

See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
¹²Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.

Song of Songs 2:11-12



Presidents Message - Doris Sherman

Greetings ladies from the frozen North.

I recently returned home after spending the entire month of January in Destin Florida. Everything was wonderful, my two gal-pals and I enjoyed the day temps of 50s -a high of 84. We would love to have brought some of the gorgeous weather home, but instead--- we all brought home colds. Because of that, my report may be abbreviated but I want to share a brief devotional.

First though, contemplate the lovely words from this old song, no known author but credited to African people in the 18th century when they were living in slavery.

“In the morning when I rise. In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus
You can have this old world, just give me Jesus.”

I have some beautiful trees I can look out on from my kitchen window. Some, probably there before the house was built, 130 years or so ago. Big old Oak trees, with huge branches lifted to the sky as if to say, Good Morning God. Other various fruit trees, all beautiful, all different from the others. Good planning.

However, if I left my kitchen and climbed up on one of those trees to sit out on one of the branches, I would no doubt have a different view. Those branches that looked so graceful and symmetrical from my window, would appear to be going every which way --- the plan would look altogether different.

I am deciding today to have faith to believe that life's a lot like that. We each see our tree from the middle, it may look pretty confusing, however, God, the great planner, and designer steps back and views our lives in perspective, and for those of us who have our roots in Him, I think He says “it is good”. He does the planting and planning all we need to do is grow, trusting His design.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at one of the spring Rallies, South at China Lake Conference Center on April 22, and North at East Millinocket First Baptist Church on April 29. It would be wonderful for as many officers to make both rallies as possible. Reminder: ABWM Board meeting March 25 at 10 am, East Millinocket First Baptist Church.

We are a family in a great Sisterhood of American Baptist Women.

President-Elect –Cindy Richendollar

Dear ABW Sisters,

Here we are midway between summer conferences. Winter months can be a challenge in many ways. I encourage you to continue to meet and serve your church community, and your community at large as weather and circumstances allow.

Just a reminder that your state officers are here for you. Please do not hesitate to ask.
Spring Rallies are coming soon. Hope to see you there.

Assistant Treasurer –Sandy Rhoda

If you would like to receive our news, POTENTIAL, online, please submit your email to: sterlin@roadrunner.com. This is free though a donation is thoughtful.

If you wish to have a paper copy, or know someone without email who would, send the mailing address and check for \$5, to Sandra Rhoda, 2 Short St., East Millinocket, ME 04430. Checks may be made to ABW of Maine.

Secretary - Barbara Anderson

"There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

Each of us has a part in serving God through our local and state AB Women's Group. It is not up to the President to do everything, or mission and service to handle all the missions projects, or the secretary to be the sole communicator. We all need to work together as part of the body of Christ supporting one another and the ministry to women. AB Women took my hand when I was 30 years old and mentored me, encouraged me, challenged me, and loved me. These women trained me to be a leader and to use my gifts as part of the body of Christ in service. I challenge you to reach out to a woman in your church and do the same. Invite her to your meeting; share about the work of AB Women; invite her to our Spring Rally and Summer Conference. Together, we can build the body of Christ.

" You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

Personal Development–Carolyn Sweeny

Ladies,

I want to start off with the Spring Rallies, the registration forms are in this Potential. I particularly want to talk about the speaker. Barbra Anderson is a former National President and is now our state secretary. She will be speaking on, "In Her Shoes, understanding how women and girls are trafficked in Maine". This topic has never been on my radar, so I am looking forward to her presentation.

Now to the Summer Conference, August 10th, 11th, and 12th at China Lake. The theme is Christmas so get out your Christmas attire and your ugly sweaters. I especially want to talk about Manger scenes. I have seen all varieties, large, small, glass, plastic, wood, and many others. My all-time favorite is a glass vase with a Manger scene on it. I didn't realize that it had the Manger scene on it until I looked closer and saw the picture on the front and back. Having said all of this, I would like anyone interested to bring Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus from a Manger scene you have at home to the summer conference, these will be part of my opening moments. These scenes are a wonderful remembrance of the Christmas story but as I was reading in John, I was struck by five words, "AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH". This year those five words brought the whole Christmas story to life. Think about it, God himself became flesh and dwelt among us.

Registration forms for the Summer conference will be at the Spring Rallies and in the next Potential. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and celebrating Christmas in August.

Vital Partners (White Cross)– Dina Richards

Hi Ladies,

It has been a trying fall and winter for me but I am on the mend. Hope all is going well with all of you. Just a reminder that we are working to support the three Christian camps. I'm working on getting a list out to you but you can get in touch with the camp nearest you to find out what they might need.

Mission and Service –Lorna Hansen

I am so blessed to be part of an organization, ABWM of Maine, where my American Baptist sisters are so supportive of our International Global Servants (missionaries). Let me share a few updates with you about people who are special to us.

