



The Lamplighter

President's Corner...



Hello to My Sisters in Christ,

Last weekend we experienced typical Colorado Winter weather. We drove on icy and snowy roads to get to Castle Rock for our State Board Meeting on Friday. Then, more of us drove on even more ice and snow to attend the Women's Winter Retreat. Saturday the snow had passed and we had a sunshiny afternoon. And, it was all well worth it.

We had a very meaningful and delightful time with our Sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church in Castle Rock. They hosted our event and the "Love . . . Is the Answer" retreat brought a day of meaningful fellowship and time with the Lord. Our speaker Tina Samples has a story that brings tears and laughter. I encourage you to purchase her book, "Wounded Women of the Bible." Her husband Dave also spoke to us and his book is "Messed Up Men of the Bible." Both books have inspirational stories to help us along life's path.

For just a bit of ABWM state news, we will be holding our annual state conference June 7-9 at First Baptist Church in Grand Junction. Gina Jacobs-Strain, our ABWM Executive Director, is going to be our speaker. The theme for the conference is "Feel God's Spirit . . . Feel God's Power . . . Feel God's Love." This is a great opportunity to fellowship with our Western slope churches. I hope you all will mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Much attention to detail is going into planning this special event for all of you.

I must say that I never leave one of our ABWM events without hearing a word from the Lord. As I drove home from the retreat Saturday, I had to reflect on my life events and how God took the low places to bring me to the high areas. We walk with him daily and if we are wise, we let him lead.

We are in the process of reaching out to churches without active ABWM groups. I am happy to say we have two new groups in Colorado. Please join us in this process.

Until I see you in June, myself and other members of a prayer team are keeping you lifted up to the Lord. Please feel free to email me at larosekarr@gmail.com or call me at 970-580-4717 if you have questions or needs.

Blessings,
 LaRose Karr
 Colorado American Baptist Women's Ministries President
 970-580-4717
larosekarr@gmail.com

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Personal Development



We had a wonderful **retreat** on February 23. There was a great turnout even with the snowstorm! Our key note speaker Tina Samples, co-author of the book *Wounded Women of the Bible*, was wonderful and she brought her husband along (they co-authored the book *Messed Up Men of the Bible*). If you haven't read these books, I highly recommend them!

We were blessed at the end of the day of our retreat with our speaker Mary Lou Fenton talking about reading the Bible and applying it to our lives. Even though her daughter was in the hospital, she took the time out to come speak at our retreat! She said she felt that in studying for this retreat God helped her prepare for what was to come with her daughter getting sick.

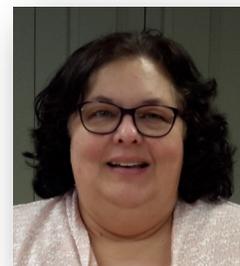


Next year we are planning to do a mission trip instead of a retreat. Be watching for more information to come on that!

I'm on the nominating committee and we are always looking "for a few good women". Please let me or one of the other women on the board know if you ever thought about being a bigger part of ABW or if you wonder what you would need to do. The more I have become involved the more blessed I feel by such wonderful women around me.

Take Care and God Bless,

Suzanne Johnston
 303-549-0397
Suzanne@Johnstonmail.com



Love Gift



A wonderful time of listening, learning, and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended the recent ABWM retreat. The Faith Lutheran Church ladies were kind and gracious hosts who served us well. It was nice to get acquainted with these lovely ladies and to have them join us at the retreat.

