

American Baptist
Women
of the
Great Rivers Region
American Baptist
Churches

Dates of Interest:

- June 2-4, ABW GRR Region Conference
- June 30, Women's Day @ Missions Summit
- Sept. 17, ABW Sunday
- Sept. 23, Area V Fall Rally East
- Sept. 30, Area V Fall Rally West
- Oct. 7, Area IV Fall Rally
- Oct. 17, Area II Fall Rally
- Oct. 21, Area III Fall Rally

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Ripples Spring 2017

Lori Hill, President

What The World Needs Now is Love...

*What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No, not just for some, oh, but just for everyone*

I am sure you have heard the song, "What the World Needs Now is Love". It was made famous by Dionne Warwick in 1966. As I watch the news, listen to the radio, follow Facebook, or scan the internet, it seems like we only hear negativity and hatred. While this disturbs me greatly, I have come to see

it as the perfect time for Christians to show the world His love and to be "Loud for the Lord"!!!! He has given us this opportunity to reach a hurting world.

How do we do that? Sometimes it's the little things you do or little changes you make. For me, I have reduced reading all the negativity on Facebook and I have switched my radio station to a Christian radio station. A simple change in music has introduced me to daily inspirational stories. It has led me to a website called www.1millionstories.org, which you can find testimonies and inspiration.

We know that Jesus faced difficult times and he

responded every time in love. We should do likewise. So my invitation to each of you is to go out and share His love to a world that so desperately needs it.

Romans 12:10
*Be devoted to **one another** in love. Honor **one another** above yourselves.*

John 13:35
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another**."

1 Peter 3:8
Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, **love one another**, be compassionate and humble.

A Note on Conference

It is that time of year - Conference - it is just ahead.

As it was last year, please be aware that a "Brunch" is planned at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

For those of us early birds...**BE SURE** to bring a quick snack to hold you over until brunch.

Pat Reed, Mission & Service Coordinator

Here is an update of American Baptist Home Missions assigned to the Great Rivers Region.

The Bethel Neighborhood Center of Kansas City, KS has a matching program to be completed by the end of April 2017. There is a grant of \$25,000 to provide for 2 staff positions currently held by former Bethel Kids, who grew up in the ministry and are now working in the ministry. They need another \$10,000 to meet their goal.

Peoria Friendship House in Peoria IL will conduct a fundraising event on June 10, 2017 entitled "Over the Edge". Participants who raise or

commit to a minimum of \$1000 will receive the once-in-a-lifetime experience to rappel down one of the tallest buildings in Peoria located at the Associate Bank Plaza. No prior rappelling experience is required, so if you are so inclined, why not try it? You must be at least 18 years old and between 110-300 pounds. For more information, check their Edger Information Page. www.peoriafriendshiphouse.org

Rankin Christian Center of Rankin, PA. Erin Brennan has won the 2017 After School Champion Award from the PA Statewide Afterschool/ Youth Development Network. She began working at RCC in 2014 and is now the Youth Program Director.

She is committed to contribute to the healthy, successful development of young people, as well as increasing parent engagement with meetings, parent packets, and communicates by Remind App with the parents. She has worked to build meaningful Community Partners who provide quality opportunities to the area youth in literacy, health and wellness, physical activity as well as social and emotional aspects. Her motto is "you are the best, and we expect the best."

www.rankinchristiancenter.org

Check their websites for more information.

Blessings,
Pat Reed

"Erin Brennan...has worked to build meaningful Community Partners who provide quality opportunities to the area youth in literacy, health and wellness, physical activity as well as social and emotional aspects. Her motto is 'you are the best, and we expect the best.'"

Stephany Smith, Associate for White Cross

This is an update of your region's October 2016-September 2017 White Cross giving.

GRR 10-12/2016

General White Cross	500.00
Congo Shipping	42.75
Dominican Rep. Kits	190.00
Haiti	600.00
India	450.00
Philippines Chr. Cntrs.	298.00
Uganda	135.00
Total	2215.75

Last year at this time, our gift contributions were \$50,912.99 As of December 31, 2016, the total amount is \$51,136.26.

To give online please go to: www.internationalministries.org/white_cross_projects.

For further information please go to: www.internationalministries.org, scroll down to the "GET INVOLVED" column and select "White Cross." This will open the White Cross website: or go to www.abc-whitecross.org.

These websites will give you all the information concerning White Cross and how your gifts are being used by our missionaries and partners.

Thank you for all you are doing in promoting White Cross. Please let the women know through your ways of communications the gifts they are giving. I know they are and will continue to do their best in providing those funds for our global servants and partners.

Blessings and Peace.

