

CENTRAL CONNECTION

CONNECTING WITH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF THE CENTRAL REGION



Build Community, Come to the Table, Pass the Peace

As we reflect on the incredible ways God has worked through American Baptist Women's Ministries this past year, it is with deep gratitude for each of you that I say "THANKS!!" Thank you for your prayers and your generosity that has empowered women and girls of the Central Region and beyond. You have made a difference in the lives of so many!!

As we begin our new year September 1, our national theme of "Building God's Community" continues with a sub-focus on "Come to the Table and Passing the Peace". As we focus on a new beginning, we come together as women and girls to continue the work we have begun over the past few months/years. We reflect on Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) that says: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

Building community is more than just being in the same place, it is choosing to walk alongside one another in faith, joy, and even in struggle. True community is built when we listen deeply, serve selflessly, and celebrate each other's victories as if they were our own. This month, intentionally reach out to someone in your church or community—send a note, share a meal, or simply listen. Small acts can have eternal impact. The new focus on ABGIRLS ministry does just that. Be sure to read Kami Minor's article in this edition for other information.

When we "**Come to the Table,**" it reminds us that Jesus is inviting us to find rest and nourishment in Him. Just as a table is a place where we gather to share food and fellowship, Jesus invites us to come to Him, the source of all nourishment, and find rest for our souls. Let us remember that only Jesus can truly satisfy the hunger and thirst of our souls.

Contact Info: Address: 201 Cottonwood Dr. Lansing, KS 66043
Phone: 913-683-8680 Email: Lchiles@kc.rr.com

Build Community, Come to the Table, Pass the Peace Continued...

Passing of the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition rooted in Scripture, where believers greet one another with the words "The peace of the Lord be with you" and they respond, "And also with you," often accompanied by a handshake, hug, or other sign of fellowship. This is a reminder to us that our peace with God is meant to be shared with one another.

If you need anything at any time, your ABWMCR Board is ready to respond. You can contact any of us and if we don't know the answer, we will find someone who does. We want to help if you need anything.

Prayers & Blessings to each of you!

Lois Chiles, President

Summer Conference Mini Project: Women in Prison and Hope Street Academy

Thank you, for all the items you donated!

Women in Prison is a commitment of service for the FBC Topeka White Cross and ABWM Circles. These women are in residence at the prison and at times are able to serve in the community. Basic hygiene needs are met by the system. But cards help with child and family communication. Activity options are minimal, puzzles and yarn help with boredom and anxiety.

Hope Street Academy is part of the Topeka School District. This school has been adopted by the New Horizons Class, ABWM Circles and the FBC of Topeka. Hope Street is for students who might struggle in the regular classroom setting. Academics, life learning, work skills, and meeting challenges are core goals for Hope

Street students. There is a Parent-Child Learning Center at the school for those needing childcare while in the classes, but the Center also works with these new moms or dads on how to become better parents and achieve personal goals.



Special Project

2025–2026 GOAL * \$30,000.00

Greetings to all!

As you are aware, our Special Project year ends August 31st, and a new Special Project starts September 1st. By the time you receive this we will have finished up the 25/26 project and moved onto the new project. The new project was announced at our business meeting during Summer Conference. Plan to attend the ABW luncheon at Annual Gathering to hear more about it.

As we all know we were challenged with the task of raising funds for both Camp Christy and the Kodiak Baptist Mission. One that you all really supported, I might add! Right now, I'm so happy to announce that our goal has been reached! As of the date of the submission of this article (Aug. 15th) you all have raised: \$33,675.52!! God is good! Amen! I know that these funds will bless both these missions and the communities they minister to! Thank you all for your support and fundraising efforts. Because of your hard work and efforts this would not have been possible. So please know that all the bake sales, yard sales, church dinners or any other event your church held was a vital part of reaching our goal. I'm so proud of everyone. You did it! So, remember, TOGETHER we can do hard things!

Going forward for the new 26/27 Special Project, your associate will be: Linda Callaway. You can reach Linda at: lkjhcall@aol.com or 831-224-6245.

I know you will work just as hard for the new project as you have for this project. Again, thank you so much for your support and the opportunity to meet many of you. I've been blessed through your friendships.

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (NLT)

Paula Rhodes, 25/26 Project Associate
Pjrhodesx4@gmail.com
(913-208-5317)

JUANITA PARKER, CENTRAL REGION ABW PRESIDENT 2010-2013
WILL BE CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY ON OCTOBER 8TH

CARDS CAN BE MAILED TO HER AT 412 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET, NESS CITY, KS 67560.

YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND A BELATED BIRTHDAY RECEPTION ON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH FROM 2PM-4PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET, NESS CITY, KS 67560

SPECIAL PROJECT

2026–2027 GOAL * \$30,000.00



We are a Christ-centered ministry and since 1921, the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Central Region have selected special projects to raise money for various kinds of mission needs nationally and/or internationally.