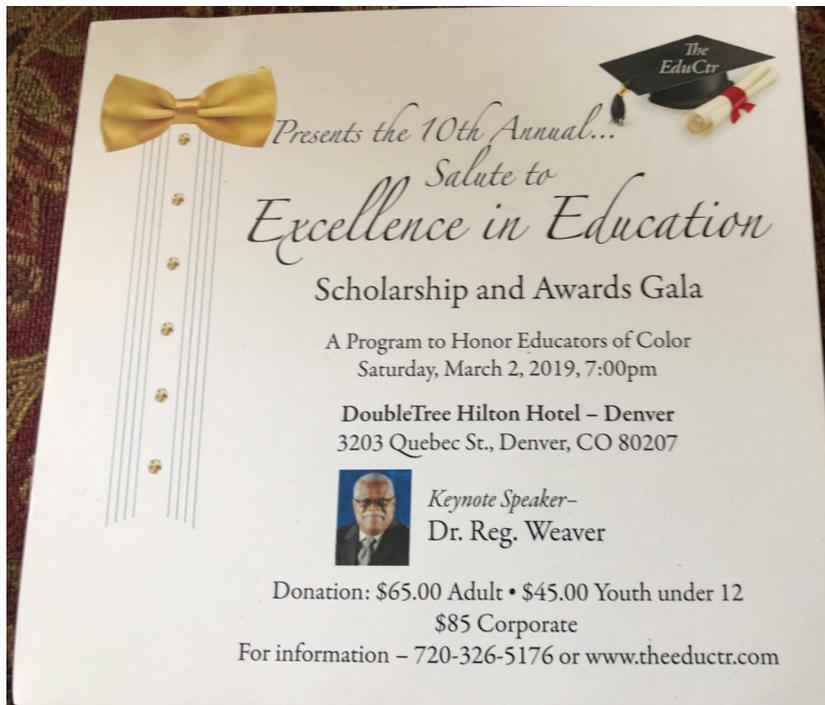
Some interesting figures will show how our Love Gifts are being used today and over the past 87 years. Since 1932, American Baptist Women have raised well over \$60 million dollars through Love Gift, which is about 3% of the total funding source for American Baptist United Missions. This "over and above" offering is given out of a sense of love, faith, and gratitude to God for all of His blessings and in recognition of our need to share these blessings with others. Love Gift now raises about 1.5 million a year nationally, with less than 50% of AB churches participating in Love Gift.

Continue to encourage your local ABWM groups to give to Love Gift for American Baptist missions.

In Colorado, 13 churches gave \$4307 to Love Gift in 2018 which is indeed commendable. Our goal for 2019 is \$3000 that we should be able to easily reach. Our Love Gifts are one way that we can serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.... here at home and around the world. As always, the story of Love Gift remains unfinished!

Thank you for your continued support,

Margene Hamilton, Love Gift Chair
 2669 S. Johnson Cir.
 Lakewood, CO 80227
 303-989-0636
 wemhamil@yahoo.com



Dr. Jamie Johnson, our Scholarship Chair, received this very prestigious award in Denver on Saturday, March 2, 2019.

Conference Chair



“Feel God’s Spirit - Feel God’s Power - Feel God’s Love” is the theme of our 2019 Colorado AB Women’s Ministries Conference — **June 7-8 at First Baptist Church of Grand Junction**. Mark your calendar now and save the date!

Your Conference Committee, including women from our host church, has been working to plan and offer you an inspiring and enlightening program, along with times of good fellowship and fun. Many thanks to JoAnn Clutter & Adelaide Currier who envisioned and worked to bring about a **symbolic image** to go with our theme!

Our special guest speaker will be **Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain**, the new **Executive Director of American Baptist Women’s Ministries**. She will be coming from New Jersey to Colorado to share her vision for American Baptist Women’s Ministries and how we might connect with younger women. Gina served in numerous pastoral ministry positions before starting as our Executive Director in early 2018. She particularly loves interpreting and bringing alive the Word of God in interactive studies. We anticipate learning a lot from Gina!

Rev. Mary Tellis will be our missions speaker, sharing about her 2018 experience with a mission team of pastors from ABCRM that went to Zambia (in the southern part of Africa). They were invited to teach about evangelism, discipleship and stewardship in order to inspire and encourage Baptist church leaders and pastors there. Mary serves with her husband, Rev. John Tellis, who is pastor of Solomon’s Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Denver.

Our Theme Scripture, “... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:39b, NLT), will take us deeper during the weekend. **Rev. Jennifer Rutter**, Pastoral Resident at First Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, **will lead a Bible study** related to our theme. Come with open minds and hearts to hear God’s Word speak to your life in the present.

