



# The Lamplighter



Happy New Year 2024,

Wow, January is almost gone and I am still trying to get my head around it being 2024. Sometimes it seems like I need more time to complete the things I want to do. I guess my to-do list is more optimistic than realistic. I hope you are finding balance and time management in your life, I am still working on it in my life.

On Monday, January 15, 2024, instead of celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday, my husband and I were in the Emergency room. Dan fell in the early morning, Fortunately, nothing was broken, but he was not acting like himself. Thus began a week-long stay and a plethora of tests. Now he is in a Rehab center to gain strength back. Did you know that for every day in bed, you need 3 days to fully recover? Solution, try not to stay in bed. Move as much as you can! Also, drink plenty of water, Dan was somewhat dehydrated.

Life goes on, I missed the January 20, 2024 ABWM State Board meeting at Mountain Vista. I so missed seeing all of the wonderful women who make up our board. Past President Yvonne Whisenhunt presided over the meeting and the Rev Mary Tellis, Director of Restoration Outreach was a guest speaker. I have heard that it was a productive meeting. I know plans are underway for a Zoom Retreat on Saturday, March 16, 2024. The program is based on the National Theme “Be Strong, Be Courageous”. I hope to see all of your smiling faces then.

Until then blessings on all of us as we live our abundant lives in God’s love,

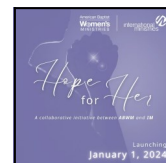
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Table of Contents	
	page
President - “Estelle Torpy”	1
Hope for Her & other links	2-4
Mission and Service	4
Board pictures	4
Love Gift	5
State Board meeting highlights	6-7
JLJ Corner	8
Restructuring Task Force	9
Women’s History Month	10
AB GIRLS Winter Hangout	11
Miscellaneous	12



Dear Friends,

Hope for Her is a new collaborative initiative launched in 2024 and forged between American Baptist Women’s Ministries (ABWM) and International Ministries (IM). This collaborative effort aims to bolster support for women and girls through the various ministries of ABWM and IM. This initiative will unite efforts to uplift and empower women across the globe.



**Hope for Her** seeks to illuminate the reality of God’s promise in Jeremiah 29:11 of “a hope and a future” for women and girls in the United States, Puerto Rico, and abroad. All contributions made through the **Hope for Her** initiative will directly support ministries for women and girls through IM and ABWM.

Give now at  
<https://abwomensministries.org/Hope-for-Her>

**Ministries for Women and Girls**

When you support Hope for Her, you support IM and ABWM’s ministries for women and girls:

When you support Hope for Her, you support **American Baptist Women’s Ministries** ministries:

**American Baptist Girls in Relationship, Leadership, and Service (AB GIRLS)** provides opportunities for girls to develop strong relationships with God through fellowship and worship with their peers and AB women. [www.abwomensministries.org/ABGIRLS](http://www.abwomensministries.org/ABGIRLS)

**National Leadership Team of AB GIRLS** which consists of 4 high school teens, provides leadership, mentorship, social media updates, programming, and communication with other teens while honing their leadership skills and entrepreneurial dreams. [www.abwomensministries.org/NLT](http://www.abwomensministries.org/NLT)

**Building Beloved Community Project** enables women to fellowship, share traditions, and identify mutual interests for service to strengthen their communities through intentional, collaborative efforts. [www.abwomensministries.org/BBC](http://www.abwomensministries.org/BBC) (cont’d on page 3)

(cont'd from page 2)

**Building Bridges and Gateways to Girls' Futures (BBGGF)** enables girls and young adult women to connect the AB GIRLS Christian curriculum with STEAM educational providers, career planning, and neighborhood programs in our local churches, colleges, and communities.

[www.abwomensministries.org/BBGGF](http://www.abwomensministries.org/BBGGF)

**Bridges & Gateways Endowment: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Program** supports the development of tutoring programs, workshops and events, partnering schools, and scholarships. [www.abwomensministries.org/BGE](http://www.abwomensministries.org/BGE)

When you support Hope for Her, you support these ministries of International Ministries"

- Deborah's House
- IMCC Women's Forum
- INSAAF
- Lott Carey Baptist Mission School
- Baptist Union of Southern Africa Women's Department.

To learn more about IM's ministries, visit [www.internationalministries.org/HopeForHer/](http://www.internationalministries.org/HopeForHer/)

Blessings,

Rev. Gina Jacob-Strain  
Executive Director

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**Support our ministry with women and girls!**  
[Give now at www.abwomensministries.org/give](http://www.abwomensministries.org/give)

#### **Our Contact Information**

American Baptist Women's Ministries  
1075 First Ave STE C-210  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
(610) 768-2288  
<http://www.abwomensministries.org>

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

## MISSION AND SERVICE

Renewed, Regenerated; Connecting With What's Real

Hello! We are the Mission and Services Ministries for the Colorado AB Women's Ministries. Our fiscal year ends on May 31, 2024. This year we are collecting funds to help with the national ABWM. Our goal is \$2,000.00. Please submit your check.