We pray regularly for the chosen project, the Global Servants and those who will be blessed by the project. We give God the glory and praise for all that is accomplished! The project runs September 1st through August 31st of each year. *Our 2026-2027 Special Project Goal donations are divided equally and support the following two missions:

**\$15,000—Thailand Mission Project: Cleft Palate Reconstruction
(IM Global Servants: Kyle and Katrina Williams)**

Goal: To provide life changing surgery for children from the Mekong Region of Burma (Myanmar). Without surgery, challenges articulating sounds clearly may lead to communication difficulties and potential social stigmatization. Surgery makes it easier to breathe and eat. It also reduces malnutrition risks, promotes better growth, improves dental/mental health and transforms self-image. (Psalm 139:14)

**\$15,000—Philippines Mission Project: Mitsubishi L300 "Farm" Truck
(IM Global Servants: Aaron and Amy Estelle Trout)**

Goal: To help with much needed reliable transportation for the day-to-day operation of Tatay's Farm-Mission Center and to provide for impending camp and retreat opportunities for small churches, children, and ministry leaders. God's love is shared through agricultural outreach, providing food and encouragement to families in need. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

***Please send Special Project Donations to our ABWMCR Treasurer: Vonda Breicheisen, 2504 Idaho Road, Ottawa, KS 66067-9007**

Our gift is more than a "donation!" It is a lifeline for those in need and our generosity turns lasting hope into reality. We are thankful for being unified in the change that our world and communities need, and we're incredibly grateful to God for our Central Region American Baptist Women's Ministries. We pray and rejoice greatly in the Lord, serving as vital partners with our (IM) International Ministries/Global Servants! "Thank You!"

For more updated information, please contact Linda Callaway.

Linda Callaway ABWCR Project Associate P.O. Box 67622 Topeka, KS 66667-0622
Email: lkjhcall@aol.com Phone: 831-224-6245

A NOTE FROM.....
JANET CROWL, TRI-RIVER PRESIDENT - AUGUST 2026



Greetings, Ladies! I pray that your summer has gone well and that you have had some time to get out and enjoy the outside heat and the indoor air conditioning. God bless you in the beginning of the fall school semester and personal activities.

- **The Fall Tri-River Rally** will be held Saturday, August 29, at the First Baptist Church in McLouth, 501 S. Union Street, McLouth KS - 913-796-6263. Registration will open at 9:30 a.m. with refreshments and conversation and the general meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. A lunch will be provided by the McLouth women. Ms. Beth Hanes, Topeka, will be our speaker and share a word of encouragement for the day.
- Please make a special note that this is a **SATURDAY meeting**. Every woman in your church is an ABWM participant. Be sure to include all women in your invitations to attend the Tri-River Fall Rally.
- **The Mini-Project** is to support the Alpha Christian Children's Home and School. They have an Annual \$1 Donation campaign going on to help with school supplies and clothes for the children they serve. Be prepared to give your \$1.00 to the mini-project. alphachristianchildrenshome.com
- **For this Rally** I am asking you to especially invite your daughters and granddaughters, ages 6 to 14 to come with you. There will be a special activity for them to participate in and we will then eat lunch together.
- **We are working** on the 2025-26 Tri-River Directory. Please review your current directory and bring or send changes to me as soon as possible. The directory will be by electronic transfer only and should be available to you early September. Email to: revcrowl@gmail.com or Mail to: Janet Crowl, 900 SW Cambridge Ave. Topeka 66606
- **We welcome two churches** to the Tri-River family. First, Leavenworth and Pomona Appanoose. What a joy it is to have them with us. I hope the women will be able to attend this Rally. Their information will be in the new directory, so be sure and send them a card of welcome!

Janet Crowl, Tri-River President, 900 SW Cambridge Ave,
Topeka, KS 66606, 316-992-1730, revcrowl@gmail.com

LUTHER RICE ASSOCIATION SUMMER RALLY -

The Luther Rice Association gathered for Rally Tuesday, July 28th, at the FBC Paola. We enjoyed a Hawaiian Luau theme dinner of sandwiches, salads and dessert. In a mini business meeting, Marcia Cooper was installed for Love Gift and Mona Huggins for White Cross. The offering collected is for the project.

We then had an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing. Julie Packard and Gale Floyd led the singing of many favorite requested songs. Elm Grove received the banners for attendance to take home until next rally!

Important dates to remember: September 22nd, Fall Board Meeting in Olathe, September 25th-26th, Central Region Annual Gathering at Prairie Baptist, ABWM luncheon September 25th at Prairie Baptist, September 29th, Fall Rally at Elm Grove.