A guest speaker from a women’s shelter in Grand Junction will help us understand our **Mission Focus of Domestic Violence** and explore how we might be agents of God’s love to victims.

Following a long-standing tradition, we will have a **conference mission project**, this year again bringing items to fill bags to be distributed to those who are without homes. (See details in Coordinator of Mission and Service article.)

We will also offer a discussion of the book ***The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew — Three Women Search for Understanding***. You are encouraged to read this book before conference, but if you don’t, you may want to read it afterward! It is a very engaging report of three women who dared to take their faith seriously and to share that with one another, learning about each other’s beliefs, traditions, and difficulties experienced because of what others think of their faith stances.

Music is always an important part of our women’s conferences. Come to enjoy singing with your sisters and to appreciate the musical gifts of those in Grand Junction, and maybe even get to play some bells or chimes yourself.

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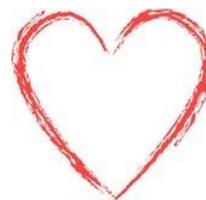
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Be on the lookout soon for more publicity information that you can share with your women. Along with this Lamplighter is a **Registration Form** that can be reproduced and used for each person attending. Note that **First-Timers have a registration fee of only \$25**. Please encourage your women who have not attended before to come try us out!

Which church will have the most "first-timers"?

Looking forward to seeing you in Grand Junction!!

Mary Beth Mankin, Chair, and JoAnn Clutter, Co-Chair of Conference Committee



Feel God's Spirit – Feel God's Power – Feel God's Love

White Cross



Please help!! Because of a call from Shelley Ellison at Stewart Community Baptist Church and 2 follow-up calls from a gentleman who said he was in Carson City, NV at the church to try to get things straightened out, I need your help!

At least one of our ABCRM churches has questioned if their gift card arrived, since they had asked for confirmation, and, after hearing nothing, tried to reach the phone # and email on their Request sheet, to no avail. I am working with Vickie Goff at ABHMS to resolve this issue and really need to know what other churches have done with regard to fulfilling the requests to Stewart Community Baptist Church.

As you may remember, I suggested to Association Chairs in December, that locals be advised to wait until I had more information. I have only heard from 2 churches besides my own.

The information you give me or your Association White Cross chair is not only good for me to know, but also for our national Overland White Cross chair as she prepares requests for the new year.

My sincere prayer is that we can work through this together, continuing our White Cross giving which is so dear to our hearts!

Blessings,

Fran Lambert, White Cross Chair, CO

970-2944294

Or lambdf@comcast.net

Mission and Service



We are still collecting money for our State Project which is Puerto Rico. At the present time we have collected \$636.22. Our goal is \$2,000.00. We tend to forget that our Puerto Rico Baptist sisters still need our help. All of us together, can reach out to them by supporting this worthy goal.

I'd also like to remind you that one of American Baptist Women's Ministries mission goals is Cross Cultural Relationships. I challenged you to read Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding. By Raya Idiby. There will be a special break out session at the State Conference for those who would like to discuss the book. Chris Oldham has graciously offered to lead the discussion.

Thank you to those of you who brought reusable bags to the Retreat. I have a whole closet full of them which is wonderful!! We will be filling these bags as our State Conference Project. I have attached a list of edible items on the next page as well as other items which those without homes can use. Bring the items to the Conference. We will fill them, bless them and give them to the representatives of our Churches to share.

Thank you for your support of of these three mission projects. Together we can make a difference.

Becky Worford
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Denver, CO 80231
(303) 751-8823
beckygene@comcast.net

How to Get Started

by Becky Worford

Have you wondered what you can do to start or revive a women's ministry in your church? The book, "Connecting Women" by Linda Lesniewski has "how to get started" suggestions, web sites to get help, support and much more. Check it out.

Have you seen our Colorado American Baptist Women's Facebook page?

Click on [Colorado American Baptist Women](#) and check it out.

