

Important information you need for ministries with women and girls.

July/August 2021

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Thank You!

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, executive director

Thank you, thank you, for your generous support and encouraging words during our Popcorn Fundraising. We are so excited by your response. Some bought popcorn, supported essential workers, or made contributions directly to American Baptist Women's Ministries. Please know that you have positively impacted our mission and ministries.

Your support will enable us to continue to engage and empower women and girls to lead passion-filled, Christ-centered lives as they lead in our churches and communities. Your support will enable us to continue providing free webinars, scholarships, and sustain our core ministries!

70th Annual Meeting of American Baptist Women's Ministries

The 70th annual meeting held on Saturday, July 17, 2021, included updates from national officers and staff of American Baptist Women's Ministries, an invitation to join ABWM's popcorn fundraiser, and the election of officers for American Baptist Women's Ministries: Rev. Christine Smith (left) as 2021-2024 National President and Julie Tankersley (right) as 2021-2024 Coordinator of the Eastern Section.



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[Click here to support ministry with women and girls!](#)

Helpful Links

[2019-2021 Ministry Focus: Sisters Seeking Wholeness](#)

[2021 Mission Focus: COVID-19 and related issues](#)

[ABWM's 70th Birthday Celebration](#)

[Iron Sharpens Iron Table Talks](#)

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) Sunday— September 19, 2021

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) as we celebrate our 70th birthday on ABWM Sunday on September 19, 2021. First, kick off the day by attending an ABWM Sunday program — hopefully, your church is celebrating ABWM Sunday. If not, it's not too late to plan your service — we even provide a resource for your American Baptist Women's Sunday! [Click here for the free resource!](#)

Then join us that evening at 6:00 PM EDT, join us virtually for our **70th Birthday Celebration, Iron Sharpens Iron**. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Pamela Durso, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Christa Deánã will provide special music. We hope you'll join us for this free celebration!



Celebrating 70 years of ministry with women and girls!

Happy Birthday 70th ABWM!

American Baptist Women's Ministries will celebrate it's 70 birthday on June 11, 2021! ABWM has inspired women to lead, addressed issues of economic and gender equity, and persisted in essential ministries amidst such as building beloved community, domestic violence awareness and education, and addiction. ABWM journeys with women in spiritual formation, soul care, career choices, leadership development, and changing economic and social conditions while simultaneously advancing kingdom building.

Participate in the Celebration!

IRON SHARPENS IRON: BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On September 19, 2021, at 6:00 PM EDT, American Baptist Women's Ministries' will celebrate 70 years of ministry with an online celebration! We hope you'll join us for this free celebration! [Click here to register for this free celebration.](#)

#70for70

Gift ABWM with a \$70 birthday donation for 70 memorable years of ministry with women and girls! Send your tax-deductible gift by check payable to ABWM, marked as "birthday gift", 1075 First Ave STE C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or [click here to give online.](#)

Share the story of a loved one or a woman who helped sharpen you, by giving your gift of \$70 or more in their honor or memory. Stories (up to 100 characters) will be included in *Leader's Reader* throughout 2021.

Women Sharpening Women

IN HONOR OF JANET BARNES

Janet Barnes was President of ABW/NYS when I was first active in the State-wide ministry of ABWM. She encouraged me and became a good friend which I still treasure.

— Joyce Camp

IN HONOR OF DELIA DE LA FUNETE-DURHAM

Thank you, Dee, for serving on the Michigan Region ABWM Board as Coordinator of White Cross. Your service to ABW of MI is greatly appreciated. Although your term on the board has concluded, I know you will continue to do God's work. You will be missed.

— Brenda Threatt

IN HONOR OF REV. DELORES GREER-STEVENSON

In June of 2018 Rev. Delores Greer-Stevens was installed as ABWM President of Metropolitan Detroit Association of ABC. Delores has energized the group with her outgoing personality and positive outlook. Thank you Delores for your leadership.

— Brenda Threatt

IN HONOR OF LORI HILL

It has been a blessing to serve and work with our national President for three years. She has been an inspiring, innovative, and encouraging leader.

— Joanne Strauss

IN HONOR OF LORI HILL

Grace Baptist Church, KCMO, honors our sister Lori Hill, retiring National President. Great job during a hard term!

— American Baptist Women's Ministries of Grace Baptist Church

IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA HOLMSTROM

You have been gracious, inspiring, and encouraging since I first met you at Green Lake, when you were the Missions Coordinator for American Baptist Women's Ministries.

— Joanne Strauss

IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER, M. THELMA STRAUSS

My mother was a humble servant of the Lord. She always had time for everyone and any church project or women's project. She loved working with children. In other words, she always said yes to God. We visited many churches in the metropolitan NY area during the 23 years we served together on the association board doing training sessions, helping groups get started, encouraging the women to form ABGIRLS groups, promoting state and national events. She was the best mentor and mother who trained me well.

