

**A Message from our President** Doris Sherman. I am happy to report that despite the obstacles the Pandemic has thrown at us, (ABW) we have managed to hold tight to our mission and still smile, and we have a lot to smile about!

Like the Israelites in the desert, God has brought us through. We have managed to have our regular board meetings where the business of ABW Maine was planned, discussed, and with God's help, was and will continue to be brought to fruition.

We had our annual summer conference at China Lake last August with a small attendance, but that was the only small thing about it...the blessings were abundant and God blessed us with sweet fellowship and great speakers. 2021 Summer Conference is Aug 12-14 so make your plans now to be there and get ready for a blessing.

Our Zoom meetings, after a few snags were very successful. It was great being able to see each other even if it wasn't in person. Many thanks to Wanda Clark for her assist and expertise and also some assist from our newest member Stacy Emery, who I'm proud to say is from my church, Oakfield Baptist. One of the high lights of our Zoom meetings was a presentation/visit from our special interest missionary, Ann Clemmer. We're hopeful to do more Zoom meetings in the fall with some interesting changes, so stay tuned.

We had some wonderful spring rallies and appreciate and thank both Topsham and Oakfield for hosting us. I would be remiss not to say thanks also to Lorna for her informative and interesting presentation on India.

American Baptist Women are alive and well and still proclaiming the Good News that Jesus Christ is still in control and welcomes all who will come to Him (John 3:16). We are not all called to the mission field, but we can and do support those who are. Our mission field is our family and community, right where God has placed us," the field is white to harvest", (John 4:35). This is what motivates me, as your president, each day to ask the

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## **Personal Development--Marge Muse**

Over the past two months, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you at the Spring Rallies that were held at Topsham on April 17 and in Oakfield on April 24. Due to COVID-19 we were not able to have any rallies in 2020. It had been too long since we had been able to fellowship together.

Lorna Hansen spoke about her India Mission Encounter and presented a history of missionaries (now global servants) in India. Lorna introduced us to Charlotte Atlee White Rowe who was a pioneer of women on the mission field.

Thank you to the women of Topsham United Baptist Church and Oakfield Baptist Church for welcoming us to your churches for the spring rallies. I know this takes a great deal of planning and work. You did a great job! Our next opportunity to meet as a combined group (north and south) is Summer Conference.

Our presenter for the conference is Susan Call. She is an author of *A Search for Purple Cows, A True Story of Hope*. Her theme for this conference is forgiveness. We do not need to remain broken due to struggles in our lives. She will share her own experiences and give insight about how we do not need to remain broken. God can free us from the struggles of our past to live a life of freedom through Him. Susan also makes jewelry and will have some items for sale at the conference.

Jeni Pedzinski will not be able to attend this summer's conference. She will still be in quarantine from her return from Thailand. We are hoping that she will be available next year. More information regarding the mission speaker at the next Zoom meeting on June 22.

Good news! We are able to have a silent auction this year so get your items together and get ready to spend some money. Some of the workshops are: readers' theater, Biblical dramatization, waterfront kayaking/canoeing and a cancer walk. I hope to have a workshop to make banners for our new ABW theme. There is still room for additional workshops. If you have the talent of flower arranging or perhaps a craft idea that you are willing to share, please let me know and we can add a few additional workshops.

We will have some options for the cancer walk to make certain any woman who wants to be involved can do so. One option is to walk laps in the gymnasium. There will also be a one-mile course outside that can be walked twice for a longer walk. Stephanie also mentioned a three-mile trail that can be used for the ones wanting a little challenge. Come to the conference with sponsors and any money earned will be sent to the American Cancer Society.

We will also have evening activities on Thursday and Friday evening. There will be a chance for the readers' theater to share their skit, and for you to share your talent with us. There will be a campfire with songs. Bring your favorite game to play with the others. I can assure you that there will be more than one set of Pass the Pigs available! Unfortunately, due to CDC guidelines, we will not be able to have activities that include the girls. Perhaps next year we will be able to include them in some of our activities.

