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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.

Karen Dainty, President

Our 2023-2025 ministry theme is BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courteous, be strong. Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14

In the Corinthians passage, Paul tells the Corinthians to be watchful or to stay on their guard, along with the command to stand firm in the faith. He is emphasizing his teaching in chapter 15 to keep their faith in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the resurrection of all who follow Him.

We, like the Corinthians, are being reminded to stand firm in our faith and in our mission to become and develop as God's people, build God's faith community, and serve God's world. We can and are doing just that in so many ways; by serving in our churches and communities.

One way to stand firm and be Courageous is to participate in or support the National ABW Ministries Walk-A-Thon. Some churches have held walk-a-thons, others have given special offerings, and others have held special days to walk around their church parking lot. The Walk-A-thon has been extended until the end of the year. More information on the Walk-A-Thon can be found on the National ABW Ministries website: abwomensministries.org

Another way to stand firm is to share and hear about what you are doing in your local AB Women's groups by filling out the Marks of an Active Group form. The form has been re-designed and will be available shortly on the GRR ABW Ministries website: [GRR ABW Ministries.org](http://GRRABWMinistries.org).

On a personal note, I would like to thank Nancy Johnson, Pat Reed, Barbara McKean, and Linda Watson for being Courageous and stepping up to fulfill my summer conference responsibilities while I was caring for my terminally ill mother. I can not thank them enough and I praise God for their willingness to be bold and step up to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Blessings
 Karen

Meet Your Board & Area Presidents

2024-2025 ABWM GRR Board

At the ABWM GRR Annual Conference in July, the following women were elected to serve on the board:

President:	Karen Dainty (2027)
Secretary:	Marcia Wimmer (2026)
Treasurer:	Becky Jones (2025)
Coordinator of Communications:	Lori Hill (2027)
Coordinator of Student Aid:	Brandy Trussell (2027)
Coordinator of Special Project:	Paula Bender (2025)
Coordinator of Missions & Service:	Pat Reed (2025)
Coordinator of Young Adult Women:	Ashley Young
Coordinator of Conference:	Nancy Johnson & Marilyn Koch (2025)

Area Presidents

Area I	Pat Reed
Area II	Marcia Wimmer
Area III	Joan Leitzen
Area IV	Linda Watson
Area V	Vacant

Please pray your board throughout the year.

The Pumpkin Prayer

Celebrate autumn with is simple prayer. Great teaching moments for kids as they carve their pumpkins.

Dear Jesus, As I carve my **pumpkin**, help me **pray** this **prayer**: Open my mind so that I can learn about You; (cut the top off the **pumpkin**) Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do. (clean out the inside) Open my eyes so Your love I will see; (cut eyes shaped like hearts) I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose at what You've given to me. (cut a nose in the shape of a cross) Open my ears so Your word I will hear; (cut ears shaped like a Bible) Open my mouth to tell others You're near. (cut the mouth in the shape of a fish) Let Your light shine in all I say and do! (place candle inside and light it)



ABWM-GRR Officer Reports



Treasurer's Report Becky Jones

Hello ladies of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Great Rivers Region: I wanted to give you an update of our current finances which I reported at our Fall Board Meeting, August 23rd at Springfield Baptist Camp. Here are the final totals of two important offerings:

2023/2024 Special Project (Blackhawk Baptist Camp)- \$11,650.00
Student Aid Scholarships for 5 college students- \$3605.60
(with the interest amount from our scholarship endowment added to the above total, we are able to give these 5 students \$500 each for the Fall and Spring Semesters).

The conference offerings received were:

Region Support - \$75.00
National Support - \$10.00
Student Aid - \$355.00
Special Project - \$1080.09
Women and Girl's Fund - \$50.00
Love Gift - \$80.00
Grand Total - \$1650.09

Thank you ladies for your continuing support of ABWM/GRR.

Missions & Service

Pat Reed, Missions & Service Coordinator

Spotlight on Jon and Amanda Good



Excitement hit the Goods as they traveled to Italy this summer after living at Judson University in Elgin, Illinois for a year during their deputation. Jon and Amanda and Andrew will be living in Florence, Italy. They visited the Christian Evangelical Baptist Union of Italy and then in Florence interviewed with the Italian Baptist Churches. They found joy and hope in the partnership. Their ministry will be discipleship, evangelism, church planting, and theological education. Andrew has been studying Italian and is ready to attend a good school in Florence. They ask that we pray for their visa to be issued in the US before October (that's when they have the appointment). They ask for prayers for support and financial gifts to make this ministry possible. I will miss them, as we were able to get together several times while they were here.

Sarah and Elizabeth attend Judson and Rachel and her husband are in Normal attending Illinois State University.