Please write checks of money orders and make them out to ABMW (American Baptist women's Ministries). Please send what God wants you to do to our Treasurer in Colorado: Mrs. Estelle Torpy, 890 Union Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304.

We walk in a Believer's life: Free and Spiritual. Our walk bears God's nature: through the Fruit of the Spirit. As a believer knows that the fruit is singular, not plural. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Our walk bears God's nature and it is free from selfishness. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). Believers are to be kind to one another. Let's continue to be faithful. Let's proclaim self-control to the lost! Let's assimilate the very nature of God.

We have a position in Christ. The Holy Spirit is in the heart of the believer. We are kept clear and clean by God Almighty! Jesus is coming one day for His bride--the "church" that hears His voice. Those who have learned to lay aside what hinders and made Jesus their choice. Let us continue to work together in unity and harmony. We have a common ground. Clean us up, Lord, so that You can use us. Clean us up, Lord, so that we can serve You. Clean us up, Lord, so that we can praise You. Purge us, Lord; Restore us, Lord. We are on our way to Glory! We are on the right track. There is more to do in '24! Scrub us through and through. We are on the battlefield!

We can help our national ABMW to continue with some vital programs and strong visions! Let us send in our monies; let us ask our churches to donate. Let us continue to grow and glow! Our Lord has an awesome touch, a marvelous touch, a gracious touch and a faithful touch. Help us to help others!



Mission and Service,  
Flora Young  
Chairperson Mission and Service Ministries.

Colorado ABWM Board meeting - January 2024



LOVE GIFT 2024

“A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another; as I have loved you.”  
John 13:34

Greetings to all my sisters and brothers in this new blessed year of 2024. Jesus spoke the above words to his disciples. We rejoice to live out his command. Love And Live (LAL) out loud and give a donation to **Love Gift**. This offering supports our American Baptist Women's Ministry (ABWM) region, and American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) national and international ministries and missions. Donations can be given to your church: designate this offering to **Love Gift for ABWM**. Your church's treasurer will complete the necessary form and send them together to the ABCRM, the regional office. This process will assure that your church receives credit for the donation. Donations can be given online: ABWomenministries.org then follow the prompt under GIVE that downloads a list of ministries choices and click on **LOVE GIFT**. Thank you for your generous **Love Gift**.

For more information, please contact Joan Anderson, Love Gift chairperson:  
joananderson2@yahoo.com.

**L** LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AS IT SAYS IN GOD'S WORD,  
**O** OTHERS HAVE PROBLEMS AS WE HAVE HEARD.  
**V** VOICES CALLING, "HELP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE."  
**E** EACH WOMAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER SISTER'S FATE.  
  
**G** GIVE YOUR TREASURES GREAT AND SMALL,  
**I** INTO OUR HANDS GOD'S WORK WILL FALL.  
**F** FOREVER AND EVER HE DEPENDS ON US,  
**T** TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD AND KEEP GOD'S TRUST

By: Emogene Jones Andrick



Joan Anderson, Love Gift chairperson  
joananderson2@yahoo.com

## State Board Meeting Highlights

The Colorado AB Women's Ministries Board met at Mountain Vista Senior Living Community in Wheat Ridge on Saturday, January 20.

### Restoration Outreach Programs

Our special guest was Rev. Mary R. Tellis, Executive Director of Restoration Outreach Programs (ROP), a ministry serving the community along the East Colfax Corridor in Northwest Aurora. Mary shared about the programs and the needs of ROP and challenged us to support this ministry through prayer, volunteering, donations of material goods, and/or financial resources.

ROP offers a weekly Food Bank, where the number of people seeking help has tripled recently from 50-75 families a week to 150 - 200 families a week. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, offered at four different levels, are in high demand, and are limited by their space and furniture available. Work Readiness classes, including GED preparation, seek to improve the sustained employability of workers, as well as simply getting hired. Their new Hospitality Center, which opened in December, welcomes people, especially their "hopeful friends" (unhoused neighbors), and many new migrants who have come from all over the world. ROP seeks to learn their stories and hopes to meet their basic needs, such as a meal, a shower, warm clothing, a blanket, a phone charging station, etc.

ROP can use volunteers in any of its programs, including people willing to work with non-native English speakers. (E.g., there is a special need for French speakers/translators.) They can use donations of items they give to their guests, including warm outer clothing, hats, gloves, socks, boots, blankets, towels, soap, and shampoo, as well as food donations for the Food Bank. And they appreciate financial donations to support the overall ministry, as well as to purchase some larger items, such as cots to use for overnight guests in extreme weather, chairs for use during classes, and a storage shed to hold donated supplies until needed.