Please join us for the conference and bring a friend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 207-240-1900 or [gramicus@yahoo.com](mailto:gramicus@yahoo.com). See you there!

# Summer Conference 2021

August 12,13,14

Theme: Forgiveness

China Lake Conference Center

## Keynote Speaker



Susan Call, author of *A Search for Purple Cows, A True Story of Hope*, will share encouragement to survive the jungle of everyday life. No matter where we are in our journey we all need a reminder that God is bigger no matter what the struggle.

## Partial List of Workshops /Activities

Readers Theater

Kayaking/Canoeing

Cancer Walk

New ABW Themed Banners

“White Cross“

Please be ready to share your talents at the evening shows

Campfire Time

Bible Studies, Prayer, Devotions

( And of course—Pass the Pig)

Missionary Speaker to be Announced

**ABWM of MAINE REGISTRATION FORM**  
**SUMMER CONFERENCE**  
**AUGUST 12 - 14, 2021**  
**THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST TIMER? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ I'D LIKE TO ROOM WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(Registration begins at 12:30 pm on Thursday**

Printed Directory \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Overnights (from page 4) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals (from page 4) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Day Use (from page 4) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Scholarships may be available to those who have never attended and cannot otherwise afford to attend.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE CHARTS ON PAGE 4 TO INDICATE YOUR OVERNIGHT AND MEAL CHOICES.

**VITAL INFORMATION:**

**Registration must be in by July 31 to satisfy China Lake Camp's requirements.**

**No refunds after August 1. You can send someone else in your place.**

With your registration form, please **include at least 20% of your total due.**

Make your check payable to **ABWM of Maine** and mail it, with the forms to:

Joyce Worden, 11 Holt Drive, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Please remember to tell us about any special needs when you send in your registration.

You are responsible for bringing your lunch on August 12, 2021.

Conference begins at 1:30 pm on Thursday, August 12, 2021

Bring your own bedding, including pillow or rent for \$10.00 from CLC

	CABIN \$35/NIGHT	DILLON SUKEFORTH \$35/NIGHT	SANDERSON \$35/NIGHT	AMOUNT DUE
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY				
FRIDAY				

Wednesday evening accommodations are available for Board Members.

**TOTAL ACCOMMODATION CHARGE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*For those not staying at China Lake Camp there is a \$10.00 day use charge for each day you are attending the conference.

**TOTAL DAY USE CHARGE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

MEALS

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	AMOUNT DUE
THURSDAY		BRING OWN LUNCH	\$15.00	
FRIDAY	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	
SATURDAY	\$10.00	\$10.00		

\*Accommodations

Sukeforth: (gym) 4 bunk beds (indicate top or bottom bunk) – meetings will be held in this building. Bathroom down the hall – Shower room on other side of building

Dillon: 15 dormitory-like rooms – 2 women per room – closest to the Sukeforth building. Toilet/Shower rooms down the hall

Sanderson House: 5 bedrooms with 1-2 beds per room. Across from chapel. Downstairs: full bath with shower Upstairs: ½ bath with no shower

Cabins: 4 bunk beds per cabin – across the street and up the hill (you can drive there) Toilets/showers in separate building W

What To Bring to Summer Conference: Comfortable clothing and shoes; Nightgown and robe; Sleeping bag and/or twin sheets to cover your mattress; Pillow/pillowcase; Towels; Toiletries; Swimsuit (optional); Jacket/sweater for evenings and/or mornings; Pen/ pencil; Note pad; Bible; Flashlight; Bug spray/ sun screen; Medications; Items for silent auction

Questions? Contact Marjorie Muise (240-1900)

## February 9 Zoom Meeting - Secretary

Fifteen members joined tonight including, Joanne Strauss, Coordinator of the Eastern Section of ABW. President Doris opened our meeting. Tonight's emphasis was on "Our missions".