2023-2024 Special Project—Blackhawk Camp



The ABWM-GRR Board is proud to announce the women of the Great Rivers Region collected a total of \$11,650 for Blackhawk Camp.



Thank you to all of you. *(Pictured is Sharon Farral & Pat Reed presenting check to Blackhawk Camp).*

2024-2025 Special Project—Mini Libraries For Talita Cumi Girls Clubs

GOAL - \$15,000

Paula Bender, Special Project Coordinator

COVID had a devastating impact on the literacy rates of children in Latin America. When schools shut down children received little to no education. Mentors of the Talita



Cumi Girls Club realized that many girls had fallen one or two grade levels behind, while other girls couldn't read at all. Why create mini libraries? In many places, the majority of schools and families do not have the resources or training to help the girls improve their literacy rates. The need is urgent as there are a number

of clubs whose girls are already halfway through the two-year program, and more clubs began in the summer of 2023. We believe that with some literacy training, the provision of specific education materials, and the creation of mini libraries, the girls' literacy rates will improve, which increases their chances of leading a fruitful life. Long-term, these mini libraries will be used for years to come as the TCGC expands and new girls join the clubs. This project will provide 3,800 Spanish books of various reading levels at 50 Talita Cumi Girls Clubs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua. The goal of this project is to create 50 mini libraries in Latin America that will improve the literacy skills of girls in the Talita Cumi Girls Clubs and the chance for a better future. This project seeks to raise \$6,452 annually in order to create mini libraries with 3,800 Spanish books of various reading levels.

Conference Coordinators

Nancy Johnson, Marilyn Koch & Ashley Young (AB Young Adult Women)

It's time to plan the for next year's 2025 Conference. It is planned for July 25-27, 2025 at Lake Williamson. We are going back to Reconnect with a retreat of Fresh air and activities for all. Our AB Women, AB Young Women, and ABG.I.R.L.S will be meeting with Lots to do. First of for all...Friday evening, we will have "Thes Lesters" in concert. They are a Family group out of the St Louis Area. Awesome Talent Google "The Lesters" and read about them, you can also listen to some of their music. Old and new songs you will love. They have a family History.... Speakers and other activities will be announced in the near future...Updates in the next Ripples...Watch for them as you planning to attend next years Conference. Let's Reconnect.. May God Bless " All you Beautiful Baptist Women and Girls"

Student Aid Coordinator Brandy Trussell

Please pray for our 2024-2025 college students:

Recipient Name	Contact Info.
Josephine Marie Lohr Date of birth: 05/05/2005 Phone: 618-830-9818 Email: joeymlohr@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: 09/06/2004 Phone: 618-534-3630 Email: ryanblaiseguitar@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: 08/22/2003 Phone: (217) 314-9308 Email: sarahegood22@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: 12/21/2005 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: Phone: 217-473-4527 Email: brief8@gmail.com	College/University: Lincoln Land Community College 5250 Shepherd Road Springfield, IL 62703 Agribusiness Management Place of Church Membership: Greenfield First Baptist Church

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.

Ripple publish dates are:

- Fall Edition (Oct-Dec) —October 1, 2024
- Christmas Edition—December 1, 2024
- Winter Edition (Jan.-March) - January 1, 2025
- Women’s History Month Special Edition—March 1, 2025
- Spring Edition (April-June) - April 1, 2025

Marks of An Active ABWM

Are you looking for service projects for your women's group? Are you wondering what other groups are doing? If so, here's a list of projects of all areas in the Great Rivers Region that were submitted in 2023-2024.

Summer lunch program

Food pantry

Samaritan's Purse

Visited hut-ins

Assisted living (part of meeting)

Decorations for care center

Speaker Sue Hegarty

Annual garage sale

Churches and Convention in

Philippines

Volunteer at community thrift store

Volunteer Salvation Army red kettle

After school program

Craft activities for nursing home

Prayer blankets

Women's banquet

Care packages to college students

Prayer shawls

Fleece blankets for high school grads

Backpacks for grade school

Christmas shoe boxes

Blessing's box – food supply

Hats and gloves for grade school

Meals on wheels

Chili cook off to purchase piano

Valentines for Hope United, Brazil

Appalachian project

Boys and girls club

Meals at homeless site

Tapestry of Love - quilts, goods for

Ukraine, bunting for hospital

Volunteer at crisis center

Wayside ministry

Christmas tea

Missions fair

Student scholarships

Monthly diaper give-away

Speaker who serves in Haiti

ABW Ministries GRR special project

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Marks of an Active ABWM (continued)

We sent 128 valentines to Hope Unlimited for Children
We contributed to the Arthur Grade School Back Pack program and the Arthur Vine St. Christian church "Blessing Box"

Our church has members who contribute to the Wednesday night community meal once a month and other members who help with the meal preparation at the Methodist Church in Arthur.

