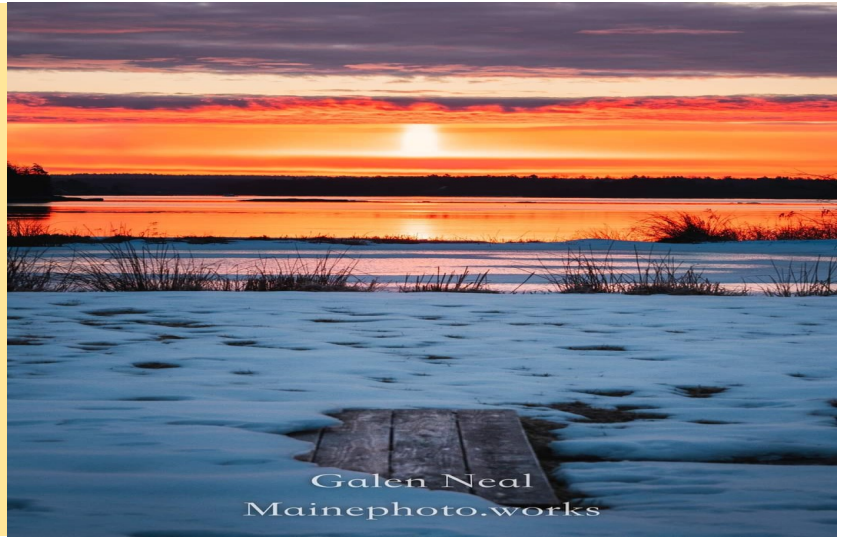


*When morning gilds the skies
my heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*



Presidents Message –Cindy Richendollar

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I pray that the holiday season was a memorable time of worship, giving thanks for all His Blessings and His Coming in lowly estate.

Your board members will be meeting soon to finalize plans for Spring Rallies and ready the By-Laws for a vote on the language refinement in August. Please Pray.

May His Light grant you Hope for each new day, as we seek His Will and Trust His Plan.

Looking forward to seeing you at Spring Rally

Secretary - Barbara Anderson

AB Women of Maine Fall Women's Day & Annual Meeting, November 18, 2023

Fall Women's Day and Annual meeting took place at China Lake Baptist Camp. 38 women were in attendance. Rev. Al Fletcher, ABCOM Executive Minister brought greetings. The meeting began with welcome and prayer by Outgoing President Doris Sherman and Incoming President Cindy Richendollar. Devotions were shared by Barbara Anderson.

The annual meeting began with officer reports. Andrea Dresser from the By-law Committee shared changes that are proposed to the by-laws. Most changes dealt with downsizing the number of officers for the Executive Board.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Barbara Anderson and seconded to accept the by-law changes (in principle) and refining the language (wordsmithing) of the by-laws for consistency to take place before the summer conference, where they will be reviewed. The proposed by-law changes were voted on and accepted.

Recognition of outgoing officers and President Doris Sherman were acknowledged for hard work. Andrea Dresser installed Cindy Richendollar as President and Martha Walker as Mission & Service Coordinator.

An offering was taken, and we adjourned for lunch.

The afternoon program began with a presentation by Cindy Richendollar of her recent trip to the Dominican Republic.

The day ended with a time of worship and Giving Thanks with a Wreath of Thanksgiving.

Spring Rallies will be on April 20th (South) and April 27th (North). Location and further information will be shared at a later date.

AB Women of Kennebec Association Brings Hope to Bridges To Blessings

Barbara Anderson Coordinator of Bridges To Blessings; The Salvation Army Bath/Brunswick

A heartfelt thank you to the AB Women of Kennebec Association for their recent overwhelming support of Bridges To Blessings. A carload of essential items, including women's sanitary products, toothbrushes, and more, was received with gratitude. These thoughtful donations not only provide practical support but also convey a powerful message of care, prayer, and God's love to those in need. The AB Women's unwavering commitment to making a difference locally and globally continues to be a beacon of hope. Your kindness has made a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve at Bridges To Blessings, and we are truly grateful.