Lorna, Coordinator of Missions and Service, reported the Chetti's continue to minister through the pandemic and explosions to those in Beirut. They have distributed 1900 care packages, 320 medications and 70 legal aids. Kit Ripley left for Thailand, February 16<sup>th</sup> and arrived on the 18<sup>th</sup>. She quarantined in Bangkok for two weeks before she was allowed to return to Chiang Mai and her work with the New Life Center.

Dina, White Cross Coordinator, experienced technical problems, finally completing her report on the telephone. Not an easy task. White Cross has changed. (See Dina's report from March 20 Board meeting below)

We are also encouraged to seek local missions that are not listed on website. One such Maine ministry is The Columbia Street Project, an outreach of the Columbia Street Baptist Church. This is a prison ministry, mentoring/coaching prisoners who are about to be released to aid them in a successful return to society. It is called R4R Ready for Reentry. Do you know other Maine Ministries? Oop's time is up! The session is ended, ready or not!

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## March 20 Board Meeting - Secretary Martha Walker

The Spring Board Meeting was held at the Baptist Church in Oakland. The following members were in attendance: President, Doris Sherman; Treasurer, Sherry Cates; Secretary, Martha Walker, Church and Community, Wandah Clark; Missions and Service, Lorna Hanson; Personal Development, Marj Muise; White Cross, Dina Richard and Potential Editor, Linda Deane.

The meeting opened with prayer and devotions "God is in Control, even when We are Unaware" by Martha. Whether we face trouble, hardships, persecutions or danger, we can always depend on Jesus, and He is Enough!

Lorna reported on our Special Interest Missionaries. The Clemmers, on March 8<sup>th</sup> which was International Women's Day; Heal Africa held a Women's Meeting with 240 women in attendance and 16 women accepting Christ. Save Christmas card fronts for a Sunday School Children's project. Bring them to Spring Rallies or Summer Conference. Bill is on temporary assignment, in Somalia. Due to years of violence and drought, many health care workers have fled. They are trying to retain and train new key health workers. Kit Ripley is still facing red tape and is further delayed, in her return to Chang Mai. Dan Chetti is currently in Iraq. He is using a video series mentoring church leaders. There are 200,000 Believers in Iraq. Jen Pedzinski will return to the United States, in June. She will receive her Covid shot and attend our Summer Conference.

Marj reported the two Mission Rallies are on schedule, with the plans that were made last year. Thanks to Covid, we could not hold the planned rallies. Topsham will host the South Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> and the North Meeting will be hosted by Oakfield, on the 24th. Doris said, at the Oakfield Meeting; registration starts at 8:45, programming at 9:30, lunch at 11:45 and dismissed by 2:00. Lorna will be speaking at both meetings.

Summer Conference will be August 12,13,14 at China Lake. Attendance limitations, required by the state are unknown. Our speaker is Susan Call, author of [A Search for Purple Cows](#). She will be teaching on forgiveness and prayer. Each officer is to bring a purple centerpiece that will be auctioned off. Kathy Haylie will be helping with music. Possible workshops and activities will be banner making, White Cross, kayaking, exercise, campfire night, mani/pedi spa treatment, any a suggestion? Sherry volunteered to install officers.

Girls Camp is the same week, so we will have some shared activities in addition to meals. Susan will be doing a workshop with them on peer pressure.

Dina reported on the changes by national concerning White Cross that resulted in a lengthy discussion and learning process. First of all, quotas as we know them are "a thing of the past". This is driven by the high cost of shipping. "Missionary", in many foreign countries has a negative effect. Global Servants are received positively. Go on the national website and you can easily find a list of all Global Servants, their country of service, and dollar amounts needed for their work.

