



November

Vol. 76 No.3

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

Greetings and Happy Fall to Each of You!

"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the Gospel will save it." Mark 8:35 (NIV)

As I write this article, it is Fall and almost Thanksgiving and the leaves on the trees are changing to a glorious display of color. Each landscape looks like God Himself painted it--red, yellow, orange, brown and green. I marvel as I drive around my area soaking in the visual display, the feast for the eyes and I'm thanking God for His creativity and care for even the smallest of details on this earth.

I learned in school many years ago why the leaves change color. The leaves are slowly dying. Their hold on the tree is loosening a little more every day. The more they detach, the more a substance within them called chlorophyll dissipates. Chlorophyll is green in color, which causes the whole leaf to appear green. But when the chlorophyll is gone, other colors have a chance to surface. The red, gold, brown, and orange colors were within the leaf all along--they were just overshadowed by the presence of the chlorophyll. It took the process of dying for their glorious color to be displayed.

We too are in the process of dying every day, just like those leaves. When we choose to follow Christ, He asks us to take up our cross and follow Him, engaging in a daily process of giving up our rights, our pride, and submitting ourselves in the name of service. It is the painful work of death, yet in it we find colors (gifts) we didn't know were emerging. We each have an eternal--yet common—green color but in the dying process, we find that God designed us to be more brilliant and colorful as we surrender our lives to Him.

People are drawn to our colorful display. They want to know how they too can break out of their same old, green-colored lives and live with this kind of brilliance. We all want to cling to the security of the tree - the security of money, or family, or our comfort zones and routines. But God asks us to let go, to trust Him, and to die a little more every day. We must trust the dying process and encourage others to do the same, displaying our colors so that people who don't know Him are drawn to Him, just as He intended.

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, may you show your beautiful colors around the table.

Blessings to each one!
Lois Chiles

Lois Chiles, ABWomen's Ministries
President Contact Info.
Email: Lchiles@kc.rr.com
Phone #: 913-683-8680



American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

Special Project 2025–2026

Greetings to my sisters in Christ,

Well, NOVEMBER, is here by the time you are reading this article. It is time to gather with family and friends in fellowship and thanksgiving for all the many blessings we have received this past year. Please remember to pray 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 churches in the central western part of Kansas, Danielle Massaglia, manager of Camp Christy has indicated that she would be happy to speak to any group wanting her to. You can contact her at: campchristy365@gmail.com
Tel: 620-872-3025

For the Kodiak Baptist Mission we are raising funds for the preservation (maintenance) of their buildings on site. They are a lifeline for many in their community and are so appreciative of your generosity in picking them as one of our projects for this year. There have been recent changes in management at KBM. The Walker family who has been directors of the camp have retired and moved back to their home state of West Virginia. The board of directors have now elected, Kelli Foreman, as the director of KBM. Previously, she was the assistant director. Please keep Kelli in your prayers as she takes on more responsibility in this new position.

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.

Like I told you last month, I would report on the total amount raised for the 2024-25 Special Project. We were just shy of our goal of \$30,000, however we raised \$29,500! THANKS BE TO GOD!! THANK YOU, ladies, for all your efforts. I know that both organizations were blessed by these donations. The following is a note we received from Sarah McCurdy, on behalf of the Talita Cumi Girls clubs in Central and South America.

WOW, Praise God for His provision!

I am very thankful to the women of the Central Region for adopting this project this past year! This gift will provide lots of books for girls who do not have access to books.

Thank you very much!

Blessings,

SARAH MCCURDY

Special Assistant for Education in Iberoamérica & The Caribbean
International Ministries, ABC-USA

If you weren't at the Annual Gathering, then you missed out on a wonderful presentation given by Lori and Matt Mann. Lori accepted the check for their work in Laos and had a slide presentation that showed how the money is being used. Ladies, their work is not done! Just because our project for them is over, please continue to pray for these Global Servants as they continue to spread the gospel in areas where many have not or are not given an opportunity to learn and worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Pray for their safety.

In closing remember: "10 Now he who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

May you all have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving.

Paula Rhodes, Project Associate Contact Info.

Email: Pjrhodesx4@gmail.com

Phone #: 913-208-5317

Crawford/Grace Hill Fall Rally

October 2025

The Crawford/Grace Hill Association met in Coffeyville, Kansas for the Fall Rally on October 17, 2025. The meeting began with doughnuts, coffee and visiting. The decorations were black and white checked placemats with sunflower décor. It was a very festive and decorative way to welcome everyone to the rally.

The speaker for the rally was Pastor Sharon Ball of Community Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She shared about her service as a Prison Chaplain for the South Dakota Women's Prison when she was the pastor of the Church of Hope in South Dakota. A video testimony of one of the inmates who gave their life to Christ while in prison began the presentation. Pastor Sharon shared that there were approximately 500 inmates, most of whom were Native Americans. Most of these women came from reservations that are full of poverty. She shared several compelling stories about women who were saved while incarcerated. Pastor Ball also shared stories about how God used the surrounding communities to help in her ministry there by sponsoring programs for the inmates. The prison ministry continues to receive funds from the local churches and through the America for Christ offerings.

A delicious lunch was furnished by members of First Baptist Church. Lunch donations will go toward the projects at Camp Christy in Scott City, Kansas and Kodiak Baptist Mission in Kodiak, Alaska. During lunch, Magada Craven shared information about a chair that she had gotten from Camp Christy many years ago. It was interesting seeing the chair and hearing the story of how Magada had come into possession of it!