Personal Development–Carolyn Sweeny

This report will be about the two Spring Rallies. As you can see from the registration forms, one is in Sanford and the other is in North Livermore. Next year I want to go up in the County and over to the Coast.

My thought for this year is encouragement. I really want to encourage all of you to mark your calendars with these dates and start inviting your friends to take a nice trip in the spring.

As you read the biographies of the two ladies who are speaking at various rallies, I think you might be tempted to attend both.

Thank you to all that have suggested speakers and to the churches who have graciously opened their space for our meetings. I also want to thank Pastor Bonnie Higgins who will be encouraging us with her testimony up in Livermore, in the afternoon. Down in Sanford I hope to have a speaker for the Christmas Child Shoe Box ministry, thank you.

I encourage all of you to stay active within our organization so we can continue sharing all that we have to offer.

PS. Our Spring Rally is where we will talk more about the Summer Conference. August 8, 9 and 10 at China Lake.

Spring Rally South Speaker : Anne Vickerman



Anna Vickerman, lives in Attleboro Massachusetts. She and her husband Craig have two children; Aléthea Grace, 20 and Andrew Michael, 18. Anna grew up with two sisters as pastor's kids in the American Baptist tradition. Currently, her father serves as an elder and her mother serves as the Care Pastor at Montgomery Community Church in the greater Cincinnati, OH region. Anna's husband Craig is the Rector at All Saints Attleboro and serves as the Canon for Youth and Family Ministries in New England. He also serves on the Student Leadership Network in the North American Province for the Anglican Church in North America. Together, Craig and Anna seek to lead their children, congregation, and community towards the transformational love of Jesus Christ!

The Vickermans have been serving at China Lake Camp since 2017 and are close friends with the Hansen family. Anna is a trained prayer minister in the Anglican Diocese of New England, serving in her church as well as at Encounter Weekends throughout the country. She has trained and apprenticed with 3DMovements in discipleship and mission. Working as a parent coach with the National Center for Biblical Parenting and as an independent health and wellness coach, Anna loves to walk with others as they find hope and wholeness in the love of the Living God! The Vickerman family lives on mission following the words and ways of Jesus Christ in their lives for the Kingdom of God and in particular the reawakening of New England!

Anna will be sharing with us at our Annual Spring Rally. It is her desire that you will be refreshed and encouraged with her message: [A Way Of Being; Life Now In The Kingdom of God](#)

Spring Rally North Speaker : Rev. Dr. Susan E. Crane



The Rev. Dr. Susan E. Crane was ordained by the First Baptist Church of East Greenwich, RI, in 1977. She obtained her BA from Albion College in 1971, followed by graduate studies at Boston University School of Theology. In 1976, she earned a Master of Divinity, and in 1980, she completed her Doctor of Ministry degree.

Dr. Crane has held solo Pastor positions in several American Baptist churches, including those in Lowville, NY; Weston, MA; Gardiner, ME; and Farmington, ME. Retiring from full-time pastoral work at the close of 2019, she continues to contribute as the West Area Resource Minister for the 14 American Baptist Churches of Maine (ABCOM) within the West Association.

Having relocated to Maine in 2000, she served as a Commissioned Woman Interim (CWI) for the First Baptist Church of Gardiner. Additionally, she assumed the role of Advocate for Women in Ministry for ABCOM. Notably, her appointment has contributed to an increase in the percentage of women pastors within ABCOM churches, now averaging 12%. She served as the Pastor of Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Farmington from 2002-2020.

Dr. Crane authored the "Junia Project Bible Study and Storytelling Resource" in 2002. Presently, she is working on a book aimed at helping American Baptists understand the incongruence between American Baptist values and calling a new pastor who holds a complementarian theology on biblical manhood and womanhood.

The title of her talk at Spring Rally North is "Does the Bible Really Say That?"

Spring Rally-South

April 20, 2024

Sanford First Baptist Church

905 Main Street Sanford Maine 04073

Registration and Refreshments 8:30-9:30

Morning Program 9:30-12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program



Speaker: Anna Vickerman

**"A Way of Being;
Life Now in the Kingdom of God"**

*Please contact the registrar by April 15th with the number of attendees from your church and inform her of any special needs .

