

President Fall 2018 Update

Soon we will see flocks of geese flying overhead as they migrate south for the winter. They fly in long V formations, honking as they go. We can learn some lessons from them!

Geese travel at 40-50 mph. In the V formation, as each bird flaps its wings it creates an updraft for the one following. When they travel in a group formation, they travel 70% faster and farther than when they travel alone. ABWM is like that, when we share a common direction and purpose, we can get where we are going quicker and easier in a group rather than alone.

When a goose slips out of the V, it feels the drag and resistance of flying alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage for the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. If we stay in formation with those that are headed where we want to go and are willing to accept help as well as give help, we will accomplish our goals with greater ease.

Geese share leadership. When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the V and another goose takes over at the point position. It pays to take turns with hard tasks. People and geese are dependent on each other's skills, capabilities, gifts, talents and resources. The geese in formation also honk at each other. They are not critical honks, they are encouraging honks. Those in the rear sound off to encourage those up front to stay on course and maintain their speed. (Geese, adapted from Milton Olsen)

I share this with you for several reasons. It is appropriate for the season of fall, and it illustrates several points that are important for us to consider at this time in our AB Women's Ministries of Indiana.

Lessons from the Geese

The first two paragraphs describe the intelligence of geese in utilizing the strength of others. Additionally, geese utilize the strength of large numbers. I experienced something similar this summer at our ABWM National Board meeting at Judson College in Elgin, IL. Each Regional President and National Officer had different gifts from the Holy Spirit, and each Region had different strengths. Some are adept at utilizing electronic media, some were like a brain trust of knowledge of all things ABWM. Each made unique and valuable contributions to our time together. The experience sharpened my skills for my role as your Region President. It also encouraged me to press harder toward our mutual goal of strengthening our ABWM ministry. Just as geese are lifted up by the draft of the goose ahead of them, I was uplifted by the other women in attendance.

The outcome is that I took care of a piece of business that I had put on the back burner. I became a Vital Partner. I am now giving to National Support because I experienced that there is strength in numbers. I experienced that in sharing a common direction and purpose, ABWM can get where we are going quicker and easier in a larger group rather than in our Region alone. Please consider becoming a Vital Partner. All Vital Partner gifts go to National Support. You can do this as an individual or as a church circle. There is a Vital Partner form on our Indiana state website.

The other matter that I bring to your attention is that geese share leadership. After the leader has been in front for a while, it drops back in the formation to rest on the drafts of a new leader. My term as your president will end next October 2019. However, the nomination committee will meet in March 2019 to find a new president. That is only 5 months from October. Please begin praying for the nominating committee to know who God has chosen for our next Indiana Region ABWM President. As a part of your prayers, ask God to prepare the next President to recognize her call. Pray for her to be ready to say yes when contacted!

Other officer positions will be filled, and their names also enter the nomination process in March 2019. Have you completed a Bio Form? The form allows you to express what gives you joy in serving the Lord. You also get to list what roles are not comfortable to you! As we learned from the geese, everyone stays strong by sharing leadership. I encourage you (HONK! HONK!) to complete a Bio Form and give it to your president to be shared with our state nominating committee.

As we serve together,

Rhonda Compise, President
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President's Update, Fall 2018 continued...NEWS from National AB Women's Ministries

Our new Executive Director:

2018 has been an exciting year for ABWM! Effective 2-1-18 we hired a **new Executive Director**, Reverend Gina Jacobs-Strain. An ordained American Baptist minister, Jacobs-Strain brings a variety of **professional expertise** to the organization, including an 18-year career in banking before her call to professional ministry; higher education teaching and administration; local church pastoral leadership; and regional ministry experience. Prior to 2003, she was employed as senior credit deputy at JP Morgan Chase (Manhattan, NY), and for two years as assistant vice president of State Street Bank (Boston, MA). She is currently completing a Doctorate of Ministry with a focus on leadership, from Duke Divinity School (Durham, NC). She is married with a 15 year old son still at home. **She is a dynamo!** Oh, and she is fluent in Spanish too!

Our Executive Director's Primary Goal:

To say she has hit the ground running would be an understatement! She immediately dialed in on the fact that our National Support income has declined by 46 % in the past 5 years. With all the "positivity" that you would expect from an accomplished person with her experience, she identified to us many possibilities for **improving the financial stability of National AB Women's Ministries**. She is personally going after organizations that can make one-time large gifts. But ongoing financial support comes from the people who believe in the ministry of ABWM. That is me and you! When a lot of people give a little, it amounts to more than when a few people give a lot.

