

A Message from our President Doris Sherman.

Psalms 150.6 Let everything that hath breath, Praise the Lord.

What a glorious conference we had at China Lake. I was beyond delighted with the great interest and attendance from my church, (Oakfield Baptist). In years past we've had as many as six ladies attend, but this year we had seven, and the best part---- they're all excited about coming again next year, I believe the reason is not only attributed to the wonderful program Marge and Lorna put together, but also the warmth, hospitality, and love you extended to them and all the other newcomers as well. Our American Baptist sisterhood is quite amazing.

Susan Call, our keynote speaker, was everything we all hoped she would be. She was personable, funny, sad, and kept our attention. Many in the audience no doubt could identify with her. Who hasn't at one time, or another felt less than lovely, wanted, needed, or accepted? From the time Joe, a handsome man, swept her off her feet with flowers and compliments, making her feel pretty and giving her a sense of worth, to times of his anger, fueled by his jealousy and paranoia; the rage and torment were palpable. Her story of fear, and abuse, the hopelessness with no way out, is a story of God's great deliverance. If you haven't yet read her story, I suggest you do so, see where God was there all the time even when she felt so all alone. I hope the story of her strength and eventually finding her voice to speak up, is an example to the readers that God will never abandon us either. A Search for Purple Cows is a book worthy of your time.

The heat was oppressive, but the Purple Cow floats were refreshing and pretty, the workshops interesting, and the fellowship delightful. Kudos especially to Bea Violette for the dramatization of Bathsheba, so glad you said yes when we asked you. The food as always was very tasty, the Hanson family, as always, exceptionally gracious, helpful, and loving.

Rick, Steph, and the kids, we ABW appreciate you. Everyone involved did a wonderful job, the music, and solos, outstanding.

Let us as ABW be excited about the future, let us strive on to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Let us support the Operation Planting Hope projects and let us always be about our Father's business.

Treasurer Stacey Emery

I am Stacey Emery, wife to Randy, mother to four daughters, and grandmother to 2.5 grandchildren (1 grand due in March). Randy, Oliver (basset hound/dachshund), Infant (redbone coonhound/lab), and I live in a log cabin in Island Falls.

I try to live by the first and greatest commandment given by Jesus: "Love the Lord God with all of your heart, soul, and mind.", Matthew 22:37. I so do love the Lord!

My career spans as a professor of accounting and business at the University of Maine at Presque Isle for the past ten years. Prior to that, I was the financial controller at Pineland Farms Potatoes, a public accountant with Chester M. Kearney, and a small business counselor with Coastal Enterprises.

My priorities are the Lord, my family, and lastly, my career. I work to live, not live to work.

Assistant Treasurer Sandy Rhoda

Every American Baptist Woman should have access to *POTENTIAL*, our ABW of ME quarterly news publication. It keeps us connected and up to date on events and projects. Most prefer to have a free, online copy. This is available by sending your request and email info to Linda Deane, sterlin@roadrunner.com.

All ladies, please remember to update your own email address with Linda **if** it has changed.

For anyone wishing to receive a printed copy of Potential by mail, please send me your information and a five-dollar check made out to ABWMaine to help cover the cost. My address is:

2 Short St., East Millinocket, ME 04430.

It was a joy to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones at our Summer Conference. Start planning now for next summer's gathering.

I'm praying God will bless you as He equips and uses you to bless others!

Personal Development Marge Muse

I am remembering fondly the time of fellowship with my sisters in Christ in August. We had a wonderful summer conference with forty-two ladies. One fourth of our attendees were first timers! We enjoyed times for learning and for fun. I think the most difficult thing during those few days was the temperature outside! Most all activities and meetings had to be held indoors. We were blessed to have Susan Call as our speaker for the conference and the theme of the conference was forgiveness. Next year's summer conference will be held on August 11-13. Put the date on your calendar now!

I have spent time recently thinking about God's timing. I spend so much time planning and am so caught up in this, I can miss the blessings that God has for me. At the summer conference I shared that I get so time conscious and was concerned when the timing did not agree with the schedule. However, when we allow God to do things in his time, it is so much better.

Recently a member of our church lost his apartment in a fire. How catastrophic! But, even through this, I saw God's hand in taking care of his every need. An announcement was made one Sunday about the fire that had happened the day before. During that next week we received a letter from another church in town who offered us any item that was left over from their "White Elephant" sale – this included household items. Immediately our thought went to this one gentleman but how can you get items before you even know what is needed? The apartment had to be found. During that same week, he found an apartment. That was one of God's miracles since there were many families displaced by this fire. The apartment was announced one week and within a week he had many of the items he needed to start over. That letter from the other church allowed us to get end tables, lamps, dishes, and other household items! God's timing.