Marcia Wimmer, Secretary



TROLLS – you are thinking what do they have to do with American Baptist Women?!?

It is a children's movie that has a lot of good music, dancing, and happiness in it. It makes you want to sing, dance, and smile. My grandchildren love the movie especially my four old Nina.

The main theme is "Happiness Comes From Within". The Bergen's (the bad guys) think the only way to happiness is to eat a TROLL, but

POPPY the little pink optimistic and hopeful Troll won't give up, she wants to teach the Bergen's how to find happiness.

As I thought about this movie, I thought my true happiness from within - it is the LOVE of JESUS CHRIST in my heart. A happiness that I am free to share with everyone. Is there fear in sharing that love – yes? Are there times when happiness seems far off or even impossible – yes? When those times happen there is usually someone that will step up and share God's love – a hug, a beautiful, thoughtful note or card arrives in the mail, or a simple little visit will once again start to restore God's love and grace in our hearts.

Are you sharing God's Love and Grace to family, friends, your neigh-

bors, children, a friend under going cancer treatment, shut ins, a community suffering loss, and our country? First we need to see and know of the need, then pray about what God wants us to do, and then ACT. God will help us to see and the Spirit will open our eyes and hearts to the needs and prepare the hearts of those that are to receive our love.

As my grandchildren left for school one morning Simi (age7) was having a bad morning and little Nina gave her a hug and said, "Remember Simi happiness comes from within – have a good day and remember I love you". Sharing God's love and grace can make a difference not only to the receiver but also to the person doing the sharing! Share, be loved, and be happy!

SEE YOU AT CONFERENCE!

Becky Jones, Treasurer

I wanted to share with you an important event in the life of my church, First Baptist Church, White Hall, IL.

This past October (2016), our church celebrated the 190th anniversary of its founding. As you can imagine this was a big deal in our little community of White Hall. Who could imagine that some of the first pioneers to settle in Greene County Illinois would form a church that is still going strong in the 21st century!

On October 7, 1826, the church was organized by Elder David Chance on Henderson Creek in Greene County Illinois. The church was first known as "Baptized Church of Christ, Friends to Humanity."

In 1826, the frame of the church along South Main Street was built and the church itself was dedicated in 1839. Stephen Douglas debated

Democratic candidate D.M. Woodson in the church in 1844.

A modern church building was built in 1889 and dedicated in 1891. In 1922, the name of the church was changed to the First Baptist Church of White Hall.

I started going to the First Baptist Church in White Hall as a little girl in the Kindergarten Department. I was baptized in 1956 at the age of 11 years old. I can still remember as a young girl hearing about mission support from the ladies of the church. Our mission group was and still is called the Inez Green Mission Society. Back then there were many ladies in this group and worked hard for all American Baptist Missions.

Today our mission group is pretty small but we all still try to support American Baptist missions as best we can.

I feel very fortunate that I find myself more involved in our mission group and being able to contribute whatever help I can to the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Great Rivers Region.

Linda Watson, Area IV President

As we look forward, we will continue to be in prayer for our Area IV churches, our scholarship recipients, our three missionaries assigned to Area IV, our White Cross Projects, and our Special Project-Deborah House. We are blessed that Crainville Baptist Church of Cartersville, IL will host the Area IV Spring Rally on Saturday, April 22, 2017.

(Ideas Shared at our 2016 Fall Rally)

Ways we can be more visible in our communities:

1. Design a simple, reusable float for local parades
2. Have a booth to advertise your church at local events, spring through fall, with inexpensive give-aways like bottles of water or pop-sicles
3. Take advantage of local newspapers that offer to print articles for non-for-profits free of charge
4. Put up yard signs around town to advertise VBS or special Christmas events (We got 25 of them for about \$200, and if you save the metal frames, they're even cheaper)
5. Conduct bake sales in high-traffic areas (in front of grocery stores, etc.)
6. Have the youth conduct a car wash to advertise your church. Offer free washes to sen-

ior citizens or handicapped

7. Organize a "community work day" in spring or fall to help people get their yards and the outside of their homes in shape.

Social events:

1. Teas, vendor fair
2. Drive thru lunch
3. Super Bowl Sunday party
4. Pre-planned social visits among congregants (2 x 2 or 4 x 4 groups)
5. "The Great American Baptist Race" (contact Shirley Rogers for details)

For families with young kids:

1. Parents' Day (or Night) Out
2. Moms' event to prepare freezer meals for their busy families
3. Start youth events with a simple meal
4. Game nights
5. Movie nights

To Improve Sunday School:

1. Have some kind of pick-up plan in place, using a bus if possible
2. Serve breakfast
3. Get the adult members to assist in some way. Having them involved is essential

4. Quote: "Food brings people together!"

To improve the Worship Service:

1. Have peppier music. If you don't have a praise band, supplement with canned music from CD's or the internet. Offering at least half of the music as something more modern is the only way to attract many young people.

