

The Tellhergram

Fall Issue 2024

An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication



PRESIDENT - Susan Stotts

I hope you have been able to enjoy a wonderful summer. Mine has been hot, dry and busy! We did manage to go to Cincinnati over Labor Day Weekend and visit family, including my great nephews, aged almost five and almost one. What fun!

My May article was all about coming to our Spring conference and, if you missed it, you missed a great one. We heard from our in-state ministries, presented the State Project results to Rev. Dr. Chris Smith, national ABWM President, via face time, sang with Nancy and Randy (Travis, on CD) and had a wonderful Bible Study with Rev. Jill Smith entitled "Fear Isn't the Problem". And she's right, faith conquers fear as David writes in Psalm 56:3-4. Start making plans now to come to the 2025 State Conference on Saturday, June 7. Sarah McCurdy will be with us to accept our State Project and be our Bible Study Leader.

In July, I got to go to another great conference, the ABWM National Conference. We were at Roanoke College in Salem, VA and had good workshops, wonderful worship and great fellowship. I got to meet many women with whom I have attended zoom meetings. It was like seeing old friends. Your Treasurer, Becky, went with me to keep me company on the trip and to keep me in line.

I am beginning to see that much of the change in direction in national's focus is driven by the changes in how IM and ABHMS now do things. They no longer send their needs requests through ABWM. Those are found on their websites or through the missionaries your churches support, or by checking directly with the ministry. So, ABWM has turned to empowering women so they can serve Christ. In the latest communication I received was this statement about American Baptist Women's Ministries:

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) empowers women and girls to grow in faith, leadership, and service, fostering a world of equality and justice. Rooted in Christ, we are dedicated to creating safe, supportive communities where women and girls thrive, their voices are amplified, and their contributions celebrated. Through our collective efforts, we seek to advance beyond the status quo and build a more prosperous, equitable future for all.

So, while we don't want to make that our complete focus, it is a worthwhile thing to support. Many of our projects already do this. When we send White Cross or Care &

Share items to our in-state ministries, we are empowering women to be able to go to work or school. We are caring for their children and showing the whole family Christ's love. Think about this year's State Project. Helping a place that protects women and their children from domestic abuse and making sure that the children don't fall behind in their studies. After all, education is often the way out of poverty. We are enabling women and children to thrive, all in a Christian setting, which is what National is striving to do, too. Check out their website, use the Bible studies and information. They can be helpful for us as well as others.

I want to thank those of you who have donated to my fundraising efforts for the Courageous Steps Fundraiser. I don't think I've reached my goal, but the campaign must be going well, and they have extended it through the end of the year. If you would like to donate, checks can be mailed directly to the ABWM National office at 1075 First Avenue, Suite C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Please mention that it is for my campaign.

Or

Go to the fundraiser website and make your donation there.

<https://abwm.betterworld.org/campaigns/courageous-steps/p/susan-stotts>

I do want to tell you that the platform adds a small fee (mine was \$1.06) to cover the transaction, which ensures that your entire donation goes directly to the cause. There's also an optional contribution to help cover fundraising costs. I chose to do the optional contribution so my \$25 grew to a \$28.05 charge.

One reason I believe the campaign is going well is that ABWM has launched a new service; the Rudd Empowerment Center. It is dedicated to advancing leadership, education, and advocacy for women and girls worldwide. It will address the critical issues facing women today with a focus on leadership development. Ohio's own Rev. Dr. Chris Smith is the director. For more information, check out the press release at abwomensministries.org.

Wow! I guess that's all for now. I'd better go and do a couple of loads of laundry so I can pack for the Spiritual Growth Retreat this weekend. I hope to see you there, and at the ABC Ohio Annual Gathering in October.

Susan Stotts

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SECRETARY – Paula Duncan

Greetings Ladies!

Several of our American Baptist women across the state just attended the annual Spiritual Growth Retreat in Mount Vernon, Ohio. If you missed it, I strongly encourage you to make the effort to attend next year. This time of spiritual renewal, catching up with old

friends and making new ones, and having some delicious food is a highlight of our year!! Kudos to Barb Rockwell and Janet Wion, Co-Coordinator of the Spiritual Growth Retreat, for another outstanding event!

At the retreat, I distributed the new ABWM/Ohio Directories for 2024-2025. I only heard from about five associations regarding updates, so I have no clue how accurate some of the information is. If you see something that needs changed or corrected, please reach out to me (see email and phone number below). If there was no one from your association at the retreat, I will be mailing directories to association presidents in the near future.

Sharing a recent devotion on one of our new theme scriptures, Psalm 56:3-4:

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? (ESV)

Every time you affirm your trust in me, you put a coin into My treasury. Thus you build up equity in preparation for days of trouble. I keep safely in My heart all trust invested in Me, with interest compounded continuously. The more you trust Me, the more I empower you to do so.

Practice trusting Me during quiet days, when nothing much seems to be happening. Then when storms come, your trust balance will be sufficient to see you through. Store up for yourself treasure in heaven, through placing your trust in Me. This practice will keep you in My Peace.

Copied from JESUS CALLING, by Sarah Young
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Blessings to all!

Paula Duncan

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TREASURER – Becky Winsley

Various useful information:

My phone number changed this summer. It is 740-348-6770. You may call or text if you have a question or need to reach me for any reason. A call will most likely go to voicemail as my phone silences unknown numbers. Therefore, make sure you leave a message that includes your name so that I know who I am speaking to when I call you back. I will get back to you as soon as I can. You can also email me at beckywinsley@gmail.com.

Remember that you can find the form "Funds Incoming to State Treasurer" on our website (www.abwmohio.org). I could also send you copies if you ask me to do so. Just email, text, or call. Please send that form along with your check made out to **ABW**

Ministries of Ohio to me at 1924 Euclid Ave., Zanesville 43701. Do NOT write the check to me personally. You could write a shorter version if you wish, which would be **ABWM/OH**. Thank you.

Becky Winsley
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From the Editor

Do you know someone who would like to receive the TellHerGram? The subscription form is available on our website (www.abwmohio.org). If you receive it by email, there is no charge. To receive it by US Post, there is a \$5 fee for a one-year subscription (3 issues).

SAVE THE DATE!

for the
AB Women's Ministries Ohio
State Conference

June 7, 2025
First Baptist Church
Newark, Ohio

Theme
BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS

Bible Study Leader
Sarah McCurdy

Hear from Care & Share Recipients
Celebrate State Project

More details to come, but plan now to join us as
we fellowship, worship and celebrate our ministry!

If you have any questions, contact Susan Stotts,
740-454-8446 or [sstotts@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ssstotts@columbus.rr.com).