Matthew 6:25-34 states: *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"*³² *For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Don't be anxious. Remember, God has it covered. Don't worry. It seems simple to say these words but so hard to trust. As you go through difficult times or find you are trying to make things work the way you want, just remember that God has already taken care of all of the things you are facing. Trust Him.

Upcoming events

- October 26, 2021 What's Up with ABWM. This is a Zoom meeting of the Eastern Section to hear from the national staff, national board, association leaders and AB women about what is happening in American Baptist Women's Ministries. Sign up to be included in this meeting
 - November 4, 2021 Webinar: Debunking Domestic Violence Myths Through a Biblical Lens
 - November 18, 2021 Webinar: God is in the Details
- Every month, ABWMaine offers a Zoom meeting for you to stay up to date on what we are doing here in Maine . Please contact Wandah Clark wandahclark@roadrunner.com for an invite.

Bible Books of the Month

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| October - Joshua | February - Philemon |
| November - I, II, III John | March - Ezra |
| December - Job | April - Nehemiah |
| January - Hosea | May - Judges |



Nominating Committee Alice McInnis

East Millinocket Baptist ladies just sent \$300 to Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries to help the refugees. We're small (6 women at our last meeting) and all in our 70's, 80's and 90's and I sometimes wonder where the money comes from, but we just continue to work on, and God blesses us.

Secretary Martha Walker

President Doris Sherman called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer, Sherry Cates, presented her report which is published in the directory. Secretary, Martha Walker read the report which is printed in the Potential and Directory.

Personal Development Coordinator, Marj Muise announced the dates for meetings during the next year. Spring Rally South will be held at China Lake, on Saturday April 23, 2022; North Rally will be in Caribou on April 30, 2022., Summer Conference 2022 will be at China Lake, August 11-13, 2022.

Missions and Service Coordinator, Lorna Hansen, gave an update, on the Clemmer's, in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. They have recently opted not to retire and signed up for five more years and opted out of a one year home assignment. Goma, the city where they reside, is plagued by the active Nyiragongo Volcano, 8-11 miles away and its hardened lava fields, methane gas from Lake Kivu, and Rebels from wars in neighboring Rwanda.

Ann works with Heal Africa, a hospital and school ministry. The Sunday School has 600-1000 children a week, who are taught about Jesus by 51 teachers. They receive a cup of milk and bread. Many of these children are homeless. These are the children who will be the recipients of the shoes and food purchased, with the money raised, in last years state project.

Jen Pedzinski, is in the United States. She is searching for a car she can use to get around the United States as she tells her missionary story, about Thailand.

Church and Community Coordinator, Wandah Clark presented a report on Zoom Meetings. Zoom Meetings will continue, during the first week of each month. Not always the same day, so as to not "lock anyone out totally", by always being on Tuesday. All meetings will be at 7:00PM. The next Zoom Meeting will be September 9th, at 7:00PM. The topic will be Summer Conference and the new national theme "Let the Walls Fall Down".

White Cross Coordinator, Dina Richards, presented the changes that have taken place at National. White Cross as we know it, is International Ministries only and is no longer a "Hands-on" Ministry. Due to the high rates of shipping and the uncertainty that packages would actually arrive, the missionaries, now known as Global Servants, are supported with only monetary gifts. All Global Servant are listed by countries, with their monetary need, on the following website: <https://internationalministries.org/find-a-global-servant> White Cross Overland, which is national ministries, is now known as Operation Planting Hope. Each mission group is encouraged to choose the ministry nearest them along with ministries in their state and community. More information and a list of National Ministries can be found on their website: <https://abhms.org/ministries/healing-communities/operation-planting-hope>

Gifts of Love Coordinator Deb Kiker was away; therefore, her report was given by Marg Muise. Applicant, Cara Jurczak wrote the following:

I am from Bangor, Maine and I will be attending my second year at New Brunswick Bible Institute beginning in the fall of 2021. Attending Bible school has grown my passion for Christ and my service in the ministry. Over the last year, I have stayed home in Bangor and worked an 8-5 job. This summer, I am pursuing ministry in Alaska and Maine. My summer ministry plans should make for an easy transition back into Canada. With restrictions loosening across the border, the student body should be able to resume youth group ministry across the New Brunswick province. There have been many uncertainties with Canadian education because of the restrictions. As of right now, the plan is to finish my degree in Canada. I appreciate your support in doing this. My prayers are with your fellowship. Cara

The Board recommended Cara Jurczak be given a \$1,000 gift toward her education at New Brunswick Bible Institute. She received our gift, in 2020. She is the director of Girls Camp this week. The motion to accept the recommendation was made by Marj Muise and seconded by Lena Kanda, the vote was unanimous.