2. Start a puppet ministry for the children's worship message. There are many puppet scripts available free, online, or write your own. Puppets can be purchased for about \$20 each from Amazon.com or at various other venues, such as the St. Louis Zoo gift shop if you're looking for animal ones. Get the kids involved by letting them help write the scripts, or suggest ideas for them, and also to serve as puppeteers.

"Be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."

I Corinthians 15:58

Blessings,
Linda Watson, Area IV ABWM
President

Area IV Board (not pictured is Linda Watson, who was behind the camera).



Jean Bode, Student Aid

Some of you may not be familiar with our scholarship students, so I wanted to take a moment to share a few things about them with each of you.

ABW Scholarship recipients:

Lauren Visser is from Lombard, IL, and is attending Northern Baptist Seminary. She started receiving the ABW GRR scholarship in fall 2015. She works at the FBC in Oak Park. Both she and her husband are in seminary so money is tight. She tries to keep track of all expenses but the difficult ones to plan for are the books, health insurance, and gas. They are trying to live a debt-free life so that they can follow God's leading wherever that may be. Lauren works several jobs to cover expenses. Among those are: Minister of Youth & Young Adults, Freelance writer for a Christian radio program, Soccer Coach, and cleaning a private office monthly.

Russell Zehr is from Graymont, IL, and is attending Northern Baptist Seminary. He started receiving the ABW GRR scholarship in fall 2015. He works as a customer service representative for The Music Shoppe in Normal, IL. He plays professionally as a soloist and in various ensembles. His pastor is Rev. Patrick Embly at Graymont FBC.

Louisenie Desauguste is from Kansas City, MO., where she attends Central Baptist Seminary. She started receiving the ABW GRR

scholarship in fall of 2015. Her pastor is Stephen Jones at K. City FBC. She is involved in children's ministry where she teaches Sunday school class and sings in the choir. Initially she thought she wanted to be in the medical profession, but soon found that it was not a good fit for her.

Emma Loeppky lives in Elgin and will be attending Judson. She will be receiving ABW scholarship funds starting fall 2017. She plans to pursue a degree in Business Management. Her father and her grandfather are both pastors. Both of Emma's siblings are also in college so funds are spread thin.

Matthew Briggs, from Springfield, attends Cherry Hills Baptist Church. Matt will be a junior at Judson University. He is working toward a degree in communications. He plans to be a professional speaker and a spoken word poetry artist. He is involved with the production crew for chapel on campus and helps with set construction and lighting for two chapels per week. He is on the track and field team and participates in the shot-put and discus events.

Nathaniel DeLong, from Mendota, and attends Lamoille FBC. He is a sophomore at Judson University, studying Music Business. He wants to write songs for contemporary Christian artists. He plays bass and sings in the praise band at his church and has started a worship team that is an outreach to local nursing homes. In high school he was a 3-sport athlete annu-

ally and a regular performer on stage, in addition to being in the national honor society. He is a member of the golf team at Judson.

Michaela DeLong, from Mendota, attends Lamoille FBC. She will graduate May 2017 from Judson University, with a degree in Music Business with a minor in Worship Arts/Photography. She is planning to take on-line courses to additionally complete a teaching degree. She is on the praise team at her home church as well as on a chapel band team at Judson. She is a Bible School leader at Vacation Bible School and a member of Judson's chamber singer group. She gave a concert in December last year for the Holy Cross School in Mendota for the K-8 grades, which was described by a teacher as "an amazing demonstration of how faith gets us through life"... "she has a gift to write inspiring Christian Music."

Please feel free to drop any of them a card on their birthday, send an encouraging word, an email, and pray for them; stamps, gift cards, or small gift packages from supporters would also be appreciated. In order to be able to help them along their educational pathways, please give generously to student aid for these and others who are endeavoring to step out in faith to dedicate their lives to the Lord's work.

Blessings to you all,
From Jean Bode
GRR ABW Scholarship Associate

Sue Wallick, Assoc. for Love Gift/Special Project



One family receiving help



Projected classroom



Some residents of Deborah's House

Love Gift has been an arm of ABW since 1931. It continues to help many through International Ministries. The need is world wide. Use your creativity to find new ways to collect for Love Gift. (Love Gift flyers, boxes, and envelopes are available through Valley Forge. They are free except for shipping.)

We are now closing in on the completion of this year's project: Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico. We need to promote and give to meet our goal. The money will provide furniture for classrooms in the

new building.

