

THE TELLHERGRAM

Spring Issue 2023 An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication



PRESIDENT - Susan Stotts

Is it showing my age to admit that when I looked out at the sunshine this morning, I thought of the poem that starts, "Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where them birdies is" and ends with being glad that cows don't fly? Everyone I know is glad for Spring for one reason or another. I'm glad for many reasons; a main reason being that it's time for Spring Conference! Yes, our chance to get together, bring Care & Share items, get updates on ministries, worship together and spend time in fellowship that strengthens our friendships and our commitment to continue Christ's work is rushing up on us. June 10th is the day and First Baptist Church, Newark, is the place. Hebrews 10:25 NLT tells us, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." My Sunday School class has been studying Charles Stanley's 30 Life Principles, and Sunday's was #28, No Christian Has Ever Been Called to "Go It Alone" in His or Her Walk of Faith. Perhaps surprisingly, it didn't talk that much about how God is with us always, but how we should gather together with our fellow believers, help each other out, and encourage each other. That is just what we do when we gather for Spring Conference. So, ladies, I hope you are all planning to come to Conference. I would love to see you there. I would love for you to hear our Bible Study Leader, Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain and representatives from our Ohio ministries. I would love to see us all take advantage of this opportunity to gather, learn, refresh, encourage and be encouraged. I know that the letter and brochure went out in early April and the brochure/registration form is in this newsletter, but I also know that some of you don't have printers. If you need a hard copy or copies of the brochure, don't hesitate to call me (740-454-8446) or email me (sstotts@columbus.rr.com). I'll be glad to get one (or more) out in the mail to you. But do it soon. We need the registrations in by May 26 and Leslie needs any motel reservations by May 8. Looking forward to seeing you all there

Blessings,

Susan Stotts

stotts@columbus.rr.com

740-454-8446



SECRETARY – Paula Duncan

Greetings Ladies!

LAST CALL!!!! Association Presidents and/or Association Secretaries – please, please send me a current list of your association officers and committee chairwomen!! It's time to update the ABW Ministries of Ohio Directory and I need your help. You can send your information to me via email (see below) or via 'snail' mail to 1147 Distel Lane, Portsmouth, OH, 45662. If you have no changes to your officers or chairwomen, just drop me a note (email or 'snail' mail) letting me know "No Changes" or give me a call (see below).

As I write this article, we are enjoying May weather and we just celebrated a glorious Easter! All things are like new which reminds us about our new life in Christ. "By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place" (Hebrews 10:20 NLT).

Hope to see many of you at the ABWM Annual Conference on Saturday, June 10, at First Baptist Church in Newark, OH. Looks like we're going to have a great time! Be sure and get those registrations in and if you need a hotel room the night before, be sure and send that request with payment to Leslie Hoskinson at the ABC/Ohio office.

Blessings to all!

Paula Duncan

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740-353-2229



TREASURER – Becky Winsley

I previously told you that as of January 23, 2023, \$2,105.47 had been collected for our State Project. I have a new total for you. As of April 18, 2023, an additional \$4,707.86 has come in, which makes the current State Project balance to be \$6,813.33! We are well on our way to our \$10,000 goal.

However, I **do need to receive** all the monies being sent for the State Project and all the other funds by the end of May. Whatever I have received for the State Project by the end of May will go toward the kitchen at Camp Koinonia. But I **HAVE** to close the books for incoming checks by May 31st in order to get everything deposited, all fund balances totaled, and my Treasurer's Report ready for our Annual Conference on June 10, 2023. A check for everything collected for the State Project will be presented to Randy & Lori Brooks at Conference. How wonderful it would be if we managed to collect more than our \$10,000 goal. Thank you everyone! 😊

Becky Winsley

beckywinsley@gmail.com

740-453-4548



**CHAIRWOMAN OF CARE AND SHARE –
Tammy Hubb**

As I write this, I feel so blessed! I hope you feel the same. 2 Corinthians 9: 6–15 tells us that generosity is encouraged. We are not to give reluctantly or under compulsion. God loves a cheerful giver and God is able to bless us abundantly.

June 10th, 2023 is our Conference at First Baptist Church Newark. I will have all the Care and Share areas marked. Please bring all the things you have gathered or will be gathering so we can share our generosity. We will be hearing from those in charge of each area.

The State Project for a new Kitchen at Camp Koinonia is still in need of donations. Please give what you can to ensure the Camp can give the best for our campers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in June. God is good!

Tammy Hubb
hubbtamara8@gmail.com
419-564-2113



**COORDINATOR OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT –
Sandra Banks**

An eye opening book written by Christine A. Smith (National President of the American Baptist Women Mission), about women entering the ministry. The glass ceiling represents the barrier that prevents qualified individuals from excelling beyond a certain level due to their race or gender. There are testimonies of other women, who have had to persevere against limited opportunities compared to their counterparts. The foreword written by Dr. Marvin McMickle states that women have become the majority of the student body in many of the seminaries and divinity schools in the United States. They have to hold onto their sense of self-esteem and the certainty of their calling while local churches choose unqualified and less qualified men over well qualified women. To be called to minister the word of God is a sacred and blessed thing, and the most important thing is that you have true calling, and don't let barriers hold you back.

