



Winter

Vol. 76 No.4

Central Connection

Connecting with American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region

Lois Chiles,

ABWomen's Ministries President Giving us the latest information in
ABWomen's Ministries Central Region

Being Thankful at Christmas

I am so very thankful for all the things that I have been blessed by doing and being a part of. When I try to count my blessings, naming them one by one, it is hard to remember them all. I can remember the “big” ones like husband, children, grands and great grandchildren, but the “little” ones sometimes are taken for granted. Every day, I thank God for the things in my life that have been a blessing. I hope you do the same.

Christmas is right around the corner and recently our church helped pack up shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. What a blessing it is to give a few gifts and think about the ones that will receive them. I was thinking that this might be the thoughts as they are received:

“Oh, good! A missionary box in time for Christmas. I wonder what is in it. I do hope the things are useful and fun for me.” As the child opens the box and looks inside, they are anxious, a little afraid of whether the things in the box are something they can use or have fun with but just getting a gift brings so much joy.

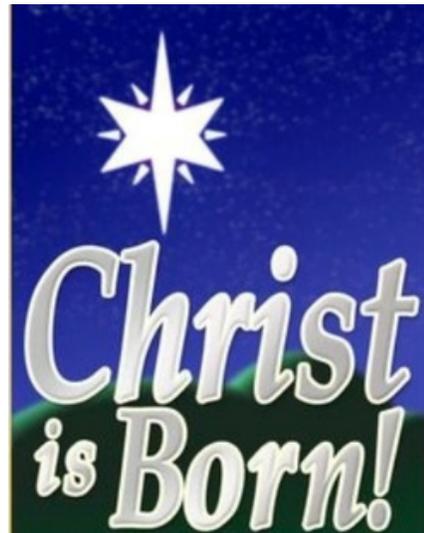
As they take the items out of the box one at a time and celebrate the joy of receiving this gift, they might not understand the joy that was given as the gift was packed but as each item is cherished, God is glorified!! I offer thanks to my heavenly Father for little things that bring joy!

As I begin this holiday season to cook for events, wrap gifts for family and friends, decorate my home and the church, I will give thanks to God for each blessing that He has so graciously given to me and for the opportunity to serve Him in so many different ways throughout my years. I am so thankful that each of you are in my life and that we together can bring joy to others through our service to God.

May you each have a wonderfully blessed Christmas. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;" Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

Blessings,
Lois Chiles
ABWCR President

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES



Church & Community

Hi everyone!

This is your Church and Community Board Coordinator giving an update on our Mary Gates Atkinson scholarship recipients and the plans for this year. I am happy to report that all four of our recipients, lovely ladies in Christ, are working hard in their studies. I do know that they enjoy hearing from all of us! Two are still attending Pittsburg State, one is at Northwest Missouri State and one at Wichita State. Please make sure you all reach out on their birthday month! Paige has one this very month! Please pray for each of them and send them all a card or a special “hello” this Christmas season. I will keep you abreast as to their progress after the Spring semester begins. Have a Jesus Filled Day!

Charlotte Maxwell,
Church & Community Coordinator
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Special Project 2025–2026

MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all,

As you are reading this, December is upon us, and the calendar year is almost over! You may ask yourself, how did that happen? There were so many goals, projects and plans I had for this year, but if many are like me, they didn't get done! Oh well, they'll be on my list for the coming year. When making that list for next year, please make sure to add a fundraiser for our **Special Project**. Just as a reminder they are **CAMP CHRISTY (Scott City, KS.)** and the **KODIAK BAPTIST MISSION (Kodiak, AK)**. **Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for each of them or a total of \$30,000. (Any additional funds raised will be split equally between the two projects.)**

For **Camp Christy** we are raising funds for their use in furnishing a new cottage they are building. This money will help with furniture and appliances and will be used to house campers as well as volunteers.

For the **Kodiak Baptist Mission** we are raising funds for the preservation (maintenance) of their buildings on site.

In the coming months, I'd like to share a little about each of the projects we've chosen. This month will be the **Kodiak Baptist Mission**. If you are not receiving their weekly newsletter, you are really missing out! (www.kodiakbaptistmission.com). They have so many activities planned for their community and reading it just makes you want to hop on a plane and go have fun with Kelli and her staff! The following is an excerpt from their recent newsletter I received:

“We are gearing up for our best Christmas yet at Kodiak Baptist Mission! This year, we’re taking a magnifying glass and zooming in on the heart of the Christmas story. Shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph and yes, even the donkeys will help tell the story of Jesus’ birth all month long as we lead up to Christmas Day. We’d love your prayers as we prepare: prayers for safety, for willing hearts, and for open ears to hear the true gospel message. May every moment point people to the hope, joy, and salvation found in Jesus Christ.”