Our first area of need: Dig In For New Digs!

The Mission Center is being sold and ABWM is being **forced** to move. They have been in the same building for 50 years, it is probably time! They will relocate along with Office of the General Secretary, International Ministries, Home Missions, etc. Existing office furniture will not work in the new office configuration. The new location will have updated technology capabilities, which requires the purchase of a new phone system. ABWM would like to update their computers, printers, etc. along with the other updates. We are being asked to support a one-time 60 day \$40,000 capital fund drive. The dates of the fund drive are **9/21-11/20/18**. The drive is being called "Dig In For New Digs."

How to Give:

Reach out to those in your church (and community) who believe in our ministry focus and share our passion for empowering women and girls. If every ABWM group gives something, we can easily reach this goal. **Send your gift to Judy Cutler, Treasurer. Mark "other" and write in "Dig In For New Digs."** **Make your check out to ABW Ministries of IN.** If you prefer, you can give on-line by using the national website of www.abwomensministries.org. Click on "GIVE" on the left margin, and you will see "Dig In For New Digs" at the bottom.

Thank you for all that you do to support AB Women's Ministries. Continue to be the generous women that you have been for years! Gifts to others are really a gift to our self, because of the blessings that we get for our faithfulness. It all belongs to God anyway...

TREASURER UPDATE PAGE – FALL 2018

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

That is how our national treasurer, Colleen Charsky, began her recent article in the Leader’s Reader and I would like to share with you some of what she wrote. The verse from 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) is “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Colleen says, “Many of us have heard this verse many times during stewardship campaigns or during offering time. Usually the focus is about our attitude as we give. However, what the Lord impressed upon me with this verse was the emphasis of “give as he has decided in his heart.”

“So how do we discern what is in our heart in regards to giving? It means that a person must pray about the need; pray about where and what they should give, pray if the Lord is asking them to make a deliberate decision about *if* and *what* they should sacrifice in order to give what the Lord has laid on their hearts. Finally, they need to follow the Lord’s guidance and give their best gift exactly where and to what He has directed them to give.”

Would you spend some time in prayer about what God lays upon your heart to give to our American Baptist Ministries of Indiana offerings? You give so willingly that I feel sure that God loves your cheerful giving. But I want to call your attention to our Project offering. At this time, we are woefully below our stated goal of \$27,000. I know many of you have special events to promote this offering, our Training Center for Missions in Manilla, Philippines, so I’m praying that you will prayerfully consider what you have decided in your heart to give and if so, I feel sure we will reach our goal.

I do want to thank you for your giving to Love Gift. Since that goes through your local church, we don’t always know how we have done, but a recent report from National shows that through July, Indiana has given \$12,977 to Love Gift. Thank you, thank you!

Please use the form below when sending your gifts and you might also include your telephone number or email address on the form as well, as I have had a couple of receipts that I needed to ask a question about.

Again, I feel very blessed as your treasurer to see all that you do for our awesome God.

Together we serve in His name,

Judy Cutler, Treasurer

(This form valid January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020)

Make all checks payable to: ABW Ministries of IN

Donation given by _____ (Association, circle, individual, etc.)

Name of church _____ Association _____

Your Name _____ Your address _____

Telephone No. _____ Town / Zip Code _____

Amount	Fund	Amount	Fund
\$ _____	Operating Fund	\$ _____	National Support
\$ _____	State Project *	\$ _____	National Endowment
\$ _____	Scholarship **	\$ _____	AB Women & Girls Mission Fund
\$ _____	Leadership Development	\$ _____	Ella Mae Tomlinson Memorial Fund for
\$ _____	Refit		AB GIRLS of Indiana
\$ _____	Other		

*State Project check MUST be postmarked by 12/31 to count toward current year’s goal.

**Scholarship check MUST be postmarked by 3/31 to determine number of scholarships given in current year.

Mail to: **Judy Cutler, Treasurer** (765-483-0253)

704 Hamilton Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Check Number _____ **Date** _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Mission and Service Fall 2018 Update

We have reached the time of year that can bring us beautiful colors on our landscapes and hills that only God can create! I think autumn is a time of beauty. This time of year also brings a time to think of the bountiful harvest that God has given us. I realize that some years the harvest is better than others but God always supplies for our needs. I also then start thinking of our mission giving. By now most of our churches have received their National White Cross requests for the Edna Martin Christian Center and hopefully you are thinking about your choice of where you will be sending your donation for the International ministries. Also we are sending our monies in for the State Project with Paul Rollet and Training Center in the Philippines and several of our churches are also receiving offerings for the World Mission Offering.