What we have always known as White Cross Overland for National Ministries is now known as Operation Planting Hope. Just search for Operation Planting Hope and you will immediately reach the national website. There are nearly 50 ministries listed. A number of them, we have supported in the past. With both International White Cross and Operation Planting Hope, local women's groups are encouraged to choose those they desire to support.

It was decided, we should choose ministries close to home. We have chosen the Massachusetts Baptist Multi-cultural Ministries (MBMM) and Cavalry Baptist Churches "Teens Alive" programs. Both of these we have supported for several years. There are also kits with Church World Service; however, this ministry requires shipping.

In Maine, there is the Columbia Street Project, a ministry of the Columbia Street Baptist Church. It is a prison ministry, known as Ready for Reentry or R4R. This work is with inmates at Penobscot County jail to lead productive lives after release and not become a statistic returning to incarceration. There are our three summer camp programs, which may be the opportunity to make actual purchases that are easily delivered in person, to the camp near you. Also suggested are local opportunities like food cupboards, clothes closets, and the like.

There will be included in the Summer Conference program, Spring Rallies and The Potential, opportunities to educate all of our women on these changes. The choice of ministry is the decision, of each local women's group. Suggested choices for Maine's Women's Groups include: MBMM, Calvary Baptist Teens Alive, Church World Service, our three summer camps, Colombia Street Project Prison Ministry, and local ministries.

Sherry reported that our current state project, support for our three state camps, received a donation of \$1,096 from the sale of twenty-five face masks and gifts of money from the Court Street Baptist Church. There is a grand total balance of \$14,231.68 in the treasury.

A very tasty lunch was served by Sherry and her helpers.

Wandah presented a spreadsheet on Zoom Meeting attendance. This shows there were a total of 26 women attending at least one meeting. Five women attended all five meetings. The December meeting with Ann Clemmer had the largest attendance at 21. Other months were 11, 12, or 14. Stacy Emery and Wandah have set-up the next Zoom meeting for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm. The subject will be Summer Conference.

Suggestions were made to set-up a schedule for each month next year. Possibilities included were: White Cross, National Women's Day of Prayer, and more missionaries, similar to the one done by Ann Clemmer this year.

The Nominating Committee has to find new officers for Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Educational Gifts, Mission & Service and one position on the Nominating Committee.

Lorna made a motion to give \$70, to the Women's and Girl's Mission Fund, in honor of its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. One dollar for each of the 70 years. It was seconded by Linda and passed unanimously.

Secretary of State, Shenna Bellows, will be invited to present the state certificate recognizing one hundred years of incorporation for American Baptist Women of Maine, at Summer Conference.

### Spring Rally North & South -Secretary Martha Walker

Spring Rally Roll Calls	South	North
Bowdoinham	9	0
Cumberland	12	3
Damariscotta	0	3
East	0	3
Kennebec	3	2
Lincoln	3	0
North Aroostook	0	5
Penquis	0	9
South Aroostook	1	13
West	0	0
York	3	0
Total	31	36
5 First Timers		

Each rally started with a welcome from the host church, prayer, devotions, and lots of singing and a business meeting, with officer reports.

At this point, the state project, shoes and food for the children of Heal Africa, (part of the ministry of Ann Clemmer in Goma Democratic Republic of Congo) has raised \$4,200.

The Zoom Meetings which were held monthly, from November thru March, were interesting. The next Zoom meeting is June 22, at 7:00 P.M. The topic is Summer Conference. It is hoped more ladies will attend. You can access zoom on a computer, Notepad or even a cellphone. The plan is to continue, with a different topic each month.

Lorna Hansen, Missions and Service Coordinator reported that most of our missionaries stayed in country and continued their work, with Covid restrictions. We were encouraged to pray for our missionaries daily.

Kit Ripley has finally been allowed to return to Thailand; however, she met a number of roadblocks, upon arrival including a 14-day quarantine.

Jen Pedzinski is returning to the states for a year. She will be vaccinated here and plans to be with us at summer conference.