Church members assist with Meals on Wheels and also volunteer at the thrift shop, help with the Arthur Fireworks celebration and assist with the Blood Drive.
We donated clothing items for Arthur Home residents.

Sullivan FBC members were invited to attend Global Servants Zoom meeting Feb, 2024 at Arthur FBC and our group was invited to attend White Cross Tea with Sullivan FBC. They made birthday kits for local food pantry.

We had Pastor Joe Sanders from FBC of Champaign in Savoy speak at our women's church service. Joe had gone to Liberia with other ministers and talked about their trip.

Our church contributed items and packed 212 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and also assisted Southern Baptist Church with the collection.

136 Sani pads were made and 66 dresses with assistance from a Methodist church member. These were sent to Little Dresses for Africa.

We sponsored a family for Easter with church members providing food, gift cards plus Easter baskets for a family of 5. We also contributed to a needy church member.

We have "Secret Sisters" and all church ladies are invited to pray for a selected lady. The ladies reveal at the December meeting who their secret sister was. God's daughter banquet in spring for all ladies of the church with speaker and sent contribution to Jamaica Relief Ministries.

**Marks of an Active Women’s Ministry in Great Rivers Region
2024-25**

(Include activities from 2024 Annual Conference to 2025 Annual Conference)

Name of your ABW Ministries Group _____

Name of Church _____ Town _____ Area _____

Name of Person completing this form _____

Please, check if you have done any of these listed items.
Also, share some of your activities on the back of this form.
Your ideas will be shared with the other Areas in Great Rivers Region.

- _____ We sent items or money to Peoria Friendship House or Bethel Neighborhood Center. (If you donated to another organization, please list on back of sheet.)
- _____ We gave to ABWM GRR Special Project. (Building libraries for Talila Cumi Girls Club)
- _____ We gave funds, items, or volunteered in our community. (Please describe on the back)
- _____ We gave to the GRR Sallie Peck Student Aid fund.
- _____ We supported our Area and GRR ABWM Ministries through our church treasurer.
- _____ We participated in an ABWM meeting through ZOOM.
- _____ We participated in one or more Webinars offered by National ABWM.
- _____ We were able to attend meetings with other church ABWM.
- _____ We prayed for, wrote letters, or shared journals with our Global Servants.
- _____ We supported one or more of our Baptist institutions with prayer, letters, donations.
- _____ We contributed to our own White Cross. Please describe your White Cross Program on back.
- _____ We contributed to White Cross Projects suggested on IM Web Site.
- _____ We contributed to Vital Partners, Leadership Development, other requests of National.

Please describe additional projects or events on the back.

**Return this sheet to Linda Watson P.O. Box 75, Arthur, IL 61911
By May 31, 2025**

Area President Reports

Area I—Pat Reed

Please join me on Saturday, October 26th for our Area I Fall Rally via Zoom. Our special guest speaker is Courtney Steadman, Donor Advocate, International Ministries.

Area II—Marcia Wimmer

The Gift of Serving

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)

How different would our world, communities, and even our homes look if we committed to help the hurting, struggling, and lonely. There seems like there are more and more who need our help, it gets overwhelming. We can't help everyone, no matter how much we would like to, so that is when we turn to God for guidance and discernment.

We all know someone financially, or materialistically poor. Maybe they have hit hard times, or were born into a cycle of poverty, or maybe they are physically or mentally sick. Then there are those poor in spirit as Jesus mentioned in Matthew, chapter 5. The good works like feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, showing hospitality to strangers, visiting our shut-ins and caring for the

widows and orphans will not go unnoticed. When we do such things we are serving and honoring Jesus.

As a genuine follower of Jesus we will be compelled by His Spirit to do something to care for those God created. No one can do everything, but we all can do something. Giving generously to those in need, caring for the vulnerable, and living an open-hearted life is the call of every believer. So during this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas may we be willing to lend and serve others with the grace and love of Jesus.

Blessings,
Marcia



Happy Thanksgiving from your ABWM Board

Area President Reports

Area III — Joan Leitzen

.Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Being thankful is easy, right? We were taught at a young age how to say "thank you" and you continued through our teenage years. It's an expression of gratitude. So why is it more difficult for us as we progress in age to express gratitude? Maybe it's because our current circumstances aren't the best? Or life isn't going the way we expected? Certainly, situations like these can cause us to lose sight of reasons to be thankful.

The scripture reading highlights Paul's wise words to the church in Thessalonica. Joy and gratitude go hand in hand. When we are grateful, we spend less time worrying about what we don't have, and more time concentrating on what we do have. But it does take consistent practice to exercise our muscle of thankfulness. Concentrate on being thankful today and experience the joy that tags along. *(Secret Place, Fall 2024)*

Forever in Christ
Joan

Fall Rally - October 19th @ FBC Peoria.
Guest Speaker—Rev. Brian Hastings On
Greece Trip.

