).

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

In Mark 7, Jesus is questioned by a group of Phari-

sees who see that Jesus' disciples were eating without first washing their hands. Their questioning had nothing to do with hygiene, but rather religious tradition. The Pharisees believed Jesus' disciples were defiling themselves, but Jesus reminded them that it was not the outward stuff that was important, but what was on the inside.

Jesus said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's

heart, that evil thoughts come..." (Mark 7:20-21).

We need to fill our hearts (our cups) with the Holy Spirit and all the good things that go along with Him.

Philippians 4:8 says: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

# Student Aid Update

We have a new Associate for Student Aid for the region: Paul Costanza. Welcome, Paula!

Speaking of student aid, here are some updates from our students:

**Lauren Visser** - Graduated June 9, 2018 with a doctoral from Northern Baptist Seminary. Congratulations, Lauren!

**Nathanael DeLong** - (via Mike, his dad) Nathanael will be pleased to hear that the money has been sent to Judson for the scholarship. He is very appreciative. I would have had Nathanael reply to you, but he is counseling at Blackhawk Baptist camp in Oregon 3 weeks and is hard to reach at the moment. He spent the summer down in Nashville, TN doing a music business internship. He was working for the "Annie Moses Band" doing marketing and whatever else they needed. He made a lot of good contacts and hopes to move down to Nashville after he graduates next spring. Our family went down the last week of June and spent some time with him and had a great time. If anyone would like to send Nathanael a note of encouragement in the upcoming school year, his email address is [nathanaeldelong@gmail.com](mailto:nathanaeldelong@gmail.com). Thanks again for all that the ABW have done for my children. You have been a real blessing!

**Matt Briggs** - Matthew was hurt the end of last year and has had major knee surgery that has taken all of his summer "fun" time, but he is ready to go back to school. Recovery time will take him all year, so prayers are appreciated for stamina through this.

(From Matt's Dad) Thank you for your continued support of Matthew, the doctor gave him the go ahead to bear 25% weight on his knee after 6 weeks of nothing, so prayers that he continues to heal and has full recovery. He is nervous about starting back with a knee brace, crutches, and a few hills on campus. We appreciate the ABW's faithfulness toward this scholarship; it has truly been a blessing to our entire family.

**Casey Pitchford** - I got back from Israel on June 30th. I was there for about 3 weeks as a part of a trip/class at Jerusalem University College that Northern sends interested students to every summer. We covered most of the country and it was a great trip. Other than that I took an intensive course (Jesus and the Gospels) from July 9-13 and after that I went to stay with my parents in Marissa. I have another intensive course (Conflict Management) from August 6-10. Thank you for your support!

**Kamryn Malenius** - Thank you so much for all of your work and help in this process. To give you a bit of an update, I will be a junior this year at

Judson University, majoring in Graphic Design and minoring in Photography. I truly feel that this is what God wants me to do with my life, and I'm loving every minute of it. I have been able to learn and grow so much in my craft through classes, assignments, and hands on experience. I'm grateful to be at Judson as it has given me a place to cultivate my relationship with the Lord and others. I am a part of the Judson University Choir, and recently did a tour around Europe with pianist Huntley Brown. It was a wonderful time where we got to worship with people and lavish in the goodness of the Lord. I also have a job on campus as a Student Ambassador. This means that I work with the Admissions Office to recruit potential students.

Overall this season in my life has been very good and the Lord continues to show me his love and faithfulness. That goes to say I still struggle with anxiety and other mental health issues, but I know the Lord has me in his hands. Prayer for this aspect of my life is always welcomed and appreciated. A special prayer request for my mom would also be appreciated. She has been going through many trials lately and it does take its toll on the body and spirit. However, she still remains positive and roots herself in the promise that all things work together for good. Thank you again and blessings!

*"We appreciate  
the ABW's  
faithfulness  
toward this  
scholarship; it has  
truly been a  
blessing to our  
entire family."*



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](http://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.*