Due to the pandemic, Heal Africa is closed. Ann Clemmer has been forced to make changes in her ministry. She has started to visit the ladies, one on one, in the area. She takes educational packet for their children, food and care packages and a dose of encouragement and God's love.

Ann has asked for Christmas greeting card fronts, not necessarily religious but nice, for a project she has plans for with the 600 children who come weekly to Sunday School.

Dina Richards reported that White Cross quotas as we know them are no more. We must now change our thinking concerning International Ministries and National Ministries. Much of these changes are due to high shipping cost.

Giving to International Ministries is still known as White Cross but is monetary gifts, given through International Ministries. See [www.internationalministries.org/white-cross/](http://www.internationalministries.org/white-cross/)

What we know as White Cross Overland is now called Operation Planting Hope. It is suggested that each local Mission Circle choose a ministry close to them to support. ABWMaine has supported The Massachusetts Baptist Multi-cultural Ministries and Calvary Baptist Church's Teens Alive (also in Mass.), in the past.

Suggestions for Ministries in Maine include our three summer camps. The one nearest you allows you to actually purchase needed supply's, and deliver them eliminating shipping cost. Also, look around your community: food cupboards, clothes closets, homeless shelters, pregnancy resource centers, nursing homes, orphanages, foster care, prison ministries. newborns, dialysis, and cancer treatment wards, at your local hospital. Elementary schools always have a need for mittens. You can put you sewing, knitting and crochet skills to good use supporting these kinds of ministries.

Check out: <https://abhms.org/ministries/healing-communities/operation-planting-hope/> for more info.

Lorna Hanson was keynote speaker at both rallies.

On September 24 – October 7, 2019, Lorna joined the India Mission Encounter, with Reid Trulson, a former International Ministries Global Servant. (Note: Missionaries are no longer called missionary because it makes them and their ministry unsafe. Many suffer persecution; thus, their new name **“Global Servant”**.) Today there are only two Global Servants in India, Taku and Katie Longkumer. Included in the group of ten, in addition to Reid and Lorna, were 5 Global Servants and Kathy Holmes, from the British Baptist Convention.

The journey began with a non-stop flight from Newark, NJ to New Delhi, India (15 hours in the air). The purpose of the trip was three-fold. 1. To further investigate the life of Charlotte Atlee White Rowe. A widow, who was the first single woman to be appointed a missionary by any American denomination. 2. To attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Summit of India. A celebration of 226 years of Baptist, in India. 3. To encourage Baptist in India.

Lorna explained there was an undercurrent of not being safe. There is so much filth and a total lack of sanitation, devastating poverty, with children suffering most. Many of the homes are cardboard structures. There are many begging, especially children.

Baptist is the second largest denomination in India with 5 million members. The Baptist Churches of India are all self-supporting, being sponsored by the British, Canadians, Australians, and Americans. However, the Indian government wants Hindi to be the national religion.

There were 1500 Indian delegates plus overseas guest, including forty American Baptist representative, at the Summit. The theme was “We are One” The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Wati Aier. There were worship sessions, cultural performances, singing and fellowship. There were sale tables including the Banjara ladies who sold the mirror glass beads and useful items made from the beads. The Banjara people are of European gypsy decent and are among the poorest of the poor, living in very rural communities. They number 60 million in India

Lorna then related the life of Charlotte Atlee White Rowe. In 1776 the first missionaries were sent to India, from Britain to convert the heathens. However, the East India Company had enough influence, to not want missionaries interfering with their 3200% profit trading in nutmeg. Therefore, British Baptist Missionaries had to travel to the United State then take another ship to India.

In 1793, William Cary, (Father of Modern Missions), wife Dorothy, and their seven children arrived in, Calcutta, India. In 1812, Adoniram Judson was commissioned by the American Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, to Burma. Only men were commissioned. Ann Judson was appointed a helper, to her husband. On their way to Burma, they stopped in Calcutta, to pick up a printing press, from William Cary. (An interesting bit of information, Dan Chetti was born and grew up Calcutta.)

