



October 1, 2018

The Rocky Mountain American Baptist

A Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches in the Rocky Mountain Region

2018 Gathering Gallery

Pastors, lay leaders and administrators gathered last weekend to connect, renew, worship and conduct business. The Gathering held at Father Dyer UMC in Breckenridge, CO was attended by church leaders from across the region to focus on connection and disconnection.

It was Alice Horner-Nelson's first ABC gathering and she participated on a panel with other women leaders. "It is really nice to connect with people and network with other pastors. The discussions were very good and relevant to this generation."



Another attendee and panel speaker, Pastor Jennifer Rutter from Colorado Springs, commented, "It's my first regional gathering and I'm here as part of my commitment to investing in the region. We're excited about the current mission work. It's exciting because our church has been very committed."

Seminary Student Lauren Parliament commented, "It was my first regional event and it has been meaningful to connect with new people and learn about our denomination."

(Lauren pictured at right talking with Tom Shoaf, FBC Grand Junction.)



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Jane Zulauf of First Baptist in Torrington, WY felt the event was an important time of learning, "It was very helpful for getting a broader awareness of what is going on in the church and in the culture." (pictured with husband Jim)

The event provided an opportunity for people who live in more remote areas to reconnect with colleagues to get new ideas and manage the affairs of the church. LaRose Karr President of American Baptist Women of the region commented,

"It's an important time to conduct business, have fellowship and get to know each other. It was a way to let my church know that we have access to a huge network of resources."



Keynote speaker and author, Skye Jethani, brought a powerful message for thoughtful reflection. Joan Anderson was impacted by the message, "Skye was inspiring and motivational."

(pictured to the left: Kim Skattum and Joan talking during one of the breaks)

Along with reports on mission work, business and small group discussion was powerful evening worship. "Worshipping with all the different people was very powerful. God was definitely there," observed Carmen Delphin.

(Worship included liturgical dance performed by Michael Bateman).



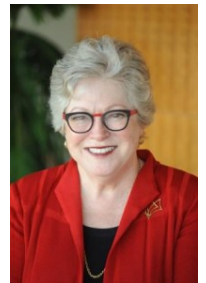


"I felt like God's blessing was on the entire process and event." Steve Van Ostran



Molly T. Marshall, Ph.D., President of Central Theological Seminary attend this years Gathering. She said it was a beautiful time to be in the Rockies. To view her article, visit <https://www.cbts.edu/regarding-the-faithful/>

We enjoyed having Dr. Marshall share with us.



Above: Steve presents Mary Tellis with ordination recognition gift.

Left: Roy Smith of New Hope Baptist Church, Denver and Steve Van Ostran.



Clergy Appreciation Tailgate Party



On Thursday, September 27th, ABCRM held its annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner in Breckenridge. This years theme was a “tailgate party” and people came outfitted in the colors or attire of their favorite sports team.

The party started with games in the parking lot (Corn Hole, Ladder Toss, Big Connect Four, Giant Jenga and Bucket Toss) followed by a delicious barbeque dinner. A tent was set up in the parking lot housing a DJ who played popular songs. Many pastors and guests participated in Karaoke entertaining the rest of the crowd.

When the temperature turned cooler, the group moved inside to honor our pastors who celebrated benchmark anniversaries of their ordinations.

Bill Mankin, the Ministry and Mission Coach for Wyoming, is retiring at the end of 2018. Bill was honored for his service to the organization and was presented with an amazing handcrafted stained glass piece of Jesus as a shepherd. Bill’s Wyoming “flock gathered around him to thank him for his support over the last 10 years.

*Karen Van
Region Administrator*



Mark and Shirley Jervis show off their support for the Broncos



Pastors Eugene Downing and Victor-LaMonte Lane



Members of the Wyoming Cluster



Our own version of the Doobie Brothers: Pastors Thom Jones, Kim Skattum and John Waters sing “Black Water”



*Bill with the stained glass piece
created by Sarah DiMichele
of Steamboat Springs
(anamcharaglass@gmail.com)*

Finishing Strong

The 2018 Gathering was an exciting time of worship and thinking about the future of the church with hope. On Saturday morning, the Gathering finished strong.

Matt Manning (Crossroads Church) chaired the business session and finished in record time of 45 minutes. Steve Van Ostran gave his annual report to the delegates. He highlighted the value of mission trips and the power of pastors working together in planning the Gathering. Karen Van reviewed the 2017 and 2018 budget numbers. She also shared the 2019 Vision budget. Bill Warren (Calvary, Denver) presented the slate of Board Members and officers for 2019. This was adopted.

Following, the Business Session, Rev. Rodney Perry (Central, Denver) shared a devotional based on Ephesians 2:1-8. He reminded those gathered that grace in Jesus is the road to salvation. He also reminded us that each of us must travel our own road to get on that road with Jesus and that many of these roads are difficult, dusty, gravel roads.