Many of us are holding our heads thinking "How can I do all of this for others when so much is happening in my own life?" I know this happens in my own life and I sit and wonder and cry out WHAT can I do? The answers for me seldom come easy. It seems my mind runs in so many directions that I have to purposely make myself stop and sit and listen. These are the times I call on the verse in Psalms 46:10, Be still and know that I am God. In the foot notes of my study bible it comments that the phrase "Be Still" could be interpreted to say "Enough"! Then my thoughts start to slow down and I envision God as saying "Would you just shut up and listen to what I have got to say!" This may go to the extreme for some of you but at times God has to go to the extreme to cause us to pause and listen to what he has to say to us today.

So as you start thinking of all of the offerings of money and time that are coming at this time, I challenge you to pause and listen to what God is calling you to do. It may be baking a turkey for the family that is struggling, to provide a willing ear to listen, it may be providing funds to a mission field, providing a toy for a child that otherwise would not have a present under the tree, or praying for a family or person that is going through a rough time. Whatever it is DO IT in the name of Jesus and you and the one receiving it will be blessed.

My hope is for all of you is to have a wonderful autumn season. Stop and listen to what God is saying and be open to all he has for you to do.

Blessings to all

Barbara Mills,
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Tell City, In. 47586
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2018-2019 Mission Focus: Domestic Violence

Domestic violence crosses all socio-economic and racial barriers. Intimate partner violence, or domestic violence, is a crucial topic affecting women and families in our communities and in our congregations. Thirty percent of women globally experience intimate partner violence. Nearly 75 percent of Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence. Yet, despite these statistics, few churches address the issue openly. What a powerful place of safety, healing, and recovery a women's ministry and a congregation could be for those experiencing or having experienced domestic violence.

For Your Study (available at www.abwomensministries.org)

- Use the Bible study, "[A Cry for Help: A Time of Prayer Based on Psalm 6](#)" by Adalia R. Guitierrez Lee in your personal study time or with a women's ministry group.
- Use the Bible study, "[Psalm 55 and Domestic Violence](#)" by Karen Selig in your personal study time or with a women's ministry group.
- Visit the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). Review the information there about domestic and sexual violence.
- Visit Judson Press's [free webinars, available as downloads, here](#). Scroll down to find two webinars by Brenda Branson, author of *Violence among Us: A Ministry to Families in Crisis*, entitled "Domestic Violence--Do's and Don'ts of Counseling and the Church's Role and Response," and "Domestic Violence--Profile of Victim and Perpetrator."

Taking Action: Participate in the Cities for CEDAW advocacy movement. The United States is one of only seven countries in the world that has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. In addition to eliminating discrimination against women in every sphere, it also addresses sex trafficking and domestic abuse. Tired of waiting for the United States to ratify CEDAW, the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles passed ordinances in 1998 integrating CEDAW into city and county governance. Since then, similar initiatives have been enacted in other U.S. cities. Creating a groundswell of local, municipal support for this global human rights initiative will not only improve the lives of women in the U.S. but will significantly increase the possibilities of the U.S. ratifying CEDAW. For more information on this movement, visit the Cities for CEDAW website at <http://citiesforcedaw.org/>.

Visit the [website of FaithTrust Institute](#), a "national, multi-faith, multicultural training and education organization...working to end sexual and domestic violence." Discuss with your pastor the possibility of using videos and resources from FaithTrust Institute in adult education classes or consider using them with your women's ministry group.

Invite your pastor/s for coffee and discuss with her/him/them ways that your congregation may be able to more effectively address domestic violence in the congregation. Encourage your pastor/s to preach and lead Bible studies on the topic. In your women's ministry group, **include a time of prayer** for those who are experiencing or have experienced intimate partner violence in their lives. Don't name names—but regular, general prayers will let women know they are being prayed for and that this is a safe place to come for help. Work with leaders of the girls' ministry, or youth leaders, to **plan topics for youth and girls' programming on healthy relationships and dating violence**. Use LoveIsRespect.org as a resource. (February is designated Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness month—use that as inspiration to launch your focus on this topic, but don't just restrict it to February! Visit www.teendvmonth.org for information.)