Now we meet Charlotte. Born in 1782, to Judge William and Esther Atlee, their eleventh child. She was baptized in Pennsylvania, and received a good education, unusual for a girl. Her mother died, and three years later yellow fever left Charlotte an orphan at age 11. She moved to Rutland, Mass, to live with her oldest sister, Esther. She married Nathaniel White, in 1803, in 1804 she gave birth to a baby boy. Christmas Day 1804 Nathaniel died. Five months later her baby died.

At age 24, Charlotte felt called to be a missionary to India and applied to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions. Remember, in those days, only ordained men were commissioned to be missionaries.

Charlotte was appointed as a missionary with the restriction that she would be a helper and companion for the wife of George Henry Hough, a missionary printer, being sent to Burma. Charlotte was not wealthy but did have a sizable inheritance. Therefore, she was appointed as helper, at her own expense.

In December 1815, Charlotte, George Henry Hough, and his wife Phebe and their two small sons set sail for Calcutta India, a four-month journey.

During this time, Charlotte met, Rev. Joshua Rowe a widower, with three sons ages 8, 6, and 5. They were married and Charlotte joined the British Baptist Missionary Society. They had twin daughters and a son. They lived in a town north of Calcutta, called Dignah, where Joshua was an educator. Over time, he established seven schools. Charlotte managed her home and family, taught school, learned Hindi and wrote schoolbooks in the Hindi language.

Joshua died in 1823. Charlotte remained in India three more years. In 1826, Charlotte returned to the United State, settling in Philadelphia with her children. She continued to teach school. Charlotte died December 25, 1863 in Philadelphia.

## **Treasurer— Sherry Cates**

I was listening to a Joyce Meyers tape, “Grace Grace Grace”. In one session she relates the story of the 10 vestal virgins. 5 were wise enough to store up extra oil, while 5 didn’t have enough to light their night vigil. There are times we do not have 2 nickels to rub together and at other times we find an extra \$20 tucked away. We all have something to share and not just monetary. My Catholic neighbor believed in prayer, and she would receive an unexpected rose when her prayers were answered. What a beautiful spiritual gift to share, praying for one another. Another friend had the gift of listening quietly to my woes, which always calmed me and relieved the burdens weighing heavily on my heart. I love friends who share their hugs and provide a safe haven in their arms, for Jesus is present also. There are many ways to support each other 's mission to share Jesus ' love and Grace: physically, mentally, emotionally, spirituality and financially. The most important part of our mission is our own daily walk with God. Let your attitude be one of enthusiasm to spend time with him and then you will not fall asleep like the disciples did. Let your prayers be a meaningful and emotional outpouring of your appreciation and need for Him. Let there be time to quietly listen to His guidance and love. There are days I feel I run out of oil quickly and need the help of my sisters in Christ to refuel. I always receive the gift of learning new ways to walk closer to God as I am sure our "global servants” feel when we share His love with them and help them to refuel. Reaching out to touch someone reminds us that we are not alone. We have surpassed our goal of \$3000 for our special project and are around \$4500. We have \$1000 set aside as our Gift of Love education support this year and you can get a form online, deadline is coming up fast. We also have a few scholarships for our spiritually dynamic summer conference.

Please take a look at your oil supply, has God given you an abundance that you can use to serve Him as an officer in the next few years in the American Baptist Women on Maine. Let Him light your wick, for you will be blessed. Anxiously awaiting to spend time together.

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## **Mission & Service—Lorna Hanson:**

In this issue of Potential, I am going to share pieces of a letter from Ann and Bill Clemmer, who serve in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo where a recent volcanic eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo took place.

