



The Tell Hergram

An American Baptist Women's Ministry of Ohio Publication

Winter 2016

PRESIDENT - Mariann Curl (Western Association)

This is the time of year I always look forward to the new issue of the Tell-Her-Gram. The new year usually ushers in stay-at-home weather, and what a great time to catch up on what is going on in American Baptist Women's Ministries! So light a fire, get some hot chocolate, put your feet up and enjoy!

The next Virtual Mission Encounter is planned for March 7 - 11, 2016. Registration deadline is March 2. Go to abwministries.org to register and see details. "See...The Beloved Community" will be the topic of focus for this journey of daily activities and conference calls with special guests and participants. Be a part of transforming your community through relationships with one another.

Everywhere you look, someone is expressing different concepts and ideas about the refugee situation. Duane Binkley posted an informative article on his website that searches through the scriptures and his personal experience with refugees. I urge you to get to this site and read what he writes about this subject. With this being our mission focus for this year I also urge you to obtain a copy of "In Their Shoes: Immigrants and Refugees". You can find the link on the abwministries.org site under mission focus or through Judson Press to order a copy. Study what the scriptures say.

The Ohio Conference is scheduled on June 17 - 18, 2016 in Zanesville. Don't miss the article in this issue.

The National Event for Women of All Ages is July 21-24, 2016 At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel.

"3D: Dwelling, Discovering, Disciplining" based on Romans 12 is the theme. We will also be celebrating 65 years of ABWM at this event. Registration details are on the website abwministries.org.

God is once again blessing women in His service with another trip to the country of Georgia. Cross Cultural relationships that are intentional, positive, constructive, and from the heart will be a key in moving toward the peaceful world we all covet. This spiritual pilgrimage for Baptist and Muslim women is just one of the first steps. Be in prayer for this gathering that will take place Aug. 3 - 13, 2016. More details and information is available on abwministries.org.

"Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for everything He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Mariann Curl, President, ABWM- Ohio Western Association

SECRETARY – Paula Duncan (Assoc)

Greetings from Southern Ohio! I have a couple of reminders for you.

For all ABWM/Ohio board members, committee chairpersons, and association presidents – our next Executive Board/Board of Managers meeting will be **Saturday, March 12, 2016**, at the ABC/Ohio office in Granville, Ohio (136 N. Galway Road, 43023). The meeting will begin **at 10:00 a.m.** Lunch will be provided for a very minimal cost. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet at our scheduled time in November, so there is much to be done. Each of you is asked to make every effort to attend the March 12 meeting. We look forward to seeing YOU!

Next, our ABWM/Ohio Annual Conference is scheduled for **June 17 & 18, 2016** at Philo High School in Zanesville, Ohio. Be sure to read more about this great event in other articles in this publication. The new ABWM/Ohio Directory will be available at this meeting. Copies are given to all state officers/committee chairpersons and association presidents.

In order to have the most accurate, up-to-date information, I am asking that association presidents or association secretaries send me their most current list of association officers (including name, title, address, phone number, and email address) **no later than FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016**. If there are no changes to the officers in your association, I'd like to know that as well. So, please send the updated list to me via email at paula.duncan1948@gmail.com or call me at home (740-353-2229) or on my cell (740-821-3519).

Finally, I am still looking for someone to take my place as the ABWM/Ohio Secretary. The term of office is for three (3) years but the commitment for now will be two (2) years. I completed by regular term in June 2015 but agreed to stay on another year, or until someone could be found. If you know of any lady in your association who would consider being Secretary for ABWM/Ohio, please let me know as soon as possible. According to our by-laws, we are supposed to nominate a slate of officers at the March executive board meeting and then present the nominees to the full membership for approval at the June conference. So the quicker we get names, the sooner we can move forward.

God bless each and every one of you! I look forward to seeing you in March and/or June!

Paula Duncan, Secretary, ABWM/Ohio
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TREASURER – Nancy Peto (Columbus Assoc)

What Can AB Women in Ohio Do?

Ohio's economy might have partially recovered from the recession, but many Ohio children have not. There are 53,000 more Ohio children living in poverty and the overall rate is higher than during the recession in 2008, according to 2015 Kids Count data released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The state's child-poverty rate rose to 23 percent last year from 18 percent in 2008, the report showed. Ohio is 31st worst in the nation in child-poverty rate and 23rd overall, about the same as last year.