*Registrar: Norma Bean (207) 659-3385.

*Registration \$2.00. Lunch by donation

Spring Rally-North

April 27, 2024

North Livermore Baptist Church

619 Federal Road Livermore Maine 04253

Registration and Refreshments 8:30-9:30

Morning Program 9:30-12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program



Speaker: Rev. Susan Crane

"Does the Bible Really Say That?"

*Please contact the registrar by April 22nd with the number of attendees from your church and inform her of any special needs .

*Registrar: Pastor Bonnie Higgins (207) 897-5377
nlbcmaine@gmail.com

*Registration \$2.00. Lunch by donation

Mission and Community Service —Martha Walker

Hi, I'm Martha, your new Missions, and Community Service Coordinator. The consolidation of two offices into one has led me to reflect, "Martha, what have you gotten yourself into?" After much contemplation and prayer, I've sought to understand my role. While I don't personally know all the missionaries, I've extensively explored American Baptist websites, gaining valuable insights. Initially, I identified four key service areas: International, National, State, and Local

International:

Understanding International Missions is straightforward. We have missionaries serving in six global regions: Africa, East and South Asia (including India), Europe, the Middle East and Liberia, Ibero-America and the Caribbean (Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries of Mexico, Central and South America), Southeastern Asia, and Japan. Global Servants, with expertise in specific fields, serve in multiple areas worldwide.

Fun fact: We currently have 11 missionaries, with twenty-nine being single and forty-two married couples. Building relationships with individuals spread across the globe can be challenging.

Maine Focus:

In Maine, we have eight special interest missionaries. These familiar faces include:

- Mercy Gonzales-Barnes, a Global Servant in Latin America and Cuba.
- Rev. Dr. Daniel and Sarah Chet, serving in Lebanon.
- Dr. Bill and Ann Clemmer, serving in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.
- Kristy Engel, a Global Servant in the area of Health.
- Pieter and Nora Kalkman, stationed in the Czech Republic.
- Jennifer Pedzinski, Director of Mission Mobilization and Hostess at Stoughton Mission House.
- Rev. Kit Ripley, serving at the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- Brian and Lynete Smith, working in the Dominican Republic primarily with Haitian refugees.

The most fascinating part of International Missions is getting to know these missionaries individually, reading their letters, and learning about their unique areas, cultures, and the people they serve. However, due to restrictions in communication, particularly in volatile and less safe locations, maintaining regular contact can be challenging.

National Ministries:

National Ministries, with roots tracing back to 1824, encompass missions within the United States. They serve in diverse capacities, including 15 colleges and universities, 11 seminaries offering scholarships, 47 community centers, Immigration and Refugee Programs, Intercultural Ministries, and Asian, Latino, Native American, and Native Alaskan Ministries. Judson Press is also part of this initiative.

In New England, there are two ministries: Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries in Lexington, MA, and Teens Alive at Calvary Baptist Church in Lowell, MA.

State Ministries:

State Ministries are closer to home here in Maine. We have three summer camps: Baptist Park in Mapleton, Baptist Youth Camp in Charlotte near Calais, and China Lake Camp in China at the China Lake Conference Center.

Local Ministries:

Local Ministries are the heart of your church. Many are involved in food pantries, clothes closets, medical equipment loan closets, and immigrant needs. What does your church do? What about you as an individual? Whether you knit mittens and hats for local schools, sew Little Dresses for Africa, make lap robes for nursing homes, or send cards and letters to those in need - every effort counts.

I'm still pondering how to ensure missionary letters reach every church woman in Maine and welcome your suggestions.

American Baptist Women of Maine

THE POTENTIAL

abwmaine.org

February 2024

Linda Deane

PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

2024 Dates to Remember

February 24 ABW Board Meeting-Brunswick

March 31 Easter

April 20 Spring Rally South @ Sanford First Baptist

April 27 Spring Rally North @ North Livermore Baptist

June 1 Potential Articles Due

June 15 Directory Reports Due

August 8-10 Summer Conference China Lake

Oct. 1 Potential Articles Due