The Board voted to send ROP a donation of \$1600, which could be used toward their desired furnishings.

### Women's Retreat

Colorado ABWM will sponsor a Women's Retreat by Zoom on Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The retreat will focus on "Spiritual Olympics: Be Strong; Be Courageous!" Registration information will be available in the near future.

### ABWM's Scholarships - Retirement of Anne Mills as Scholarship Funds Administrator

Anne Mills, granddaughter of Jane Loring Jones, has overseen the scholarship funds and has administered the scholarships granted by AB Women's Ministries of Colorado for 40 years! Anne announced her retirement from this position, leaving the need to find people to fulfill the roles she has so faithfully filled. With vacancies on the Scholarship Fund Investment Committee, President Estelle Torpy appointed Sharon Murphy, as committee chair, and Mary Beth Mankin to that committee. The Board approved these appointments and then adopted a resolution certifying Sharon Murphy and Mary Beth Mankin as signers on the Accounts where our Scholarship Funds are invested. We look forward to recognizing Anne Mills for her faithful service at our Summer Conference.

(cont'd on page 7)

(cont'd from page 6)

**Scholarship Committee Chair, Dr. Jamie Johnson, will post the 2024 Jane Loring Jones Scholarship and the Ministerial Student Grant applications on the ABCRM website in March.** Completed Jane Loring Jones Scholarship applications for college are due in early May.

### **2024 Colorado State Women's Conference**

The Board decided that the 2024 Annual Meeting and Conference will again be a one day meeting on June 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. More information to be forthcoming.

### **2023 - 2024 State Project**

Flora Young, Chair of Mission and Service, reminded us to be collecting and sending in money for our State Project, supporting the "vital programs and strong visions" of national AB Women's Ministries. Go to [www.abwomensministries.org/give](http://www.abwomensministries.org/give) to see a long list of initiatives our giving supports.

### **Love Gift**

Love Gift Chair Joan Anderson reminded us that Love Gift offerings are accounted for on a calendar year basis, and that we have started a new calendar year. She shared a poem for inspired LOVE GIFT giving and encouraged us to give generously.

### **Restructuring Task Force**

Mary Beth Mankin reported that the task force met recently and reviewed the results of the survey taken last May. They recommend an article in the Lamplighter summarizing the results. The task force also began naming several changes that need to be made to update our Bylaws based on the realities of loss of Associations and declining numbers of ABWM groups meeting.

### **In Memory of Betty Moseley**

Betty Ruth Moseley, president of Colorado ABWM, 1990 - 1992, died on December 23, 2023 at the age of 95, after a long struggle with declining health. Betty was a long-time faithful active member of AB Women's Ministries. Colorado ABWM will send a gift of \$100 to the National ABWM Leadership Development Fund in her memory.

### **Announcements from National ABWM**

The Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, will become the General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA on February 1. Rev. LaThelma Yenn Batah, formerly an Associate Executive Director of ABWM, will become Interim Executive Director of ABWM. Congratulations to both of these women!!



Rev. Mary Beth Mankin, Secretary  
[mbmankin545@gmail.com](mailto:mbmankin545@gmail.com)



## *JLJ CORNER*

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus

Ladies there is still time to get Jane Loring Jones Scholarship applications in to be considered for the 2024-2025 school year. The applications will be on the ABCRM website and can be downloaded and completed. The scholarship applications will be due May 3.

There are two Jane Loring Jones applications on the website:

1. First time applicants and 2. Renewal applications.

The American Baptist Women Ministerial Grant Application will also be on the website. The Ministerial Student Grant is to assist consecrated Christian women to further their education in order to prepare for ministerial leadership. Graduate students who are contemplating going into the ministry, should consider applying for this grant.

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.

Both applications are available from the website below.

<https://www.abcrm.org/women-s-ministries>

*Dr. Jamie D. Johnson*

*720-879-2700*

*jljscholarship@gmail.com*



## Restructuring Task Force Update

In May, the Restructuring Task Force offered an opportunity for women to tell us about the women's organization in their church and how they are involved, as well as sharing what Colorado AB Women's Ministries events they've attended and what were highlights for them.

The 19 survey responders came from ten different churches. Three of the churches represented currently have active AB Women's Ministries groups. Five of the churches have active women's groups, but they do not designate themselves as ABWM groups. One church with formerly active circles, no longer has any group specifically for women. One church with a previously strong ABWM group was closing. Three respondents no longer attend an ABC church.

From this feedback we learned things we were already somewhat aware of. Some churches that have ABWM groups, no longer have active Circles. Some formerly strong ABWM groups are no longer meeting regularly or at all. This is especially true since the Covid-19 pandemic changed former meeting patterns. We have lost ABWM groups in churches, and we have lost some ABC churches.