Kristy Engel is a Global Consultant for Health with International Ministries. She is a nurse practitioner who has ministered for IM for 22 years. In January 2023, Kristy and three others with medical knowledge visited the western part of Ukraine to bring aid to extremely needy IDPs (internally displaced persons). Hungarian Baptist Aid invited this team to help them. Because of generous support from IM, Kristy and her team were able to take eight duffle bags full of medications and four bags of medical supplies including a laboratory to set up in each of the four clinics they would visit. One of the places they served was an orphanage housing 60 children. Not only did they spend a day meeting the medical needs of the children, but they also brought much-needed food. The children are dealing with trauma from several sources. There is very limited electricity – typically 45 minutes a day. In one day, Kristy and her team served 60 people. They left a generator with the orphanage. Kristy expresses thankfulness for your prayers and financial support.

For those who receive emails and/or letters from Ann and Bill Clemmer, you are aware of the accident they were in as they left Goma to fly to the US for Christmas with their family. Ann suffered a broken shoulder in a vehicle accident prior to boarding two planes to take two 12-hour flights to reach the US. The good news is that the shoulder does not need surgery, just limited use and about a year to heal completely. Continue to pray that God will give Ann patience and lack of pain as He heals her. A year ago, many of you donated Christmas cards for Ann to take back to Heal Africa. Note the picture that Ann sent showing how the cards were used.

Are you old enough to remember Summer Conference in Presque Isle in 1994? Six Japanese women visited Maine that summer and attended our conference. I hosted one of the women in my home and we became fast friends over these almost 30 years. We exchanged letters and pictures of our families and even visited each other twice – I visited her in Japan in 2003 and she and her daughter and grandson visited me in 2004. This year her annual Christmas card did not arrive. Instead, her daughter wrote to me informing me that both her parents died in 2022. Etsuko, 93, (known as Joyce) went to heaven last March. I kept her letters and pictures and have been reading them over and over and have placed them in an album that I hope to send to her daughter. They reveal how much the Japanese women learned from our ABW work and how they took these ideas back to their women in Japan.



Treasurer –Stacey Emery

A thank you from China Lake

Your support has touched lives... to their souls!

Throughout God's Word we read of people who sacrificially gave even though they might have thought that their gift might not be noticeable or inherently valuable by itself. They shared anyway, aware that it might cost more than they thought they could spare. Abigail, the woman from Zarephath, the child with the loaves and fish, the widow who gave her mite, and countless Brothers and Sisters in the early Christian Church... these all gave to God's work despite the consequences it could have for their own security and wellbeing. Not only did they bless others by their sacrificial generosity, but they were blessed deeply in return for their faithful response to the needs they saw. And the Kingdom of God was glorified! You have responded likewise and have continued the "Family Tradition", and we pray for God's blessing on you as well.

We acknowledge your gifts and sacrifices on behalf of the China Lake Camp and Conference Center ministries with humility and gratitude... we thank God for you and pray His deepest blessings on you as you continue to minister and serve in His name!!

This certificate acknowledges, *WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE* that

American Baptist Women of Maine

contributed **\$ 1,417.25**

for summer staff wages and other needs at

China Lake Camp & Conference Center in 2022!



A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Rick Haus, the Camp Director.

Camp Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Stacey Emery, the Treasurer.

Treasurer

Educational Gifts - Judy Ledger

Just a reminder. If you are going on to school or know of someone who is, you can apply for the ABW Maine Educational Love gift. The applicant must be: a member of an American Baptist Church of Maine; Enrolled in a Christian College or seminary; Believe it is God's will that you enter some kind of Christian Service; and Submit a letter of recommendation from your Pastor. The deadline for applications and pastor recommendations is June 1, 2023. For an application or more info contact me at jaledger11@gmail.com

Spring Rally-South

April 22, 2023

China Lake Conference Center

255 Neck Road, China

Registration and Refreshments 8:30-9:30

Morning Program 9:30-12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program



Speaker: Barbra Anderson

"IN HER SHOES"

Understanding How Women and Girls are Trafficked in Maine

****Please contact the registrar by April 15th with the number of attendees from your church and inform her of any special needs. Registrar: Lorna Hansen (207) 783-1510, 376 Lake Street Auburn 04210, lbhansen42@gmail.com**

****Registration \$2.00 and lunch \$10.00 paid on arrival at Conference Center.**

Spring Rally-North

April 29, 2023

East Millinocket First Baptist Church

2 Oak Street East Millinocket

Registration and Refreshments 8:30-9:30

Morning Program 9:30-12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program



Speaker: Barbra Anderson

"IN HER SHOES"

Understanding How Women and Girls are Trafficked in Maine

****Please contact the registrar by April 22nd with the number of attendees from your church and inform her of any special needs. Registrar: Judy Ledger (207) 746-3765, 3, Pattagumpus Rd. Medway, ME 04460, jaledger11@gmail.com**

****Registration \$2.00 and lunch \$8.00 paid on arrival at the church.**

American Baptist Women of Maine

THE POTENTIAL

abwmaine.org

February 2023

Linda Deane

PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

2023 Dates to Remember

March 25 Board Meeting East Millinocket

April 9 Easter

April 22 Spring Rally South China Lake Conference Center

April 29 Spring Rally North East Millinocket First Baptist Church

May 30 White Cross Reports Due

June 1 Potential Articles Due

June 15 Directory Reports Due

August 10, 11, 12 Summer Conference China Lake