Those coming to Deborah's house suffer from physical and mental abuse. They often come with children. The staff help everyone to get their lives back in order.

This outreach to the people of Mexico is great. Let's do our part in meeting our goal! This project will close at the ABW GRR Conference, June 2-4, 2017 in Effingham.

In Christ, Sue Wallick



Deborah's House living quarters



Children's play area

Cana Roth, Assoc. for Communications

One thing I've noticed about all the great work that ABW is doing is that there seems to be a lack of communication about all that work to the wider church and beyond.

For instance, how much do the general members of your church know about what your local mission circle is doing? My guess, not all that much.

There is one Sunday every September, which is recognized by the denomination as ABW Sunday. This special Sunday is a great opportunity for our local mission circles to share with our congregations about what it is ABW

does and has done throughout the year. In other words, it's an opportunity for testimony!

Never underestimate the importance of honest testimony to the power and work of Christ in our world!

Talk with you pastors and church leaders about making ABW Sunday a special day of testimony of God's work through ABW.

ABW Sunday 2017 is September 17th!

Grace and Peace,
Cana

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.

American Baptist

Women's

MINISTRIES

For more information

go to:

www.grrabwministries.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.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

NAME FOR NAME TAG

NAME /PHONE FOR EMERGENCY

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE

HEALTH PROBLEMS

LOCAL CHURCH/ GRR AREA

FIRST TIME ATTENDANCE

FULL TIME (2 NIGHTS & 3 MEALS)

\$185.00 for two persons to a room

\$175.00 for three persons to a room

\$170.00 for four or more to a room

\$275.00 for one person to a room

SATURDAY ONLY \$ 65

Begins at 8:30 am

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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WRITE CHECKS TO ABW Ministries GRR
& mail registration and check to:

Doris Kaisner

PO Box 233, Fairbury, IL 61739

dorisanm@mediacommb.net

Call Doris @ 815-692-2948

with questions

2016 - 2017

SPECIAL PROJECT

GOAL: \$15,000

DEBORAH'S HOUSE

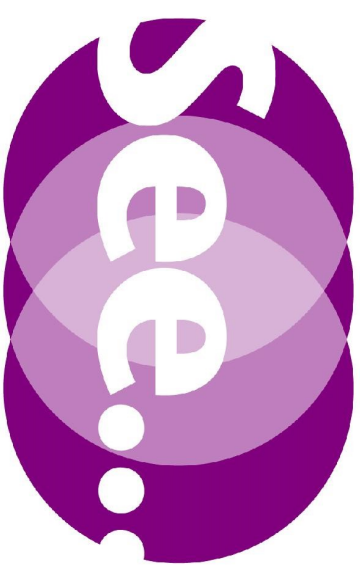
* Deborah's House is a recovery residence for abused women and children

* It was started and funded by American Baptist Churches USA.

* It has been in existence for ten years.

*Missionaires assigned to Deborah's House are Deliris Carrion-Joseph and Moises Joseph.

*The special project will be designated toward providing furniture for the classroom in the new building.



American Baptist
Women's Ministries
Great Rivers Region
Annual Conference

June 2-4, 2017

Keller Convention Center
Effingham, IL

"Now we see things
imperfectly, like puzzling
reflections in a mirror, but
then we will see everthing
with perfect clarity.* All
that I know now is partial
and incomplete, but then
I will know everything
completely, just as God
now knows me
completely."
1 Corinthians 13:12

“we will see everything with perfect clarity”

Enjoy workshops on...

First Timer's Tea

Missionary

Bible Art

Swim Aerobics

Roller Bandages

Clip Pin Art

Prayer

CONFERENCE LEADERS

Missionaries

Sharon Buttry

Bible Study Leader

Sarah Becker

Workshop Leaders

Sharon Buttry

Jean Tysdal

Marcia Wimmer

Sandra McKee

Cana Roth

Linda Watson

Saturday Night

Concert

by Praise Band
from Newton!!

This year the quilts will be available during a live Auction. Proceeds will benefit Special Project

We will also be having a silent auction so bring all your treasures you wish to sell!!

Resource Center...

Stop by and pick up your

ABW materials and

Resources

Registration deadline

May 26, 2017

Please let us know of any special dietary or sleeping needs you may have so we can accommodate them.

What you need...

Casual Clothing

Toiletries

Bible

Comfortable shoes

Camera

Sweater

Shopping money

Swimsuit

Registration begins Friday at 4pm. ABW Girls will be on hand from 4pm to 5pm to help ladies with their luggage.

Friday Night

Hymn Sing!!!!

For Friday evenings meal please enjoy one of the many restaurants surrounding the hotel.

Program begins at 6pm
Friday.