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

Thanksgiving Trivia

1. What process refers to soaking a turkey in a saltwater solution before cooking it?
2. On average, how many questions does the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line field from callers during the holiday season?
3. Around how many calories are in a half-cup serving of bread stuffing?
4. In 2023, which state raised the most turkeys?
5. What year did "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" debut on television?
6. How many calories are in a typical holiday dinner?
8. How long is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade route?
9. In 2023, approximately how many people shopped over Thanksgiving weekend?

Taken from www.today.com

Answers on page 12

ABWM National News

Announcing new ABWM Executive Director Rev. LaThelma Yenn-Batah — Executive Director LaThelma.Yenn-Batah@abwomensministries.org



Reverend LT Yenn-Batah began as Executive Director of ABWM in July 2024, bringing a breath of experience to the role. Rev. LT Yenn-Batah is dedicated to the spiritual, educational, and social growth of women and children, particularly girls. Her leadership focuses on innovative programming, strategic partnerships, and fostering a community where women and children can thrive. She is committed to advancing ABWM's mission, ensuring that every woman and child is empowered through faith to advance beyond any obstacles or barriers they face.

Domestic Violence Training

Domestic Violence: A Survivor-Centered Biblical Study with Rev. Simone Oliver
Monday, October 28, 2024
Monday, November 4, 2024
Monday, November 11, 2024
6:00-8:30pm ET / 3:00-5:30pm PT
LIVE on Zoom

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries and other ABC partners for a three-evening experiential learning experience, raising awareness of the impact of domestic violence from the perspective of the victim and with a Biblical foundation.

ABWM Launches Rudd Empowerment Center

We're thrilled to share that American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) has officially launched the Rudd Empowerment Center! This new initiative is dedicated to fostering leadership, empowerment, and educational opportunities for women and girls globally. Named in honor of ABWM's first Executive Director, Ms. Violet E. Rudd, the Center aims to tackle pressing issues affecting women today through dedicated research, educational programs, and powerful advocacy. We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Christine Smith as the Director of the Rudd Empowerment Center. Her leadership will be instrumental in driving the Center's mission forward and making a meaningful impact.



Courageous Steps Virtual Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser

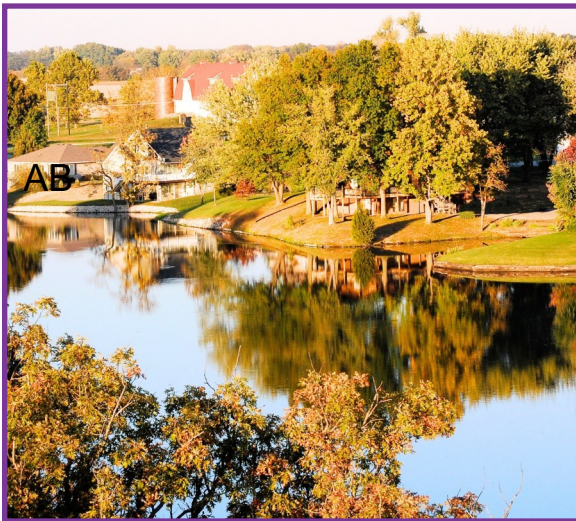
Join women across the nation in supporting ABWM for a Walk-a-thon, (September 13—December 31, 2024). Your participation supports ABWM's mission to empower and uplift women and girls everywhere. Together, we can advance beyond.

For more information on any of these events, please visit abwomensministries.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday, October 5, 2024	GRR Biennial Gathering, FBC, Peoria, IL
Tuesday, October 8, 2024	Area II Fall Rally, FBC, Virden, IL
Saturday, October 19, 2024	Area III Fall Rally, FBC, Peroria, IL
Saturday, October 26, 2024	Area I Fall Rally (Zoom)
Saturday, March 1, 2024	Virtual Missionaries—Zoom (10am)
Friday/Saturday, March 28-29	ABWM GRR Spring Board Meeting
Friday/Sunday, July 25-27, 2024	ABWM GRR Annual Conference, Carlinville, IL
Friday/Saturday, August 22-23	ABWM GRR Fall Board Meeting

SAVE THE DATE



American Baptist Women's
Ministries, ABYW &
G.I.R.L.S. Conference
Fri, Sat, Sun, July 25-27, 2025
Lake Williamson Christian Center
17280 Lakeside Drive
Carlinville, IL 62626
Start planning now for us all to
"RECONNECT"

Thanksgiving Trivia Answers (page 10)

1. Brinning
2. 100,000
3. 118
4. Minnesota
5. 1973
6. 3,000
7. 2.5 miles
8. 200.4 million

Next Publication: December 1, 2024

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.