The annual report by the nonprofit foundation considers a wide variety of economic, health and educational factors in assessing the well-being of children. Although we are several years past the end of the recession, millions of families across Ohio still have not benefited from the economic recovery. While we've seen an increase in employment in recent years, many of these jobs are low-wage and cannot support even basic family expenses. Far too many families are still struggling to provide for the day-to-day needs of their children.

Minority children have been largely "sidestepped" by Ohio's economic bounce-back. Black children are three times as likely to live in poverty areas in Ohio, and twice as likely to be in a single-parent family, while Latino children are most likely to be in a household where the parent isn't a high-school graduate. The data show that wide gaps remain between the living standards of many children of color and other children.

The time is now for Ohio to get serious about ending child poverty, reducing economic, educational and health disparities, and improving well-being for all children. As American Baptist women living in Ohio, what can we do to help the children right here at home?

Personal Development Coordinator – Anna Suerken (Marietta Assoc)

"See..." is the theme that we are exploring for the next two years. In the September Tellhergram I gave an overview of plans for growing spiritually by exploring, "See..." the national ABWM theme.

Here are some ideas for growing spiritually using "See..." making your own plans rather than the resource book, ["See..." 2015-2017 Ministry Focus Resource](#). Remember you should feel free to work at adapting the theme to meet the needs of your group.

Decide how your ladies may best grow spiritually. Have some time to brainstorm with your group and come up with some ways to find your own resources. Check your own "library" of resources you have saved over the years, check your church library, browse your local Christian book store, or browse the internet. Talk to people who may have some ideas on the topic. Talk with your pastor, Sunday school teachers and other Bible scholars you may know. (By talking to them, you are letting them know about your ABWM theme for the years.)

Perhaps you would like to do a Bible study with your group. Women of Faith have a study you may use. Or get the book and use a few of the topics that most interest your group. The title is: "Seeing God in Everything" – Women of Faith. This can be ordered on line or find the Women of Faith literature in your local Christian book store.

Perhaps you may want devotionals having to do with "See..." After checking your own resources you may browse the internet for a topic of devotionals to meet your needs. I found a devotional called: "Seeing Yourself through God's Eyes," by June Hunt. It is a 31 day devotional series. You could use it in parts or use it at home for a month.

Perhaps Kristen Dalton Wolfe answers how God sees us through scripture verses. She has 16 scriptures that reveal how God sees us. Here are some examples.

- 1) I am a new creation in Him. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- 2) I am a daughter of Light. "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 1 Thessalonians 5:5.
- 3) I am the salt of the earth. "You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13.

Find what you can use of these 16 verses. You may share the other 13 of these by going on line to:

sheismore.com/how-does-god-see-you-16-verses-that-reveal-your-true-identity/

In the theme scripture Psalm 139, we are reminded that the same God who saw us in our mother's womb continues to see us in our everyday movements and actions. Indeed, he seeks us out! An intentional form of seeing! Praise God for his continuous love and care.

If you would like a copy of the "See..." 2015-2017 Ministry Focus Resource book visit: www.abwministries.org/see

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Coordinator of Mission and Service – Jerralyn Wood (Dayton Assoc)

Mission and Service Coordinator
Jerralyn Wood (Dayton – jswood3gk@gmail.com)



Greetings this happy morning! We are in the “morning” of 2016 as it recently “dawned”. What will your day (2016) be filled with? Now is the time to **see** into your heart and make plans. I pray one of your priorities will be to **see** what you can do for others through mission and service!

Now is the time to determine what your local group or association can give for the ABWM of Ohio State Project “**K Camps.**” Our goal is to raise \$20,000. All donations will be divided by Camp Koinonia and Kirkwood Camp. Koinonia needs funds for their multipurpose building, painting and horse ministry. Kirkwood will use funds for kitchen upgrade (oven drains, frying, etc.). We urge EACH church and association to give all they can for the future of our camps and kids. Send your funds to our ABWM of Ohio State Treasurer.