The business meeting was held after lunch. The installation of officers for Crawford/Grace Hill was administered by Pastor Chelsy Bearden. The installation was centered on the new ABWM theme "Building God's Community." With a stone foundation representing God and a cornerstone representing Jesus, each officer placed a building block on them to represent their pledge to serve God and their ABWM office. At the end of the presentation, all those attending placed a building block on the foundation to show their support for Christ and the ABWM officers.

Each church shared about projects that their ABWM group was doing to support their church, community and the 2025-2026 Project. It was so encouraging to hear how the churches in our region are making such a difference in people's lives and sharing Christ through these projects!

The Fall Rally was a wonderful time of fellowship, sharing and learning. A huge thank you to Coffeyville First Baptist Church ABWM and "men" for the excellent meal!! The Spring Rally for Crawford/Grace Hill will be held at First Baptist Church in Fort Scott, Kansas on April 17, 2026.

Jennifer Babcock
President, Crawford/Grace Hill

Crawford/Grace Hill Fall Rally



AB G.I.R.L.S. Fall Retreat

Hi there, AB G.I.R.L.S. and those who love them! It's almost here!

THE AB G.I.R.L.S. FALL RETREAT!

NOVEMBER 8th
9:00am-1:00pm
TOPEKA FBC

For ALL girls 3rd grade and up! (AND THEIR FRIENDS!)

It's Harvest time... so get ready for...



MAKING BREAD (AND EATING IT!)
SHAKING BUTTER
AWESOME GAMES
FALL CRAFTS

PLUS:
A YUMMY BREAKFAST
DELICIOUS SOUPS FOR LUNCH!
AWESOME TIME WITH FRIENDS (AND MAKING NEW ONES!)

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY: AB Girls website below

<https://www.abwmcr.org/abgirls>

Holler with any questions! See you soon!

Pastor Kami Minor, AB G.I.R.L.S. Coordinator
Email: pastor.kami@louisburgfirstbaptist.org
Phone# 816-916-5264

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 the Kansas Plan Institutions (28.69%). 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
Email: Templin_2@hotmail.com
Phone# 316-644-2565



Ark Valley/Judson Association Fall Event

The Ark Valley/Judson Association met on September 20, 2025 for our Fall Event. McPherson FBC hosted the event and welcomed us with morning coffee treats. The Great Bend ladies were in charge of registration. The meeting started with a welcome from Pastor John. After group singing Peggy Griffith led devotions. During the business meeting reports were given by the officers. Our Mini project for the day was items and monetary gifts for the McPherson Step program. Bill Poland was our speaker for the meeting. He shared about serving on the National American Baptist Board as Vice President. He also serves on the World Relief committee for One Great Hour of Sharing. He gave us information about how things are done on the national level and how the World Relief committee helps people around the world. Our day closed with a delicious lunch served by the McPherson ladies.

Linda Wallace, President Ark Valley/Judson
Association



The Roger Williams/ Walnut Valley Association

The Rogers Williams/Walnut Valley Association held their Summer Rally on August 16, 2025, at Bethany Baptist Church, Bentley, Kansas. Our theme scripture Nehemiah 8:10 – Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. Rev. Nancy Killingsworth of Centerville Community Church was our guest speaker. She shared her testimony about being a Pastor and someone who loves to sing worship songs suddenly losing her voice for no apparent reason. As she shared what she went through with doctors' visits, possible reasons and cures, and asking God for answers she shared scriptures that will help sustain us through troubling times.

Restoration – God's joy will sustain us – Thess. 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

God's Presence – Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forever more.

Wait to Receive – Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint. Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

Wait on God and soak up His presence! Nancy presented everyone with a bag containing an affirming scripture card, thank you card, pocket size notebook, note cards, pen, tissue and candy. Things that are easy to keep with you to note times of joy, when you feel God's presence and when you are waiting for an answer to prayer.

Our mini project was for Murrow Indian Children's Home and \$763.00 was collected. Afterward we completed our board meeting including installation of officers.

On November 15, 2025, we will hold our Fall Rally at Woodlawn Baptist Church, Wichita and Pastor Charlotte Maxwell from First Baptist Church, Canton, Kansas will be our guest speaker. She will be sharing information from her visit to Kisii, Kenya this past summer. She will also provide samples of the food items they would eat in Kenya. If you would like to hear Pastor Charlotte share, we will be meeting from 9:30 to noon and a light lunch is provided after the meeting.



Barbara Sharp President, Roger Williams/ Walnut Valley Association



Bible Book of the Month

The Book of Haggai – A Call to Rebuild and Renew

The Book of Haggai is one of the shortest books in the Old Testament, consisting of just two chapters. It records the messages of the prophet Haggai, who ministered to the Jewish people around 520 B.C., shortly after their return from exile in Babylon. His central mission was to urge the people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which had been destroyed decades earlier.

When Haggai began to speak, the people had become discouraged and focused on rebuilding their own homes rather than God's house. Through Haggai, God challenged them to "consider your ways" (Haggai 1:5) and recognize that their lack of prosperity was connected to their neglect of divine priorities. In response to Haggai's message, leaders like Zerubbabel (the governor) and Joshua (the high priest) led the people to resume construction on the temple.

Haggai's prophecies emphasized obedience, courage, and faith in God's promises. He reassured the people that God's Spirit was with them and that the future glory of the new temple would surpass that of the former one. The book ultimately highlights themes of renewal, divine presence, and the importance of putting God first in all endeavors.

Though brief, Haggai's message remains powerful today—a reminder that spiritual restoration and faithfulness to God bring true blessing and purpose.