Church & Community Fall 2018 Update

All things change. Sorry, but it is very true. And American Baptist Women's Ministries changes too. Of course, you all know there is no longer a national officer for Church and Community or as I like to call it, *The Church in the Community*. But we do have a new area called the **Beloved Community**. There is quite a bit of information on the ABWM National website that could be very useful to your women's group on how to reach out and enlarge your circle of influence. How to bring women of different backgrounds together.

For a starting point, I suggest you look up "**Relationship Matters.**" They make a very good point that the media paints pictures of groups that are in reality just generalizations and not very good ones. "Just as each one of us would not want to always be judged by the actions and behaviors of all members of our family or social groups, so we cannot judge others by broad-sweeping generalizations." The first step of building, or of being, Beloved Community is developing relationships. They have a list of five suggestions for ideas and resources. Some are Bible studies others are just suggestions/ideas for building community in your circles.

One idea I enjoyed was called **Sister Groups**. I already belong to one of these. We range in ages from 64 to 27. Some of us have children older than some of the people in the group and some of us have new babies. It is a very diverse group but the one thing we have in common is that we love and support each other. Check these out and see if you can find ways to take your Church out into your Community.

Ideas and Resources

- [Joseph and His Brothers: A Bible Study on Beloved Community by Rev. Yana Pagan \(NEW\)](#)
- [Bible Study: Where all are welcome, all are safe, and all are freee by Rev. Elizabeth Congdon \(NEW\)](#)
- [Intergenerational Companionship Initiative](#)
- [Sister Groups](#)
- ["Transformative Relationships with One Another,"](#) a PDF version of the PowerPoint presentation created by Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri for the AB Women's Ministries 2016 virtual mission encounter, "See...the Beloved Community."

Janie Barnett, Church & Community Coordinator
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Scholarship Fall 2018 Update

I must apologize if you find errors in this letter. I have a crew of men on the roof! Several weeks ago we had a storm with hail, and my roof was damaged. I am rather distracted. Please note my new information. I moved this summer to a 55+ Mobile Village in downtown Madison.

Our college students are at school and settled in for a new year. I trust their addresses will be correct. I also trust you are ready to shower these young people with cards, letters, care packages, gift cards, and prayers. We gave 10 scholarships his year. I expect each student to know how much we care about them.

The 2019 scholarship applications are available. One should be included in your packet. If not, I hope they will be available on our website, or you may call me. The applications must have "2019" and **mailed** to the new scholarship chair by February 15, 2019 as well as the 3 letters of recommendation, a transcript, and an autobiography. Be sure to remind any student you give the application, all of this must be mailed by February 15th 2019. It would be helpful if you filled the name of your association before giving out the scholarship applications. The name of the new chair is on the application.

The College Address Page should be included in your Updates. If you do not receive a copy, call 812-493-5529 or email me at rsburch@yahoo.com.

The association presidents should have copies of the Personal Preference form for the students assigned to you. If not, again, contact me.

Finally, consider your contribution to the Scholarship Fund for 2019.

May the Lord bless you as you serve Him.

Scholarship Chair: Rebecca Burch (new contact information)

148 Irish Hollow Lane, Madison, IN 47250 812-493-5529

Personal Development Fall 2018 Update

As I finish three years as Personal Development Coordinator, I feel glad and sad. The first year was a learning experience, the second was easier and the third very fast. I am looking forward to relaxing and encouraging all the new officers. Thanks for the fellowship!

Julie Walker

LOVE GIFT Fall 2018 Update

Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! II Corinthians 9:10-15 NKJV

Beginning in the fall squirrels, chipmunks, beavers, and mice store nuts and berries for winter months. Bears, raccoons, groundhogs, skunks, and even bees store fat for winter hibernation. Even people store food and supplies in case of bad winter weather. We also tend to store money for next summer's fun! Please remember to give to LOVE GIFT this winter! Love Gift is an over and above offering collected to support shortages in any place it is needed.

Carrie Hoskins, Love Gift
6819 Lonnis Hill Road,
Madison, IN 47250

812-599-3265

choskins@camdefenders.com

White Cross Fall Update 2018

What makes you feel good? Is it being with family? Playing with a puppy? How about filling your White Cross Request? That sure makes me feel really good! As the White Cross Chair, I am blessed when I receive the completed forms from each of your Associations.