Mission News – Lots has been happening to our missionaries! **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** were commissioned to serve as IM missionaries in the Dominican Republic and Cuba on November 15, 2015. They now will be attending language school preparing them for their assignment. **Emerson and Ivy Wu** have been reassigned (effective January 1, 2016) and are now based in Hong Kong. They will be giving special attention to assessing the needs of Christian workers training programs and developing human resources to support them in consultation with the partners of the area. After serving in Macau for two years they are excited about this new avenue of service. **Rovaughna Richardson (Ghana) and Carmella Jones (Hungary)** appointed missionaries in 2015 continue to raise funds so they will be able to travel to their mission fields as soon as possible. Please consider these new servants in your mission giving plans. We have been assigned another endorsed missionary **Marilyn Raatz.** Ms. Raatz of North Chatham, Massachusetts is planning to work with IM partners throughout Africa and will train, consult with and mentor young leaders in ministries of peace, justice and conflict transformation. She was first called to Africa in 2007 and has returned since then teaching about issues of justice.

The Give-Away Challenge was the subject of December journal article by our missionaries to Baja California, Mexico **Joyce & David Reed**. It is an inspiring article which you can read on the IM website. Let me share, “If we belong to Jesus then this fruit (of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23) should be growing, maturing in our lives. And what happens to mature fruit? It is picked and shared within the community to sustain life and health!” They challenge us to give away a fruit of the Spirit during Advent but let us make that a 2016 challenge - to give away Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.” Have a wonderful new day (year)! Peace to each of you, Jerri

Coordinator of Conference – Susan Stotts (Zanesville Assoc)

The new year has run at us headlong and is trying to pass me up! I worked on the Christmas give-away at our local Salvation Army and it was like having a job again for three weeks; had to be there every day. It took my attention away from conference for awhile, but I'm back on it now. Lots of great things have been planned already and the missionaries' home assignments were released this week, so I've sent an email inviting a missionary to come. By the time you read this, the website should be updated with the latest details, and once we have everything tacked down, we'll send the registration form with the registrar, Wilma Barrows', address in the Spring TellHerGram. Meanwhile, here's what I know:

Conference is **June 17 & 18** and is once again at Philo High School, 123 Millers Lane, Duncan Falls, 43734 and we're holding the conference registration cost to last year's \$50 (remember, the more that come, the better we can hold the cost down), plus meals (which we're trying to hold to the same cost, I'll let you know prices soon). Be sure to use the address for a map search, the school name will send you to the wrong place.

We're once again offering AB Girls the opportunity to attend at no cost when with an adult and offering to waive that adult's registration fee.

The motel held last year's prices, \$116 + 7% tax for 2 queens or 1 king and \$120 + 7% tax for 2 queens + sofa pullout. Use the **code WBW** and make your reservations **by 5/16/16** to receive these rates. That's at Holiday Inn Express, 1101 Spring Street, Zanesville, 43701, phone 740-297-4751. I was able to do away with one tax by using our tax exemption, so remember to use the code.

Rev. Jane Gibbons is our Bible Study Leader and will offer a **Bible Study Discussion** to delve deeper into the theme. Jane's ability to bring a different view to a subject will make for an interesting and enlightening Bible Study.

Our worship leader is **Debby Johnston**, who you will remember from last year. She will also lead a **workshop on her recent book, “Cherish: A Still, Small Call”**, a work of fiction based on true experiences. Come learn some of the deeper meanings. If you want to read the book first, it is available on Amazon.com. Copies of the book with its discussion guide will also be available at conference.

Workshops also include:

Meet the Missionary: the opportunity to hear more detail from the missionary.

White Cross with Patsy Rice, Chair: Hear the latest updates and information and how the Overseas request changes are working.

Wills, Directives & Plans: Attorney Jillian VonGunten will lead us through those confusing things such as Power of Attorney, Living Will, Right of Survivorship. What do they mean? What do you need? Learn how to secure and simplify the future for you and your loved ones.

Hands-on Work Trip: Not one to sit through more meetings? We're taking a group to volunteer at the local Salvation Army. They have a shelter, food and clothing banks, and serve lunches and dinners, so there is plenty to do. This trip will take both workshop sessions.

Conference Choir: Join together to make a joyful noise!