State Conference Project**List of Items to Bring****Please bring travel size items so they will fit in backpacks****Edible Items**

8 Oz. water bottles
Cheese and or peanut butter snack crackers
Fruit cups
Peanut butter
Ritz crackers
Fruit bars
Pop Tarts
Fruit leather
Juice boxes
Trail mix
Nuts
Cookies

Other Items

Sandwich bags
Plastic forks, knives, spoons
Bandages hypo-allergenic
Kleenex
Small rolls of toilet paper
Deodorant
Razors
Shaving cream
Sunscreen
Face wipes
Tooth brushes, toothpaste
Shampoo
Soap
Feminine products
Lotion
Socks (men and women)
Gloves
Knit caps
Ponchos

Scholarship



Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

This year brings about new changes in the Jane Loring Jones scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year. There will be two applications available this school year for students to select from. One application will be for first time applicants and the other application for returning students applying for the Jane Loring Jones scholarship. The scholarship amount of \$4,000 will be available to students attending an American Baptist Church institution. Students attending non-related American Baptist Church schools will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. The Jane Loring Jones scholarship assists Christian young women to further their education, to prepare for their position in life as Christian leaders in the home, church and community.

The scholarship committee renamed the student grant application. The name of the grant is Ministerial Student Grant and the amount of the grant is up to \$2,400. The Ministerial Student Grants are available to women who are seeking education for ministry purposes and seminary education.

Ladies, let's give God all the praise and glory for being able to offer scholarships and grants to women who desire to further their education.

The applications will be available to download March 30 from the website below.

<http://abcrm.org/ministries/abwm/colorado/>

Dr. Jamie D. Johnson
915 S. Division Ave.
Sterling, CO 80751
720-879-2700
jjjscholarship@gmail.com

Hands-on Mission Projects on the National ABWM Website

We often receive questions about hands-on mission projects for women and girls; sometimes we receive information in the office about projects that we want to be able to share with you as well. To make it easier for you to find this information, we've added a new page to our website. When you go to www.abwministries.org and hold your cursor over Mission Focus, you'll see "Hands-on Projects" appear at the bottom of the menu options. Click on it to find several great ideas! Some hands-on projects may be time-constrained so bookmark the page and check back frequently.

Treasurer



A couple of women recently asked me about the Women and Girls Mission Fund administered by our national ABWM office, and I realized that other ABWM women might also be interested in learning a bit more about this Fund.

The Women and Girls Mission Fund was created about 5 years ago as an “umbrella” entity for several ongoing or periodic programs of American Baptist Women's Ministries. Undesignated gifts to the Women and Girls Mission Fund support: AB Girls; Refit; Leadership Development Fund; Young Adult Women's Ministries (and its advisory team known as YAWMAT); periodic national mission projects; and other national or international projects that focus on healing and hope for women and girls.

Undesignated gifts are distributed with consideration of National Board of ABWM policy regarding use of funds. If you prefer to designate that your gift to Women and Girls Mission Fund be used for support of AB Girls, Refit, and/or Leadership Development or a specific national mission project, that designation will be honored.

The Women and Girls Mission Fund's current national mission project is to provide some funding for the Baptist women's organization in Puerto Rico. The Baptist women of Puerto Rico have been strong supporters of Love Gift and White Cross, and they serve from time to time in leadership positions of the national ABWM organization. For the past 18 months (since Hurricane Maria), women in Puerto Rico have needed to direct their resources to basic needs of their families and neighbors as they continue to recover from the devastation of that 2017 hurricane season. We can walk alongside them by providing funds that allow the Puerto Rico Baptist women's organization to continue operating and to maintain connection with its women throughout the island. Our State Project for 2018-2019 supports this national mission project. If you wish to donate, you can send your group's check to me, payable to ABWM of Colorado, with a notation that it is for Puerto Rico. I'll be happy to forward those funds to the Women and Girls Mission Fund with direction that it be used for this project in Puerto Rico.