Kelli went on to say that they had their first snow last week! I know we are always anxious for those first snowflakes, but they can wait till Christmas here, at least!

You can check out both of these organizations at our ABWMCR website: <https://www.abwmcr.org/special-project-2025-2026> .Please take the time to do that and add each of them to your daily prayers.

In closing I’m going to share another excerpt from the Kodiak Baptist Mission newsletter:

“This small outpost works in the name of Jesus to shine His light right here and everywhere He sends the people we meet. And every time a new lamp post is lit in another community, we’re reminded that the Kingdom is bigger than any one place...yet it often starts in a small, windswept, rain-soaked corner of Alaska.”

ABW, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE THIS ADVENT SEASON!

**Send your checks to: ABWMCR
c/o Vonda Breicheisen, 2504 Idaho Rd,
Ottawa, Ks. 66067-9007**

Paula Rhodes, Project Associate
Contact Infor:
Email: Pjrhodesx4@gmail.com
Phone #: 913-208-5317

Tri-River Association

The fall has been a very busy time in the life of the ABWM churches in the Tri-River Association. A report was made earlier in the fall about our Fall Rally gathering. All are looking toward the Christmas Season now ready for Christmas parties and teas and all the trimmings and goodies that go with the season. The most important reason to gather is because of the baby in a manger, Emmanuel, that was born. We celebrate the Joy to the World that was born on Christmas Eve.

It does not really matter if it is the exact date or not – whether it was in the winter or the spring. Much ado has been written about the exact date and the season. Jesus was born in a dry climate area, so there probably was not snow. But, as the date to celebrate was settled on, there were so many different climate areas around the world. The weather really is not that important.

What is important is the fact that God sent His Son – the perfect Gift to the world – as a human and divine baby to grow up in this world, to fully live the humanity of this world, teach humanity a better way, and to sacrifice for salvation of all creation. Let us not get caught up in the specifics of it all, except for the ONE TRUTH OF JESUS' BIRTH.

Advent is for adoring Jesus. It is a season of patient waiting. I know there is baking, shopping, and decorating. But while you wait for the day of celebration, take a moment each day and offer three statements of gratitude to Jesus for your day. I also encourage you to post the song “Joy to the World” on your refrigerator or mirror and sing or read a verse every day. We sing this song more at Christmas, but it is really a song of Salvation – yours and mine through the love of God and the birth and sacrifice of Jesus.

Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year from your Tri-River Association Friends!

Beth Hanes, President



Personal Development/Love Gift & Bible Book of the Month

We are getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving this week as I am writing this and soon we will celebrate Advent and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. What a great time to read the Bible Books of the Month for December and January – Matthew and Mark.

Together, Matthew and Mark present a picture of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of God, and the authoritative teacher and miracle-worker. Both books recount His baptism by John, His teachings, His compassion through miracles, His growing conflict with religious leaders, and ultimately His death and resurrection.

Where Matthew emphasizes Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and His role as the true King, Mark highlights the urgency, power, and suffering of Jesus' ministry. Read together, they show both the authority and the humility of Christ.

In comparing Matthew and Mark, Matthew was written primarily for Jewish readers; aims to show Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the promised Messiah/King. Mark was written for Roman or Gentile readers and focuses on the actions of Jesus to show His divine authority and suffering.

The unique features of Matthew contain the genealogy, tracing Jesus to Abraham and David, the birth of Jesus, the visitation of the Magi, many unique parables, and strong emphasis on Jesus' teaching (Sermon on the Mount).

Personal Development/Love Gift & Bible Book of the Month

Mark does not include the birth narrative and begins with Jesus' ministry of miracles and events. There is more emotional detail about Jesus and the disciples, and is often regarded as the earliest Gospel.

I hope, even in the busy holiday season, that you allow yourself a special time in God's Word to read and meditate on these two important Bible Books.

Love Gift

The year-to-date Love Gift giving total is \$15,935.93. Our 2025 goal is \$30,000.00. Your continued giving to this important funding for our American Baptist programs and services is appreciated. Love Gift donations should be sent to the Region Office. Love Gift helps fund our Central Region (35.95%) and 28.69% to the Kansas Plan institutions). Additionally, it helps our National Women's Ministries offices (15%), Uncommitted Fund for Special Projects (1%), and ABCUSA (19.36%) receives support from every Love Gift dollar. Thank you for giving and your help in reaching our goal.

Jo Templin, Personal Development Coordinator

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ABWM OF THE CENTRAL REGION
SUMMER CONFERENCE

Save the date



Summer Conference Date: June 5-6, 2026

Location: First Baptist Church, Topeka

Theme: Making a Difference Together

based on national theme "Building God's Community"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathy Maxwell, Central Seminary