First row: LaRose Karr (ABW Colorado President), Jenita Calton (Wyoba Board Chair), Brenda Schladweiler (Wyoming Rep), Kay Farley (Regional Rep to Board of General Ministries and Acting Ministers Council President).

Top row: James Conley (Western Slope Rep), Rodney Perry (Metro Denver Rep), Jackie Clark (Treasurer), Matt Manning (Board President), Dave DeMott (MLC Chair), Steve Van Ostran (Region Executive Minister and Secretary).

In the absence of General Secretary Lee Spitzer who was scheduled to be the morning's speaker, a pastors panel shared about Fresh Expressions. Fresh Expressions is a passion of Dr. Spitzer. Victor-LaMont Lane, Bill Johnson, Jeff Lundblad, and Darren Stroh traveled to Reston, VA in March to attend the national gathering for Fresh Expressions. Fresh Expressions is a movement that emerged out of England in the mid-2000s. The emphasis of this movement is how do we reach people who state that they have no interest in ever attending a church. These four pastors shared how they are seeking to connect to these people and to value the members who are present on Sunday mornings. Each recognized this tension. Mary Fabin attended a Fresh Expressions event with the Episcopal Church in Wyoming in September. She will be traveling to England in October to learn more about Fresh Expressions. She shared some of the challenges of planting new ministries in the current context.

After this panel, Rev. John Tellis (Solomon Temple, Denver) shared about the mission trip to Zambia in March of 2018. John shared the changing vision and hearts when Rev. Mary Tellis shared powerfully from the pulpit. Women in Zambian Baptist churches have not had the example of women in pastoral roles. John shared how this changed how they saw themselves and will greatly impact the future of the Zambian Baptist Convention.

Rev. Larron Jackson led in a time of reflection and preparation to take new information back to the local churches.

Finally, a thanks to the many people who helped pack and clean up after the Gathering. Many people helped pack games, take down the tent, and load the trailer. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made the Gathering happen in 2018.

*Mike Oldham
Mission and Ministry Coach*

Mission Presentations at the Gathering

At the noon hour on Friday, the participants divided into two groups. While one group ate lunch, the other listened to two presentations on mission work supported by the Region; then the groups exchanged places.

Dwight and Barbara Bolick, IM missionaries to Chile, spoke about several aspects of their work there. Barbara's work centered on helping women and girls; she helped develop three cooperatives for women and discovered that girls needed strong leadership to develop into mature women. She started *Talita cumi* (Mark 5:41) clubs for girls and discovered that the most important factor in development was a good mentor. She is working to develop a curriculum for training mentors, which will be used not only in Chile, but in several other missionary countries. This will be part of her work for a Ph.D. at Texas A&M University.

Dwight has focused more on capacity building for the community. Chile is in the midst of a very long drought, and Dwight has led local residents in a project of rain-water harvesting. Much of Chile's water comes from the snowpack in the Andes; when this fails, people suffer. So, Dwight has led the development of systems for collecting and saving the scarce rainfall to water the crops. He has also learned the science of beekeeping and has taught many of the people in the mission field how to raise bees, gather the honey and wax for sale, and even sell hives and swarms to others. In addition to serving as a cash source, the bees pollinate crops in the region.



Barbara Bolick speaks to the participants about the mission work in Chile.

Dr. Stuart Lord from Pine Street Church in Boulder then described his work organizing mission service trips.



Volunteers work at Iglesia Bautista Central in Puerto Rico.

He responds to Jesus' statement, "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required. (Luke 12:48)" After Hurricane Harvey hit the Houston area in 2017, he organized a series of trips with volunteers from the Region and other volunteers to work on repair and restoration of homes in Houston; he planned monthly trips for two years. Then, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico. Along with another Pine Street member, Guillermo Estrada-Rivera, a native of Puerto Rico, Stuart organized a trip in June in partnership with the ABHMS initiative "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" to rebuild churches, homes, and lives in Puerto Rico. They worked at the Iglesia Bautista Central de Villa Las Lomas in practical work of cleanup and construction.

He explained the importance of service trips. Leadership can be taught; bringing people together to serve is one way of teaching wholeness, compassion, and truth.

The American Baptist denomination was born in a desire to serve in missions. It is good to hear how this passion is continuing in a modern context.

*Bill Mankin
Mission and Ministry Coach*

Annual Gathering





We have been taught since kindergarten that it is important to say, “thank you.” We also know that a personal and thoughtful thank you means much more than a general “thanks.”

This year, please take time to say “thank you” to your pastor and pastoral staff. Make this a thoughtful “thank you” that speaks to them. Your pastor walks with you and your congregation through the highs and lows of life. This is your chance to bless them.

What does a thoughtful thank you look like? That depends on your pastor, and your relationship with your pastor. (I had a member that made me a coconut cream pie each year. I still can’t eat coconut cream pie without thinking of Grandma Sara. And no, no other pie measures up to her pie.)