In spite of those downward trends, we have numerous women who are interested in women's ministry and willing to attend ABWM of Colorado sponsored retreats and conferences. Women shared numerous things they appreciate and would like more of including Bible studies, missionary speakers, hearing from scholarship recipients, workshops, ABCRM Region reports, hands-on service opportunities, devotional times, communion, etc.

We are aware that most of the women active at our state level of ABWM are in ABC churches that no longer have, or never had, ABWM groups, which makes it harder to assume giving to ABWM causes. It also means we at the State level need to figure out how to relate directly to individual women, as we can no longer operate through Associations of churches or even active local groups.

The Restructuring Task Force is looking at ways to change our Bylaws that more accurately reflect the current reality of the relationship of women in ABC churches to women's groups and to Colorado ABWM.

We recognize the value of offering important things at the state level. We want to offer spiritual nurture and encouragement through women's retreats. We want to gather annually to conduct business, to fellowship, to learn and to serve. We want to continue to offer Jane Loring Jones Scholarships for women's undergraduate college education, and to offer Ministerial Student Grants for women following a call to ministry. We hope to offer opportunities to serve those in need, whether locally or farther away. And we hear the calls to get together more often to socialize to get to know one another better, working to build a Beloved Community.

Rev. Mary Beth Mankin, Chair

Task Force members: Rev. Kay Farley, Joan Anderson, Sharon Murphy, Estelle Torpy, Yvonne Whisenhunt, Flora Young



# Women's History Month

During Women's History month, ABWM curates a brief virtual gathering every Monday at 12:00pm ET during March 2024. We hope you'll join us in celebrating Women's History Month!

Register at:  
[www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events)



During Women's History Month, ABWM curates a virtual gathering every Monday at 12:00 PM Eastern Time during March 2024. We hope you'll join us in celebrating Women's History Month!

[Click here for information and to Register](#)



**Monday, March 4, 2024, at 12:00-12:30 PM ET**

**Special Guest: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Price**, Publisher of Judson Press

[Click here for more information.](#)



**Monday, March 11, 2024, at 12:00-12:30 PM ET**

**Special Guest: Rev. Kathryn Choy-Wong**, a consultant, trainer, and writer in intercultural ministries

[Click here for more information.](#)



**Monday, March 18, 2024, at 12:00-12:30 PM ET**

**Special Guest: Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil**, author of *Beacons Of Hope*

[Click here for more information.](#)



**Monday, March 25, 2024, at 12:00-12:30 PM ET**

**Special Guest: Joy Skjegstad and Heidi Unruh**, authors of *Real Connections*

[Click here for more information.](#)



# EVENTS:

AB GIRLS Hangout

**AB GIRLS WINTER**  
*Hangout*

Saturday, February 10, 2024  
live on Zoom  
3:00 pm- 4:30 pm EST

*For more information, visit [www.abwomensministries.org/events](http://www.abwomensministries.org/events).*

Elementary through High School girls are invited to a FREE virtual event where girls will enjoy activities, such as baking, participating in a service project, Bible study, and joining in prayer for all girls around the world.

[Click here to Register](#)



## Join us for Bible Study!

Our Bible Study Leader will be Minister Cassandra Foster.

Minister Cassandra Foster is the Social Media Content Creator for American Baptist Women's Ministries. She serves as the Youth Minister of the VIBE youth ministry (Victorious in Believing Eternity) and Minister of Social Media at First Baptist Church of Hillside. Minister Foster obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in International Business from Montclair State University in 2012. Minister Foster received her Master of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, where she served as president of the Association of Black Seminarians and became a licentiate minister in 2017. She served as a pastoral intern and Youth Minister at the First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church, where she birthed the Young Disciples Youth Ministry. She is enrolled at United Theological Seminary to obtain her Doctor of Ministry.

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**Support our ministry with women and girls!**

[Give now at www.abwomensministries.org/give](http://www.abwomensministries.org/give)

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### Our Contact Information

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1003 W. 9th Ave., Ste A  
King of Prussia  
PA 19406-1210  
[Internationalministries.org](http://Internationalministries.org)

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Colorado ABWM has a  
Facebook page?  
Click the link below:  
[Colorado AB Women's Facebook](#)

**ABHMS Address:**  
American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
1075 First Ave.  
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406  
Phone: 888.79.ABHMS  
[ABHMS.org](http://ABHMS.org)

**Share the Lamplighter!**

Send name & email address to Yvonne Whisenhunt at [Yvonne.ABW@gmail.com](mailto:Yvonne.ABW@gmail.com) Include "Send Lamplighter" in the subject line.

New email address? Remember to send your new email address to [Yvonne.ABW@gmail.com](mailto:Yvonne.ABW@gmail.com)

The Lamplighter email list is not shared with any other organization.

*Yvonne Whisenhunt, Editor*