The following Nominating Committee report was read:

August 11, 2021
United Baptist Church, Oakland

To the Executive Board:

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the American Baptist Women of Maine for the year 2021-2022.

Treasurer '24- Stacey Emery
Assistant Treasurer '24 - Sandy Rhoda
Educational Gifts '24 - Judy Ledger
*Secretary '22 - Martha Walker
**President '23 - Doris Sherman

* Martha Walker has graciously accepted to serve for another year as secretary.

** The Nominating Committee was unable to secure a President-Elect. The Nominating Committee suggest that current President Doris Sherman be permitted to serve a three year term to 2023.

The Nominating Committee is grateful for each person's willingness to serve.

Respectfully,

Janet M. Kane, Chair

Darlene Crummett Alice McInnis

Discussion followed concerning the inability of the Nominating Committee to find willing ladies to fill the positions of President-elect and secretary. They have made many contacts and phone calls, all of whom refused either office. Some ladies expressed their concern about the precedent being set over the constitution not being followed. Alice McInnis, a member of the Nominating Committee, spoke about the number of calls and contacts they had made with no success. Also the problem of fewer numbers of ladies. Our ladies are getting older without younger ladies joining us. She spoke of her home church having "no choice" but "to relax the rules" to fill every office. She closed saying, "People willing to work, speak-up!"

Joyce Worden made the motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report as presented. Dina Richards seconded the motion. The vote was 38 approved, 2 opposed.

The American Baptist Women of Maine, on January 7, 2021, received recognition for 100 years of incorporation in the State of Maine. We received a certificate. It needs to be framed and displayed. The question is where to display this attractive certificate.

The new state project became the next topic to discuss and decide. According to the rotation, international, national and state, this year will be a national project. The mission nearest Maine is the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries. This is not a new ministry, as many of our churches have been supporting this vital ministry to immigrants, for a number of years. After discussion, Wandah Clark made a motion to have the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries as our state project. Andrea Dresser added the amount of \$3000 to the motion. The vote was 39 YES votes and 1 NO vote. The meeting adjourned.

Attention:

Please change Lorna Hansen's email address in trifold to lbhansen42@gmail.com.

Mission & Service Lorna Hanson

Despite the pandemic that continues to follow a roller-coaster ride of ups and downs, dropping numbers and increasing numbers, our missionaries have remained faithful to their call.

Dr. Bill and Ann Clemmer remained on the field: Ann in Goma, DRC and Bill in south Yemen attempting to relieve the lack of food for refugees fleeing the northern part of Yemen. During the height of the pandemic, Ann remained in Goma while Bill was called for short stints in South Sudan and Somalia to address health crises. Both evacuated for a couple weeks to Rwanda when the volcano became a threat to Goma's population. They joined 400,000 others when the government order to evacuate was given. In the meantime, they have signed on for another five years, hoping someone will sense a call to continue the work they have done so well with Heal Africa and the Tuungane school.

Jeni Pedzinski was supposed to join us at our annual Women's Conference at China Lake August 12-14. However, the timing of her plans to return stateside for her year of home assignment, as well as required time of isolation and securing a covid-19 vaccine, made travel plans indefinite. Therefore, Jeni had to back out from being with us this August. We are hoping she will be available later, during her home assignment. She secured a car to help her drive to states and regions for speaking.

Dan and Sarah Chetti have continued their work in Lebanon. Sarah is very active at the Insaaf office working with and counseling with maids. Dan continues his program of **Enduring Love** where he mentors and offers support to pastors who are working in countries where the gospel is spread, and hundreds of Christians meet despite being in the minority in Muslim countries. You can keep up to date with their ministries through Dan's emails on Enduring Love and on Facebook for Sarah's ministries at Insaaf.

Kit Ripley was able to successfully return to Thailand to the New Life Center six months ago. She will be holding down the fort at the New Life Center while Jeni is on home assignment.