- A special baked good or a sweet that your pastor loves
- A gift basket for the family
- A gift card for dinner out
- A coffee card
- Handmade thank you cards from a kids Sunday school class
- A couple days away for your pastor and spouse
- A bookstore gift card

By the way, you should probably avoid the cliché gifts

- A framed “Footsteps” poem
- A new Bible
- New clothes (Wild socks might be ok for some pastors)
- An empty thank you card with just your name scrawled in it



*Mike Oldham
Mission and Ministry Coach*

Save the Date

Thank You Luncheon for Retired ABCRM Clergy Tuesday, November 13, 2018

**Your personal invitation
will be mailed soon.
Be sure the Region office has your
current mailing address.
Contact us at 303.988.3900
or office@abcrm.org.**

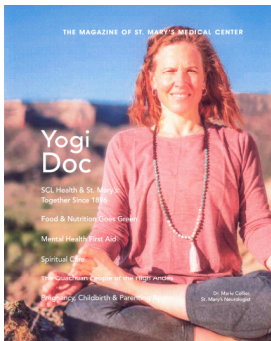


October is World Mission Offering Month

For information on how you can give visit
www.internationalministries.org or
www.abc-usa.org.



Chaplain Bryan Newman was featured in "Get Well" The Magazine of St. Mary's Medical Center. Please visit sclhealthmagazine.org/flip to view the magazine. Bryan is featured on page 54.



Calendar

October

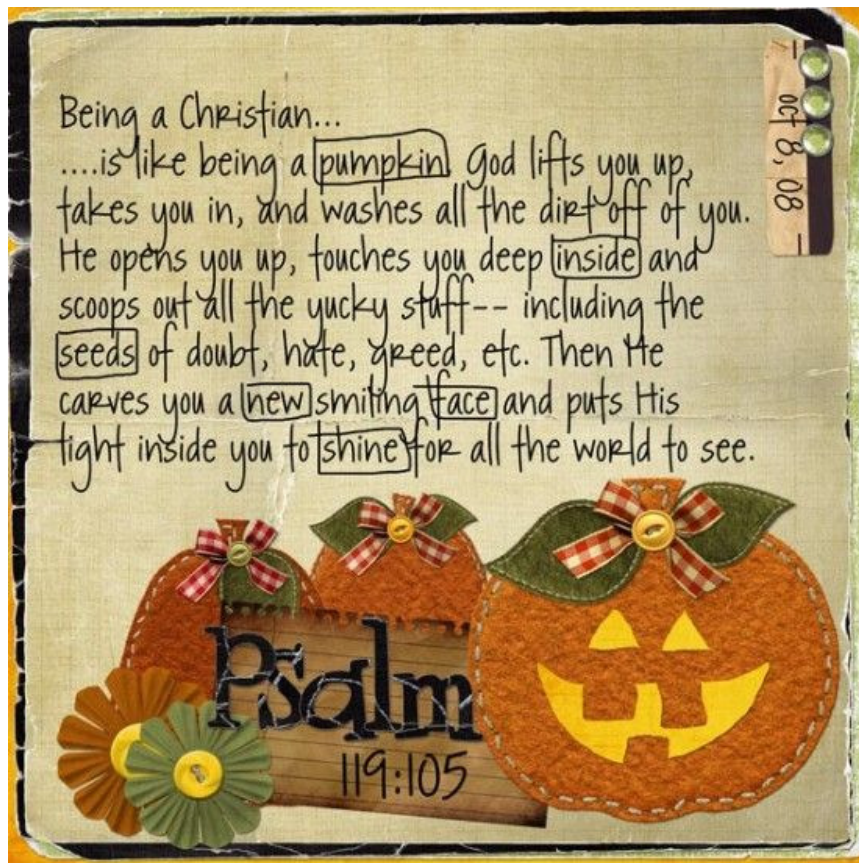
- World Mission Offering Month
- Clergy Appreciation Month
- 27** Wyoba Board Meeting (Glenrock, WY)

November

- 4** Daylight Savings Time Ends
set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night
- 8** Mission Committee Meeting
- 9-10** MLC Meeting
- 11** Veterans Day (*in observance, the Region office will be closed on Monday, November 12*)
- 13** Retired Clergy Luncheon
- 21-23** Thanksgiving Holiday Break
(the Region office will close at noon on Wednesday)



Thank you to all those who attended our
Annual Gathering in Breckenridge.
Your presence was greatly appreciated.



**The Rocky Mountain
American Baptist**
is published by the
American Baptist Churches
of the Rocky Mountains
www.abcrm.org

Steve Van Ostran
Executive Minister
svanostran@abcrm.org

*This newsletter is published
on the 1st of each month.*

*The deadline for submissions
is the 20th of each month.
Send submissions to
akeys@abcrm.org*

*Reprint permission is granted
to ABCRM churches.*



American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains
9085 E. Mineral Circle Suite 170
Centennial, CO 80112
Phone (303) 988-3900
Fax (303) 988-0620