Sandra Banks

sabanks007@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR – Flo Smith Heizer

SH-H-H-H-H-H-H-H Do you hear it?? Me neither!! Calling all students who are planning and studying to go into ministerial studies. Get your scholarship application in online or by mail. We are waiting for them. Deadline is still open for applications. March 15th passed, and my mailbox was still empty.

Yes, ladies, if you know of any deserving student that needs help, encourage them to apply.

I spent most of our trip home from Texas contacting and visiting Central (Baptist Theological) Seminary, Leadership Academy, and Ohio Baptist Scholarship Fund to see if there were qualifying students on their ends. STILL WORKING on it (in Kansas City right now getting ready to meet with the Scholarship Department of Central)!!

Also, let us be diligent in our scholarship support. Keeping our Scholarship Fund going is imperative to enable us to help our applicants continue learning and not fall short of schooling.

Please keep our scholarship student, Susan Nicholson, in your prayers and give her encouraging notes, cards, and gift cards and small gifts. Encouraging cards may bring a glimpse of light on one of their gloomy days. She had taken a term off for recovery from cancer. She is currently undergoing treatment for her second round of cancer and is unable to continue her studies at Ashland Seminary. We have assured Susan that we are there for her when she is ready to resume her studies and her support will be there. Please keep her on your churches' prayer lists!

It is a now a new year and a new beginning so have your ladies ABWM or your church give to ABWM of Ohio's Scholarship Fund. If we can't grow the scholarship fund, we cannot grant scholarships. The deadline for our aspiring scholarship applicants is still open and we are waiting for LOTS OF MAIL!! So, whether they may be repeaters or new, our applicants will need funds, but if we have no funds then there will be no scholarships.

We need to help our scholarship students with a hand up to finish or continue their education. We cannot do this without your help. Yes, we need your contributions to keep up our scholarship funds to help our students. PLEASE...PLEASE...PLEASE send your scholarship offerings to Becky Winsley and notate Scholarship Fund on the memo line. Please send to:

Ms. Becky Winsley
1924 Euclid Ave.
Zanesville, OH 43701

Proverbs 1:8-9

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

They are a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck.

I am praying that we will receive funds and I will not have to write those "I'm so sorry that we will not be able to support you this year" letters.

God Bless.

Stay safe and well. See you at conference (if the tires stay on the RV).

Flo Smith-Heizer

FROM OUR MISSIONARY, KIT RIPLEY

Dear Flo, Susan, and friends at American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio,

Hello. How are you doing? Are the tulips blooming in Ohio now? It's been over 100 degrees here in Thailand for the last several weeks, and the smog has been quite oppressive. We are anxiously expecting some rain this week, which will mark the end of our hot, dry season, and should bring the temps down into the 90s.

I wanted to write to express my sincere gratitude for your generous support for my Lesley University degree program. I am thrilled to report that my thesis was approved, and I will be graduating from my program as of May 19th! I have learned a great deal which I am implementing daily in my work at the New Life Center. My internship experience, and the academic challenge of writing my thesis were particularly fulfilling. Here's a link to my thesis, in case you are interested.

https://digitalcommons.lesley.edu/cgi/preview.cgi?article=1708&context=expressive_the_ses

Lesley U has given me permission to publish the thesis in both English and Thai. I've hired a professor from Chiang Mai University to do the translation for me. I sent her the final version yesterday. I expect to be able to post the Thai version by the end of June.

In other news, we received 4 new residents at the New Life Center over the last 2 months. I have started providing weekly individual art therapy and counseling for them. I'm drawing directly from what I learned while researching for my thesis.

Again, thank you for your support.

Blessings,
Kit

Kit Ripley
New Life Center Foundation
Chiang Mai, Thailand

A Message From Rev. Vince Harris

Dear Sisters in Jesus Christ
I trust & pray that all is well with you and family.

As for Lois & I, by God's grace & us doing our part, we have gotten over Covid from this winter. I thank God that Lois is well and presently helping a little Latino boy in our community who has an educational disability.

As for yours truly, I just finished doing the meet at Mahoning Valley Racecourse in Austintown, OH., which is 172 miles from our house, so I had to rent an apartment, thank God I was able to get a 6 month lease.

Mahoning Valley Racecourse is in the snow belt, and it was a very cold & bitter winter because all of our people work outside in the stables & on the back side of the race track.

Susan and Wilma Nicholson came to visit, and as I took them on the tour it was very depressing for them to see that this fairly recently built establishment had not built a kitchen for the people who work and live there. Also, they saw the small rooms that two people had to share.

Immediately after Mahoning racing season ended on April 15th, I had to pack my bags and little belongings and head to Thistledown Racetrack in Cleveland Ohio where I am presently the pastor for the people who work and live on the back side. Again, being on the road I had to rent an apartment in Cleveland Close to the racetrack.

Thistledown Racetrack Is 150 miles from our house. Driving 300 miles round trip from my house to Cleveland, or 344 miles to Mahoning is not possible. I am at each track 4 and a 1/2 days one week and 4 days the next.

This is my 27th year being the American Baptist Home Missionary to the racetracks in the state of Ohio. I thank all of you for your prayers, support and most of all, the love that you continue to show me.

Again, thank you so very much for helping me get my diesel truck back in action. Special thanks to Pastor Jill Smith and her congregation for contributing 90% of the total cost of the repairs. The repairs came to a little over \$5000.

Amen

Love & Blessings,
Rev Vincent Harris, ABHMS