This year's Overland 2018-2019 Request for Edna Martin Christian Center has gone out to each Association. I hope you feel excited as your ladies' groups/churches work to purchase the items that are needed at the center. If your group is small, do what you can and "feel" good about it because even the little that you do will be blessed by God.

One thing I want to emphasize as you fill out the PINK Local White Cross Report that goes to the Association White Cross Chair – this is only to report what you do for the Edna Martin Christian Center Request (our Overland Request.)

Monies sent to Overseas Requests are reported by International Ministries. These are the requests in the white envelope that should have come with the Overland Request, for monies for specific Countries and Overseas Missionaries. They are not reported on the pink form.

If you have questions or need anything, "feel" free to contact me:

Carolyn Porter, White Cross Chair
6317 Turner Dr.
Clayton, IN 46118
H. 317-539-4483 C. 317-225-9794

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF INDIANA
State Project for 2019
Three (3) Indiana Baptist Camps \$27,000.00

The needs of our three State Camps are never ending; their lists are lengthy and on-going. Many lives have been impacted through our Camps, leading young people to commit to serving God and ultimately mankind. It is not only youth who benefit from our Camps, retreats and gatherings are held throughout the year for specific groups, thus serving folks of all ages and interests.

To be specific in regard to immediate and upcoming needs, we have contacted each Camp and would like to share their individual requests.

Tippecanoe Baptist Camp, North Webster, IN Rebecca Scott, Manager

New piers

New mattresses for the cabins

Indian Creek Baptist Camp, Bedford, IN Jordan & Mindy Morris, Co-Managers

Starter money for both a new cabin and a new shower-house

They are in the design phases, planning and preparing slowly. A date of 2020 is their goal for these projects.

Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp, Greensburg, IN Don & Sarah Snyder, Co-managers

Under-ground electric service to the boy's cabins

Floor cleaning machine

Monies will be divided equally among the three State Camps

Submitted by the Finance Committee:

Cynthia Leffel, Chair

Rosalyce Grubbs, member

Ex-Officio: Rhonda Compise, President

Ex-Officio: Judy Cutler, Treasurer

FEEL/SIENTE 2019

2019 Theme: FEEL the LOVE of JESUS

At their Summer Conference meeting, the Association Presidents proposed two themes for **FEEL** to continue into 2019. They were "FEEL the Peace" and "FEEL the Love." The scripture says: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV) "and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Through the LOVE of Jesus we experience Peace. So we will be finishing out the FEEL theme with exploring the LOVE of JESUS.

The following is Janie Barnett's Spring "Church and Community" Update page. She expresses so well everyone's great need for love. As a suggestion, Janie's letter to us could be read to our ABWM circles as a discussion starter. Her letter touches on many areas of need to which we could respond. It could be a source of ideas for outreach projects on the theme of helping others to FEEL the LOVE of JESUS. Janie's words are in italics:

"We have practiced Hospitality. We have practiced Kindness. What is it we need in these stressful times, to strengthen and encourage those who are in our circle of influence? There are so many words being thrown around these days: mindfulness, discipline, meditation, responsibility, even peacefulness. But what is it that covers all these things and more? What is it that we need in these very troubling time, I asked God. He answered me in one simple word. Love. We need love.

Some of you know, I have taught in junior and senior high schools for 42 plus years. And these times right now are some of the most troubling days I can remember. I have taught classes with students who were recently release from prison and I did not worry for my students, their classmates, like I do today. In today's world, someone who is mentally unbalanced, or the victim of bullying, or the subject of parental neglect or ignorance, can find a weapon and walk into my school building and start shooting. Why? No one knows. Maybe to inflict enough pain so that people will feel as miserable as they do.

Other students sit in class, wondering where they will sleep tonight because they don't have a home to go to. Or maybe they wonder if there will be anything to eat at home tonight. Or maybe someone will yell at them just because. I know, most of you are not teachers. But you know or meet people who suffer from poverty, or illnesses, or a life spent in loneliness maybe sitting in a nursing home, waiting for someone, anyone, to come. And even adults can be the victims of bullying. People everywhere need love. Love covers an amazing multitude of problems.

Love your neighbor as yourself. And who is your neighbor? Everyone you meet, everyone in your circle of influence. All of us need kindness, gentleness, and understanding. Before you speak out, before you do, before your act, remember LOVE is what God wants all of us to give to our neighbors."