I, too, always say yes, Lord.

— Joanne Strauss

IN HONOR OF CAROL WRIGHT

It has been memorable working with you on the national board. We had an instant connection. I can't wait to meet you in person!

— Joanne Strauss



Fundraising Tips

By [Rev. Dr. La-Tonia Jackson](#), treasurer

According to research, non-profits are raising money during this time; most will maintain or increase giving level during COVID-19. 25% will donate more because the need is so great, 42% will give to additional non-profits, 54% are not giving anymore, 9% will donate less, and 12% are not sure. Donors are most concerned about health and human services.

- Carve out time for resource development
 - Focus on top donors
 - Create a cadence of messaging
 - Remember to say thank you
- Rethink Special Events
 - Think out of the box
 - Make it a point to LISTEN to what donors are saying. WATCH what initiatives they support to identify alignment. And make sure you're answering the WHY as you design a giving opportunity.

Remember your Mission Matters

- Giving beings with you! If you're not vested, no one else will be.
- Brag about the work. No one knows about the amazing work if you don't share the news.

News and Information for AB GIRLS

Articles from Officers



Sisters Seeking Wholeness

By [Lori Hill](#), national president

For the past two years, our Ministry Focus (2019-2021) has been "Sisters Seeking Wholeness." While I truly embraced this theme, I am encouraged and excited about our new theme. On June 12, 2021, our

2021-2023 Ministry Focus, "Let the Walls Fall Down," was officially announced. As we begin to focus on this theme, please ask yourself; "what are the walls that prevent us from finding the image of God in each other?" There is no better time than now for each of us to ask this question. As we prepare

to use this theme, I invite you to read our scripture references: Ephesians 2:14, Isaiah 1:17, and Micah 6:8.

Please share this with your women's group to begin using "Let the Walls Fall Down" during conferences, devotions, programs, and rallies.



Doing Mission During a Pandemic

By [Shileah](#), Missions Coordinator (youth)

It's been a little over a year since we all have been living under this pandemic; it has been hard for all of us to adjust in many ways. Our daily lives have been changed, whether it's parents working from home, kids doing school online, or having to leave our homes with a mask so much changed and it's hard to do some things from our home. The question that comes is, "can I still do the mission?" And the answer is yes! Even though we are in a pandemic and there are a few restrictions, that doesn't mean that we still can't do missions during a pandemic. Whether you're doing it online or a different way, you still have opportunities to continue doing missions.

You can still do a mission during a pandemic by using what you already have; one big thing that is important that you may not realize can allow you to do a mission is reaching out through technology. In today's world, we are all on our phones, so we can use that to reach out to others and use social media to promote our mission. Doing it this way is important and impactful, so that's already one way you can still do a mission just by going on your phone. You can also still see people as long as you are socially distanced and protect yourself and the people around you. Always remember that mission is essential!

Upcoming Events

Iron Sharpens Iron: 70th Birthday Celebration

Sunday, September 19, 2021
6:00 PM EDT

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries on **Sunday, September 19, 2021**, as we celebrate 70 years of ministry with an online celebration! Our Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Pamela R. Durso (left), will present an inspiring message. Rev. Dr. Durso is the president of Central Seminary. We will be blessed by special music by Christa Deánā (right). Christa is an award-winning singer/songwriter, performer, actress, worship leader, educator, and CEO of ChristaCourt Music Group. [Click here to register for this free celebration.](#)



Let the Walls Fall Down: Shalom Retreat

Saturday, October 9, 2021
4:00 PM - 9:00 EDT

Join women from across the country for a virtual, one-day retreat! The theme is *Let the Walls Fall Down*, with Micah 6:8 (New American Standard Bible) as the scripture.



Our schedule includes an amazing speaker, award-winning student success strategist and educator, **Linnita Hosten**. Linnita is the founder of the Dream Career Academy and will provide high energy edutainment!



Rev. LaThelma Yenn-Batah and **Rev. Samuel Yenn-Batah** will bless us with special music! Rev. LaThelma is the former Associate Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, who is now serving as senior pastor of

Flemington Baptist Church in New Jersey. Rev. Samuel is a professional saxophonist and currently serves as the Manager of Pastoral Care and Co-Supervisor of the Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Penn Medicine Princeton Healthcare System.

We will participate in an interactive panel discussion led by entrepreneurs! This is an opportunity to learn how to live and work your passion! It is a chance to learn how to start your business.

Panelists include (left to right): **Nellie Thomas**, a McDonald's franchisee;



Bridgette Petrino and **Emily Rittenhouse**, owners and earring designers of Astraea; and **Doris Young Boyer**, keynote speaker and CEO of Doris Young Boyer & Co.