Covid-19 brought an abrupt halt to several areas of our way of life. However, our missionaries remained faithful to God's call and continued to serve in situations complicated by the pandemic, volcanoes, explosions, and serving in areas where Christians are hated. They are doing their job. Our job is to support them with our prayers and financial gifts such as regular donations or through the World Mission Offering. I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider what you and your church can do to support our missionaries who are diligent in following their call.

Summer Conference– (Condensed from) Martha Walkers Report

Marj Muise, the lady who planned this conference, welcomed everyone to China Lake and this Conference. Devotions on Forgiveness presented by Judy Ledger, were based on: Luke 23:34; Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 6:12; and Matthew 18:1-22. To emphasize forgiveness Judy told the story of Corrie Ten Boom and her sister Betsy, were in the German prison camp Ravensbruck, during the holocaust. In 1947 after being released from the prison camp, Corrie met the guard who was so cruel to her and Betsy. As you read her book The Hiding Place you learn about her inward battle to do what she knew she had to do, forgive him, which she did when she met him again! Corrie says, “God cast sin into the sea, to the bottom of the sea, and then puts up a sign that reads “No Fishing.”

Summer Conference Roll Call

| Spring Rally Roll Calls | South |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Bowdoinham | 1 |
| Cumberland | 14 |
| Damariscotta | 0 |
| East | 1 |
| Kennebec | 5 |
| Lincoln | 0 |
| North Aroostook | 0 |
| Penquis | 5 |
| South Aroostook | 7 |
| West | 3 |
| York | 2 |
| Total | 41 |
| *10 First Timers | |



First Timers recognized and presented with a gift.

Susan Call, the author of A Search for Purple Cows, was our featured speaker. Susan related the story of being drawn to a handsome, stylish, and generous man named Joe. Eventually they fell in love, married, and had two children. Their life seemed idyllic; they had a beautiful home and everything a family could want or need to have a comfortable life. But something was not right, Joe was drinking a lot, and his outbursts of temper became more frequent and violent. As Susan’s world shattered around her, she was faced with a life-altering decision: remain in a dangerous situation, or flee with her children, leaving everything and everyone else behind forever. In the midst of her turmoil, she found an unlikely third option—faith, which gave her inspirational courage and strength. Susan delivered a gripping, modern-day illustration of the transformational power of faith and forgiveness and the tremendous joy of redemption. A Search for Purple Cows is an inspiring story of one woman’s remarkable journey through betrayal, infidelity, alcoholism, and domestic abuse and how she found peace through faith and a life free of abuse.

In four sessions Susan related how the Lord came into her life and carried her forward through all her hardships, helping her not only in learning about forgiveness but also realizing that He was calling her to share this story to help others.

As our scheduled American Baptist missionary speaker was unable to attend, Dr Stan Moody spoke about the Columbia Street Project in Bangor Maine an outreach ministry to aid people newly released from prison, the homeless, the hungry, and sports activities for at risk youth.

Workshops: a Bible Dramatization by Bea Violette; Reader’s Theater; ABW World Day of Prayer; Getting Rid of the Gorillas; Banner making “Let the Walls Fall Down”; The Columbia Street Project. Activities included kayaking, swimming, a cancer walk,

Lorna Hansen presented updates on our missionaries, now known as “Global Servants”. The Clemmer were here this summer and have returned to Goma and their ministry there. The needs of the people of all ages remain great. Jen Pedzinski, whose ministry is with the New Life Center in Chiang Mai Thailand, could not attend our conference as had been hoped and planned. Covid has created problems; however, she has been vaccinated and quarantined as required. She is currently searching for a car she can use as she travels to churches telling the story of the New Life Center in northern Thailand.

Sherry Cates led an installation service for all officers. The service centered around the Woman at the Well. We all know her story. We were admonished to remember, as we carry out our responsibilities to share this Living Water with others. We were given a cup as a reminder.

The conference concluded with a moving Communion service titled Steadfast Love, based on Psalms 103, led by Allison VanderLinden, with special music by Joyce Worden.

Our President Doris Sherman closed the conference thanking all for attending and made the following statement, “ABW Maine is alive and thriving.”

Evening activities included: Purple Cow Floats, Games, a Reader’s Theater presentation, and campfires with singing and sharing with girls from Girl’s Camp and S’mores.

The Silent Auction and the Flower Centerpieces Auction and Lena Kanda’s Treasure Table were very successful. All proceeds went to the State Project for shoes and food for the children for Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. The total raised was \$1,696.