“The eruption happened on Saturday (May 22) evening as the skies turned red. Mt. Nyiragongo, overlooking the town of Goma, has one of the largest active lava lakes in the world, but has been quietly simmering and steaming for the past 18 years. The eruption on Saturday was from that large pool of molten lava through two fissures on the sides. The lava flow eased about 3 km. outside of town after burning schools, churches, and an estimated 500 homes in its path. Part of Goma’s two million population rapidly fled to neighboring Rwanda or further inland; it was a long and troubled night. A number of children, estimated to be 180, were separated from their parents in that panicked exodus and are still missing. “How were the Clemmer’s ministries affected? “Sunday morning a number of children showed up at Sunday School, looking for safe haven. Thankfully, several teachers were there to welcome them.”

Ann and Congolese women have been working on a goat project with women who struggle to eke out a living on the rocky lava flow at the base of the volcano. “We hear all the homes in one of those neighborhoods were burned to the ground. We’re hoping to be able to get out and better assess the situation soon. Sadly, there has been a wave of crime as well; many who fled, vacating their homes, returned to find their meager possessions pillaged. The poor are the most vulnerable and remain the most affected by these tragedies; our hearts go out to them.”

“There have been frequent seismic tremors since the lava flow ceased, which continued into the second day. The concern from the National Volcanic Observatory is that the continued seismic activity could further stress the volcano, bringing a repeat of the 2002 eruption when over 50,000 homes and the entire of the city of Goma and airport were destroyed. That is the current concern and one we are closely watching. Heal Africa Hospital, on the footprint of the 2002 eruption, is evacuating, the airport is closed, as are schools and businesses. Most are staying home and many are contemplating departure.” Electricity is being rationed due to a major line cut off by the lava. The Clemmers request, “Please pray for the people of Goma and the entire area. They have seen so much tragedy ...war, armed militia attacks, Ebola ... and now the eruption of one of the six volcanoes surrounding the town.”

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**Assistant Treasurer—Andrea Dresser:** My last report as assistant treasurer in which I would like to share my thoughts. I have held many officers within ABW and I feel that the Registrar should also be the assistant treasurer. My train of thought on this is that the registrar handles all the money coming in for the conference and can be a constant throughout the years instead of appointing an assistant every three years. The registrar is constant every year unless she no longer wants that position. The other reason is the assistant was set up to handle the Potential but with most everyone getting their Potential by email – there is only a few that get it by snail mail. The Administrative Assistant does a very good job and is the only one that can change addresses. I do understand having a backup for the Treasurer in case something happens but to be honest my job has been really easy and I have only had to go to the bank three times in two and a half years. It would mean a change to the by-laws but that is easily done. At the board meeting this year I am going to propose this and I am giving everyone a chance to think about it until then. I have enjoyed all the positions I have held from registrar to president; God has blessed me in each position as I have gone away with a new idea or learned something new. That is what God wants us to learn and grow and participate. God bless and say a prayer.

## Church and Community – Wandah Clark

*Adapted from an article written by Lorna Hansen.*

Until mid-March 2020, a woman from Court Street Baptist Church in Auburn and her helpers provided a ministry to the community by giving away used, but clean clothing every Thursday. Then COVID 19 hit, and the Clothes Closet had to be closed. Donations of clothes were taken for a while, until there was no more room to store them.

During this pandemic period, the Mission Board began having discussions about how the Clothes Closet could continue to serve our community. When asked how our church was continuing to minister to those outside our congregation, it forced us to face the issue of how we could minister to our neighbors, despite being “closed.”

In October, the church council voted affirmatively on a proposal to take the Clothes Closet, with winter clothes, to the church parking lot. Winter clothing and accessories were selected and a day for the event was selected – Thursday, October 29 – from 9 a.m. to noon.

Just before 9 a.m., three racks, five tables and two bins loaded with winter jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats and mittens and scarves, boots, and anything else that would keep a body warm were moved out into the parking lot nearest the church. Twelve volunteers (ten church members and two community neighbors) all wore masks and plastic gloves to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Almost immediately, people came to look over the clothing. The volunteers approached each visitor in order to answer questions, engage them in conversation, and invite them to our Sunday church services. Each of the bags used to carry the clothing home had a Christian tract inside.