Register now! [Click here for more information.](#)

Let the Walls Fall Down: Fall Webinar Series

Empathy As A Tool For Transformational Change

September 9, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6PM PDT
Presenter: Carmelle Beaugelin, Program Coordinator for the Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary
[Click here for more information.](#)

The Power of Storytelling for Racial Healing

September 23, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Kadia Edwards, National Coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministry, American Baptist Home Mission Societies
[Click here for more information.](#)

Understanding and Taking Action Against Human Trafficking

October 7, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Kate Lee, Executive Director, New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking
[Click here for more information.](#)

God is Preserving You

October 21, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Linnita Hosten, award-winning speaker and student success strategist
[Click here for more information.](#)

Debunking Domestic Violence Myths Through A Biblical Lens

November 4, 2021; 9 PM EDT/6 PM PDT
Presenter: Tara Aday, Director of Prevention and Education, Safe Haven Ministries
[Click here for more information.](#)

God is in the Details

November 18, 2021; 9 PM EST/6 PM PST
Presenter: Elaine Cody, Life Coach, Cody Clarity Coaching
[Click here for more information.](#)

What's Happening in American Baptist Women's Ministries in your area?

Western Section

[Carol Wright](#), section coordinator

- **PUYALLUP FIRST BAPTIST ETHEL KITS** are supporting Teen Challenge (sustainable healing using Christ at the center that treats the underlying causes of destructive behavior).
- **MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH** in Seattle had a near-normal celebration of women from January through March at their virtual prayer breakfast, virtual marketplace, and virtual intergenerational prayer service. In addition, they presented *The Tater Family*, a play they have done for years, as its lessons are as relevant today as ever. Instead of a banquet, they had a tea where most dressed up and wore hats. Their guest speaker was Dr. Cynthia Parker Smith.
- **REGION OF THE WEST's** June gathering "Be YOU tiful" had past National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS (NLT) Convenor and Anchorwoman Jasmine Turner and Rev. Dr. Marilyn Bennett as their speakers. The special project was the Seafarers Mission of the Golden Gate, founded in San Francisco in 1946 at the Scandinavian Seamen's Mission that responds to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of seafarers and port workers.
- **IDAHO** met in person for their spring gathering at Cathedral of the Pines Baptist Camp with their theme as *Fan the Flame*. Their mission project was replacing blue tarp roofs in Puerto Rico, plus the offering was for the Coats For Displaced Persons Project.
- **COLORADO's** June conference "Living Victoriously in Challenging Times" sent a gift to national's Young Adult Women's Ministries and supported the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking. Their Mission Project was a New Vehicle for the Eye Clinic in Cap Haitien, Haiti. Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, executive director, was a speaker at the June Conference.

Eastern Section

[Joanne Strauss](#), section coordinator

- **MAINE** will hold its summer conference at China Lake on August 12-14. The conference theme is *Forgiveness*. The keynote speaker is Susan Call, author of *A Search for Purple Cows, A True Story of Hope*, who will share encouragement to survive the jungle of everyday life. No matter where we are in our journey we all need a reminder that God

is bigger no matter what the struggle. Some activities include kayaking/canoeing, a cancer walk and a workshop to create a banner for our new theme.

- **MASSACHUSETTS** will hold its Fall Women's Day and annual business meeting on Saturday, September 25 at First Baptist Church, Tewksbury, MA, focusing on our new ministry theme, "Let The Walls Fall Down" using John 13:34 as the theme scripture. Topics include: Domestic Violence during Covid, the Importance of Prayer this past year, Understanding Racism, and Deaf Ministry. Following lunch there will be table talks on these topics and a mission activity of making sleeping bags for the homeless using plastic bags.
- **NEW YORK** The Eastern area retreat for Adirondack and CABA is September 16-18 at Christ the King Center in Greenwich, NY. The guest speaker is Marie Monville author of *One Light Still Shines*. She is living proof that God can bring beauty out of brokenness, "When all other lights go out, He still shines!" Their mission project will be an offering for the Warren County Domestic Violence Coalition and also attendees will bring personal care items to donate to the coalition.
- **RHODE ISLAND's** Wakefield Baptist has organized a Creation Care Team to lend faith and love to the work of restoration and renewal of all God has made. They held a community bike path and river clean-up day, hiked at Rome Point, and learned about recycling. The team initiated a collection of 500 lbs. of plastic film, which will earn them a heavy plastic garden bench! Berean Baptist Church in Harrisville continues to help a men's homeless shelter with food and fills backpacks for some 50 children and youth who don't have enough to eat.

Midwestern Section

[Dr. Lachaka Askew](#), section coordinator

- **ABC of Michigan's** 2021 Annual Gathering will be held October 29-30, 2021. Dr. Ruth Haley-Barton will be the guest speaker