Report by Kate Steele Luther Rice

A BRAND NEW LOOK TO AB G.I.R.L.S. MINISTRY BY KAMI MINOR, AB G.I.R.L.S. COORDINATOR



AB G.I.R.L.S. ministries isn't about planning more things for people to attend. Schedules are already too busy. That's where ABW steps in. It's about becoming the kind of women who show up in the ordinary places where relationships are built—at the grocery store, in the garden, on the sidelines of a sporting event, or wherever life happens.

Jesus calls us to GO into relationships, LOVE people well, SERVE where we can, and LOOK for opportunities to point our friends to Jesus.

With this in mind, ABW ministries has chosen an exciting new focus to meet our AB G.I.R.L.S. and their families where they are – whether in our neighborhoods, our schools, or on the sports field. We will intentionally build relationships with the women and girls around us. This is not replacing the current AB G.I.R.L.S. ministry but adding to it.

AB G.I.R.L.S. — Go Into Relationships. Love. Serve.

We will do this in three steps:

- Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ.
- Using the gifts God has equipped us with, we will reach out to those around us. Help in a garden, pick up groceries, do laundry, make cookies, whatever we are led to do in hopes of blessing a girl or young mother. As these relationships are built, we will earn the right to introduce our new friend to the greatest friend of all – Jesus.
- Will you join us? Imagine what God can do with lives focused in this way! Let's give Him a chance to show us!

Pastor Kami Minor, AB G.I.R.L.S. Coordinator
minorministries@yahoo.com

Mission and Service



As I write this it is almost 100 degrees outside (I guess that's why I am spending more time indoors.) My old cat refuses to come inside. She hates air conditioning; guess the heat feels good on her old bones. No matter the temperature or whether you like it hot or cooler, we are still starting a new ABWM year. We have a new project which I will let our new Project Coordinator, Linda Callaway, explain. Linda is our official Central Region "hugger" and if you have ever gone to a region event which Linda attended, you know what it means.

What kind of hugging do you do? Of course, there is the physical kind, but I am thinking about encouragement, support and all-around willingness to help. Have you contributed to our Region offering this year? That hugged many people around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing was our latest offering, and it touched many areas hit by natural disasters. Or did you support our missionaries and global servants, either by sending gifts of support or cards and emails? This last year Dan and Sarah Chetti, long time servants in the middle east, have retired from active service and the Hwangs, who serve in Japan, are set to follow suit in December. Please keep supporting them until their official retirement—remember their expenses continue until that time. Please send your cards of encouragement to International Ministries and they will make sure they are delivered.

One last demonstration of hugging is selfish. I could use a hug too. What? Well, what I really need is help from you. If anyone knows of an area which would be a good region special project for next year or a missionary who has a special need, please send it on to me. Investigating and researching for a new project is one of my hardest "jobs" as Mission and Service Associate. This year went as it should—Someone contacted someone else who sent it on to me that there was a great need to fund cleft palate surgery on children from Burma (Myanmar) and my friend Nola Crooks in Nebraska knows Aaron and Amy Estelle Trout, global servants in the Philippines and their need for a van. Maybe you know of a need we can work on next year. Even if you don't, pray that the right project will present itself and we can do God's work wherever He wants.

Dianna Cook, Mission and Service Associate
32404 Oak Grove Rd. Paola, KS 66071
tedndianna@gmail.com
913-259-9626

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY COORDINATOR



As I write this, our August primary is six days away. I don't think your mailbox will get any relief just yet from all of those political pleas to "vote for me". It's just gearing up! While I find it a little bit of a waste of money, I also want to pinch myself. "I get to have a voice! My vote matters!" And, my dear sisters, we have such responsibility and such hope with that one little oval circle that our number 2 pencils color in. All our lives are forever changed, for the good or bad, as our directives are carried out in congressional chambers.

When I lived in Topeka, I had time to "browse" our capital. I ran across an office of an organization that I never heard about, didn't know such a thing existed: "Concerned Women of America". I stepped right in and started plying the very helpful woman at the desk with questions. Who are you and what do you do? This is answered directly from their website.

Our Mission

Concerned Women for America protects and promotes Biblical values and Constitutional principles through prayer, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision

Concerned Women for America is leading a movement dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through education and public policy.

THIS IS IN OUR STATE CAPITAL!!!! What a BLESSING! I encourage you to look at their website: concernedwomen.org. Take time to poke around, read what they are about, and what success they have had in changing policies for the betterment of women. Then get involved. At least keep their prayer requests in your Bible and lift them often. And not only do they work for us on a national level, but EVERY STATE has an office with active participation. I'm sure you recognize how very unique this is!

I will be sharing with you in future articles, the specific issues that affect us as women, as Kansans, and as Christians that I feel, through prayer and responsive listening to the Holy Spirit that we should be aware of that are most immediate. Please pray for me Colossians 1:9-12 as I pray for you the same.