We plan to give our Care & Share and Scholarship recipients time to share their latest news, present the State Project collection to the camps and introduce the new State Project. The Drama Queen for the King will be with us and, hopefully, our AB Girls will include a group from Dayton that does liturgical dance. Expect a book store, mission store and Table of Treasures. Dad got a new Jeanie Roberts DVD, maybe for Friday evening? And, believe it or not, we've factored in a little time for visiting, shopping the mission and book stores and relaxing. Whew! Sounds like a full conference to me. I'm excited and hope you are, too. Make plans now to join your sisters in Christ on June 17 & 18.

Susan Stotts
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Retreat Chairwoman – Janet Wion (Zanesville Assoc)

Mark your calendars for **Spiritual Growth Retreat, September 9-10, 2016 at
First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, Ohio**

Look for full details in the spring Tell-Her-Gram with the program outline and registrations forms to copy and share. You will also be able to access a form to print on the ABC/OHIO website. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Spiritual Growth Retreat.

Many Blessings for this New Year!!

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White Cross Chairwoman – Patsy Rice (Mohican Assoc)

Attention fellow sisters In Christ. It is almost time for this year's request to be done and those reports sent in.

As I was working on my Churches roller bandages, and one of my sister Churches bandages, I realized that is what Sister Church means. Helping one another. I know some of the Churches are having trouble getting their request, roller bandages, and Mission Money in. Please contact your local White Cross Chairperson and see if your Church can help one of your sister Churches. The need for all three of these items is stronger than ever.

Patsy Rice
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Scholarship Chairwoman – Beatrice Cunningham (Columbus Assoc)

Hi,

Happy New Year to everyone, 2016 is off to a good start I have updates on our scholarship students.

Micah and his wife Maria were able to make a huge step forward this summer and purchase a home in Apex,NC. They plan on living there for the foreseeable future after he graduates in May.

Maria loves the weather in NC and it is a great place for them to be right now. Their new address is
130 Forthview Way , Apex NC 27502.

Micah will graduate in May 2016.

Stephen is currently in his last year at Ashland Theological Seminary completing his Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. He is currently interning at Heritage Christian Counseling in Mansfield, Ohio and is getting ready to take his counselor's licensing exam in the spring.

Stephen was married to Kailey Annett Bradley on December 26 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Stephen met Kailey at Ashland in the counseling program and Kailey has already passed her licensing exam and finished her schooling the first of December.

Who knows where they will live when they graduate, but Kailey and Stephen are waiting to see what new adventures will occur in 2016.

Stephen graduates in May 2016.

Karen is working on parts of her thesis, and hopes to have rough draft done in January. She is still on track to graduate in May 2016. She would like prayers to complete this lengthy process of writing and revisions.

We have two new applications for Scholarship. Julia Carver is in her second year at Ohio Northern University. She is planning on going to Seminary after she receives her bachelor's degree.

Jonathan Mollohan is attending Liberty Baptist Seminary in Lynchburg Virginia working towards his Master of Divinity Degree .

Please be in prayer for all of our scholarship students and send them cards.

Beatrice Cunningham
Scholarship Chair

Care and Share Chairwoman – Judy Douglas (Mahoning Valley Assoc)

Watch for the Care and Share lists to arrive in March.

Judy Douglas,
Care and Share
judydouglas@centurylink.net
330 584 5888

Coordinator of Publicity and TELLHERGRAM – Nancy Hynds (Zanesville Assoc)

I am currently beginning the search for a new Tellhergram Chairwoman. It isn't nearly as difficult as I have made it seem. You just need a little time, a computer, a way to send and receive email, an ability to create a word document (mostly copying and pasting), the aptitude to edit slightly (usually everything is ready to go with a few little tweaks), access to a printer for your original, and a copier for the ones that need to go in the mail. You may create labels for the mailing or write the addresses on by hand. You are reimbursed for any cost, including postage, when you turn in your receipts to the state Treasurer (currently Nancy Peto).

You will receive a notebook and thumb drive with all the information you need to succeed.

If you are a woman who feels you can't always contribute as much as you would like, due to physical limits or time restraints, this is the position for you.

‘NEW’ SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please fill out and send with your check made out to ABW Ministries. Do not send self-addressed stamped envelopes.

Please note the subscription year is : Fall (Oct 1) – Winter (Feb. 1) – Spring (May 1). Please submit a new subscription form each summer to continue your subscription for the next year.

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