The current state project, shoes and food for the children of Goma, raise a grand total of \$6,727.25. Well done Baptist ladies of Maine!

Reimagining ways for American Baptists to serve as the hands and feet of Christ throughout the United States and Puerto Rico

White Cross (Operation Planting Hope)—Dina Richards

Our 2022 State Project/White Cross is The Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries in Lowell Mass., <https://www.mbmm.org/>. They will be helping 150 Afghan families, so the need is great for them. Each of the Associations will be receiving a list in the mail shortly, along with the Christmas list for their needs. I know this is different from the way we have done this before, but things are changing, and I hope this will be a great thing. Pray as I have done and help the people who aided our troops when they were in Afghanistan

Church and Community— Wandah Clark

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm,
for God can be trusted to keep His promise.

**Let us think of ways
to motivate one another
to acts of love
and good works.**

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.

Hebrews 10:23-25NLT

On page 2 you read that the East Millinocket Baptist ladies sent \$300 to MBMM. Sherry Cates emailed that the United Baptist Church of Oakland is shopping for items to deliver to the center late October. They have a goal of 2 U-hauls full of goods. Let's pray that they reach their goal. May these acts of Love be an inspiration to other churches.

"To be INVITED to the monthly ABWMaine ZOOM meetings, please send your email address to wandahclark@roadrunner.com. You don't want to miss out on the fun!"

“...to bring good news to the poor...proclaim release to the captives...let the oppressed go free...” (Luke 4:18-19)

List of needs for MBMM



NEW TOILETRIES ITEMS -----

toothbrush
toothpaste
floss
mouthwash
razors
shaving cream
aftershave
brush/comb
deodorant

moisturizer
soap
shampoo
sunscreen
insect repellent
lip balm
facial cleaner
feminine-hygiene products
hand sanitizer

diapers
baby wipes
nail clippers/file
tweezers
first aid cream
bandages
vitamins
over the counter pain relief

NEW CLOTHING ITEMS -----

underwear men/woman
undershirts
bras
socks
winter hats

swimsuits
footwear
• sneakers
• boots
• leisure shoes

• dress shoes
• sandals
• snow boots
• baby shoes

NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES -----

pencils
colored pencils
pencil sharpener
ballpoint pens
sharpie pens
highlighters
eraser
post-it notes
crayons

markers (water soluble)
notebooks (college ruled)
binders
packet folders
graph paper
construction paper
sketch book
watercolors
paint

paintbrushes
scissors
rulers
graphing calculator
glue stick
pencil/pen bag or case
backpacks
insulated lunch bags
water bottles

NEW & LIGHTLY USED CLOTHING ITEMS -----

sleepwear
t-shirts
casual shirts
dress shirts
jeans
pants
shorts
dresses

skirts
sweaters
sweatshirts
scarves
gloves/mittens
winter coats
raincoats
athleticwear

jackets
suits
ties
belts
purses
aprons
infant clothing
bibbs

NEW & LIGHTLY USED HOUSEWARES -----

sheets sets
• twin
• full
• queen
• king
blankets
comforters
quilts
pillows

dishes
glassware
flatware
cooking utensils
potholders
cookware
• pots
• pans
• mixing bowls

small kitchen appliances
• toaster
• coffee maker
• blender
• food processor
• electric griddle
• air fryer

NEW HOME GOODS -----

masks
disinfecting wipes
dish liquid
laundry detergent

fabric softener
hair styling items (dryer & etc.)
sponges
dish cloths/towels

dish brushes
scouring pads

NEW & LIGHTLY USED MISCELLANEOUS -----

children's toys
• cars
• dolls
• stuffed animals
• action figures
• lego
children's books
small electronics
batteries

nerf balls
sporting equipment
• basketballs
• soccer balls
• baseballs
• baseball gloves
• footballs
board games
card games

coloring books
puzzle books
puzzles
Bibles
• Spanish
• Burmese
• French
• Portuguese
• Arabic

American Baptist Women of Maine

THE POTENTIAL

Linda Deane

PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

Fall 2021

2021 Dates to Remember

October World Mission Offering Month

October 25 ABW Maine Zoom

November 1: Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

December: Retired Minister & Missionaries Offering

December 25: Christmas

2022

February 1: Potential Articles Due

March America for Christ Offering

March 26: ABW Board Meeting

April 23: Spring Rally South @ China Lake

April 30: Spring Rally North @ Caribou