Father, please help us recognize our privilege and responsibility to be involved as WOMEN in our political process. Help us work together to help those in need and help us tell others about You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Charlotte Maxwell
106 S. 4th St., PO Box 354
Canton, KS 67248-0354
csm60Son@outlook.com
620-899-5045

2026 – 2027 Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship Recipients



Alyssa Wolff Alyssa will be going to Washburn Tech as a Junior next year studying nursing. The address she has for mail and encouragement is 1940 Heatherwood Dr., Unit 208, Lawrence, KS 66047. Her phone number is: 785-407-7207. Her email is alyssa_wolff@icloud.com. Her birthday is December 19th. She works with the Visiting Nurses Association in Lawrence. Her pastor shares: "She was drawn to nursing at five years old sitting at her grandmother's hospital bed. A nurse noticed the curiosity in her young eyes and invited her to assist in her grandmother's care." At nine she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Since 7th grade she has faithfully served in their "King's Kids" program.



Kanika Marcoux Kanika will be going to Pittsburg State University seeking her BS in Psychology with an emphasis in legal issues. You can write to her at: 1024 S. Gretchen Ave., Chanute KS. 66720. Her phone number: 620-212-1528. Her email is: kanikamarcoux@gmail.com. Her birthday is October 3rd. She works as a paralegal at a law office. She has started a girls' Bible study because she saw the need for more women's discipleship and community. Her pastor shares: "Kanika is trustworthy, dependable, and driven. What sets her apart is her versatility and willingness to learn."



Tyra Henson Tyra is entering her Senior year at Pittsburg State University to obtain a nursing degree. You can mail her cards and encouragement to 1118 W. 1st St., Pittsburg, KS. 66762. Her phone number is: 620-432-3934. Her email is: tyrabogle@gmail.com. Her birthday is October 7th. Her husband, Parker Henson, is also a student and will be graduating from Pitt State 2026 winter semester. They are expecting their first child September 10th. Currently she is a CNA at a senior assisted living. She enjoys tennis, painting, basketball and any kind of new craft. "A special talent I have is helping my nursing friends pass exams. We all study together and I have found out that I explain concepts well and make it easier for them to understand."

2026 – 2027 Mary Gates Atkinson Scholarship Recipients



Amy Marcoux Amy is entering her senior year at Pittsburg State University's Master's Program-Clinical Psychology. You can mail her cards and encouragement at 1024 S. Gretchen Ave., Chanute, KS. 66720. Her phone number is: 815-685-5728. Her email is amarcoux@gus.pittstate.edu. Her birthday is June 5th. She is a pastor's wife and she is in a full-time graduate program. Their oldest daughter is following in her footsteps (Kanika), second daughter is a freshman in high school, third is a fourth-grader. Amy is also a writer, contributing to Midwest Quarterly connecting the mental health impact of dyslexia to the clinical work she does at the Center for READING at PSU.



Paige Campbell Paige is in her senior year at Northwest Missouri State University in Graphic Design. Cards and letters can be sent to: 900 N. 6th St., Hiawatha, KS. 66434. Her phone number is: 785-741-4609. Her email is: paigywaggie@gmail.com. Her birthday is December 15th. She is active in two churches; one at school called The Bridge, and the other at home, FBC. She is a twin, and loves "guy" things, for example, going mudding in her four-wheeler, wrestling, building bonfires, and learning to change her car's oil and tires. She also refined and digitized a drawing done by one of her church's elementary students and it is now the logo of their after school "Breakout" program.

From the Editor...



Greetings, Women of the Central Region!

I am honored to introduce myself as the newly installed editor of the Central Connection. While this is my first opportunity to serve at the Region level with AB Women, I have been involved in women's ministry in my local church for approximately 36 years.

My interest in missions began long before that. As a young person, I was always fascinated by mission work and enjoyed hearing about missionaries serving both on the foreign field and in home missions. During my college years, I had the opportunity to participate in several short-term mission trips, which further strengthened my love for ministry and missions.

In the late 1990s, I accepted my first position as a church secretary. Over the past 27 years, I have had the privilege of serving as a secretary in three churches. I firmly believe that God has provided each of these opportunities so that I could work alongside wonderful people and be used as an instrument for His kingdom.

Beyond my ministry and work, I am a wife, mom, stepmom, and nana. I enjoy quilting, sewing, painting, and all sorts of other creative projects. I also love antiquing and decorating my home. Creativity is a gift I enjoy using as much as possible, both in the church and in everyday life. You may even see me leading craft workshops with my daughter at Summer Conference!

As we serve together, I find the following verse to be a wonderful reminder of how God calls us to live and minister to others:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

I look forward to getting to know all of you and to serve alongside you as we seek to encourage one another and further God's kingdom through AB Women's Ministries.

Lisa Terrill
602 Morgan St.
Lansing, KS 66043
913-683-3833
lterrill@fbcleavenworth.org or
lterrill63@hotmail.com