At the end of three hours, 49 people had found warm clothing, so that very little remained to be carried back inside the church. We had winter clothing; folks from the community needed warm clothing. Needs were met.

Just as important, our church folks interacted with our neighbors. The visitors were respectful and expressed over and over how grateful they were for the clothing that would keep them warm. One man left his too small jacket for another as he walked away with a coat his size. May we, as a church, continue to find ways to minister to our neighbors!

Has your church begun (or continued) reaching out into the community despite the pandemic? Let me know so that we can share it in a future Potential. Church and Community Coordinator, Wandah Clark – 42 Taft Avenue, Auburn 04210 – wandahclark@gmail.com – Text: 207-641-9132; Voice: 207-520-2021

Next ZOOM meeting: Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm. Let me know if you want to be invited.

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**Thoughts from Our President** Ah, nothing like the smells and sounds of spring. The earth awakens, bringing forth the hope of spring with the smell of fresh grass, budding flowers, sounds of frogs at night, the call of loons on the lake. These are all welcome signs of newness, something fresh and exciting.

Jesus said, “Behold, I make all things new (Rom 6:4), we are to walk in “newness of life” (Rom 7:6) and serve in newness of spirit. Maybe we too need to be awakened again. How is your walk with the Lord? Is it ho hum--you know He’s there, but you don’t talk to Him like you used to? Do you feel in a rut? Has the world and this awful pandemic worn you down? We are told not to be weary, but being human, as the saying goes, “easier said than done”. Do you need pruning, cleaning out those cobwebs of apathy? Perhaps we need a fresh start, maybe we need to reimagine our ministry, look for new ways to serve. The needs and ills of the world are still there bigger than ever, perhaps we just need to consider other avenues of meeting those needs. Familiarity, or being in a rut is kind of nice sometimes, it doesn’t take as much thought or effort: Maybe we need to clean our globe. Huh? Let me explain

Before I do, let me say first off...didn’t we have some wonderful spring rallies this year? Didn’t they just bless your socks off? The interesting presentation from Lorna, music, good food, and sweet fellowship were tremendous. It was wonderful to see all of you and I am excited to see what the Summer Conference will bring. It’s really going to be fantastic, so you won’t want to miss it, lots of good things planned. Thanks to everyone for the hard work and efforts expended, and the churches for hosting us; all of it was great...Now, back to the explanation.

A story is told of a family who lived in the country, no streetlights, darkness prevailed. Each night the father would take the black kerosene lantern and go down the lane to the barn to tend the animals. A little girl would stand with her nose pressed against the window watching. She remembered how her mama would clean the glass globe every day so the light would shine bright. Pretty soon, she would see a flicker of light. She couldn’t see the path, the barn, the lantern, or her daddy, but she could see the light and she knew her daddy was coming home. Light is powerful, even a small match can light up an entire room. People are drawn to light. Jesus said “I am the light of the world, he who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. (John 8:12) The little girl’s daddy held the light high so he could see the pathway. In a similar way when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we immediately receive light from Him. We also are to be reflections of His light. We too are on a pathway to home (heaven) and as ABW we need to hold our lights high because we want to take as many as we can with us. I pray we will continue the ministry throughout the state, and many will join us as we faithfully serve our Lord.

We are to let our lights shine in this dark world and keep our globe clean so that we may show others the path. Jesus said, “I am the way,” not a way but The Way. Let us keep our lights burning bright and held up high so that others may know Jesus and His saving power.

# American Baptist Women of Maine

## THE POTENTIAL

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Summer 2021

June 15 Reports Due for Directory  
Summer Conference 2021

August 12,13,14

Theme: Forgiveness

Information: pages 2-4

Remember to bring Christmas Card fronts for Ann Clemmer