If you have any questions about gifts to the Women and Girls Mission Fund or gifts for our State Project (which is related in 2018-19 to the support for women's ministries in Puerto Rico) or gifts for National Support, or gifts for support of ABWM of Colorado, please contact me and we'll figure it out!

Sharon Murphy, Treasurer

P. O. Box 866

Castle Rock, CO 80104

Murphy@SMurphyLaw.com

Phone: 303-708-1300 x 1006 (new extension number at work)

or 303-688-3443 (home)

Our National newsletter, The Leaders Reader is available for all of us to read. It is full of information from our national Leaders. Click on [Leader's Reader](#) to go to the National ABWM Web page, then click on Leader's Reader to choose the issue you'd like to read.

Additional Board Members



Chris Oldham
Member at Large



Carol Cook
Assistant
Treasurer



Fran Lambert
White Cross Chair



Carol Howe
Church and
Community



Yvonne Whisenhunt
Editor



Alice Cole
Historian

Pictures not available:
Members at Large
Flora Young
Conni Franz

Pictures not available
JoAnn Clutter
Co-Conf Chair
Karen
Schneider
AB GIRLS



Kay Farley
ABC Board
Of Ministries



Jackie Arnold
Western Coordinator

~*~

Check out the AB Women's Ministries Website!

Ever wonder what is going on with AB Women's Ministries? Who your national officers are? What resources might help you to plan a program or promote AB Women's Ministries? Go exploring... See what you can find... Help someone else learn about it...

Check out the AB Women's Ministries website at www.abwministries.org

Share the Lamplighter!

Do you know of someone who would like to receive their own copy of the Lamplighter? Send their name & email address to me at Yvonne.ABW@gmail.com with "Send Lamplighter" in the subject line.

Yvonne Whisenhunt, Editor

New International Ministries address:

**International Ministries
1003 W. 9th Ave., Ste A
King of Prussia
PA 19406-1210**

Vital Partners

Our ministry with women and girls can't happen without you!
 Will you become a **vital partner** in our vital ministries?

Vital Partners are individuals or groups that give regularly (\$120 or more per year) to National Support of American Baptist Women's Ministries. **Vital Partners** give monthly, quarterly, or annually, and they may also set up automated giving by direct withdrawal from their bank account or credit card. Vital Partners have a vision for the future of AB Women's Ministries and financially support our work with women and girls. Your support of national AB Women's Ministries, whether great or small, collectively makes possible great things!

"Training leaders, deepening my relationship with God and other women, and growing and expanding my gifts are part of the reasons that I love AB Women's Ministries and support Vital Partners." (Dianne from Iowa)



As a **Vital Partner** in this ministry, your support will

- **Develop** strong and exciting ministries with girls, building courageous and enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Build** a ministry dedicated to growing leadership skills in women, so they can create, plan, and implement ministry visions.
- **Empower** American Baptist Women's Ministries to reach new heights in envisioning programs, producing resources for your ministries, and expanding ministries for young adult women.
- **Ensure** the future of American Baptist Women's Ministries; today's funding reaches tomorrow's leaders!

*"Anything we can do to strengthen AB Women's Ministries is important. Our gifts will impact the next generation!"
 (Jan from South Dakota)*

Vital Partners Yearly Giving Levels

Inspired by our mission statement, "AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God," AB Women's Ministries recognizes these Vital Partner yearly giving levels:

\$120 - \$499	Sustaining Partner
\$500 - \$999	Encouraging Partner
\$1000+	Empowering Partner

Become A Vital Partner

To make a gift by credit card, [click here](#) to give a one-time gift from your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover).

Give Online

To make a gift by paper check, please mail it with your completed [Vital Partners Pledge Form](#) to: AB Women's Ministries, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482. A receipt will be sent to you by email or regular mail. Please provide your email address.

To give monthly or quarterly automatically from your bank account, please complete the "Automated Giving Plan" on the [Vital Partners Pledge Form](#) and mail it to: AB Women's Ministries, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482. A receipt will be sent to you by email or regular mail. Please provide your email address.