

Women Alive

Spring
2021

President

As we celebrate mothers, I was thinking of all the women who have made a difference in my life as Christian women.

When my mother, Lily Ciak, was a young girl she was invited to attend Park Memorial Baptist Church in Springfield, MA. She joined the choir, taught Sunday school, chaired many committees and always served the Lord. All her eight children were raised in the church and many grandchildren have attended throughout the years. She was firm in her beliefs but was always ready to learn something new that God wanted to teach her.

Miss Beulah Kennedy, Christian Ed Director, was a mentor to me as a Sunday school teacher, youth advisor and she later became a dear friend. She introduced me to her close friend, Rev. Ronny Lanier. And lest I forget Twila Wanamaker and Dene Haslam who were active in AB Women's Ministries for many years. These are just a few of the wonderful women I know who are part of my Baptist DNA!

What makes "US" special? AB Women's Ministries' women are called to serve the Lord, uplift each other, share their stories and be a comfort to each other. We know the power of prayer and we are not afraid to roll up our "sleeves and get dirty" when times of trials come. We come together as women of God, led by the Holy Spirit, and recognize Jesus is our King!

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
–Philippians 4:19 (KJV)

To hear more amazing stories of our AB women, go to our website, <http://abwomensministriesma.org/our-women-our-story/> and look for a special greeting from our officers or guest writers. Check out AB Women's Ministries of MA Facebook page for Bible verses and national events.

Spiritual Retreat responses from Facebook Live and Email: "Wonderful Retreat! So encouraging and positive." "Prayed with scripture, took a nap, went for a walk." "I printed extra copies of the coloring pages to share, colored and took a bath." "Did anyone else listen to music? I listened again to "Show Me Your Ways."" "Thank you, Ellie!" Favorite part of day: "Mary Day Miller was so good, loved seeing ladies faces!" Was the soul searching journey a success personally: "Yes , it was and I was really surprised by that, since it was a new idea." "Enjoyed Worship."



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AB GIRLS

AB Girls will gather on Saturday, June 5th at Grotonwood.

In the outdoors we will think about our “Connections” to God and others. We will “gather around Jesus” (staying six feet apart) and learn from Him.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. –John 8:2

We will also get to know each other a little better, enjoy some campfire treats, and dip our feet in the water of Lost Lake.

We need each other and we need Jesus. Come and let us be together.



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Secretary

In the season of physical isolation, coronavirus, and the need for spiritual well-being, there is so much we can still do to stay connected spiritually:

- write a Gratitude journal,
- read an inspirational book/Bible,
- pray, and
- listen to music.

Your soul is the most intimate part of you. In a time of crisis, the impulse is to give into fear, concern, and panic, which will make our soul sick.

Improve the state of your soul:

- perform an act of kindness,
- show appreciation to someone,
- offer help to someone in need,
- bring comfort to someone feeling lonely and anxious.

THE SIMPLE HUMAN GESTURES WE TEND TO OVERLOOK will give us a better sense of meaning and purpose, allow us to love and be loved, give us the opportunity to serve others, and show your generous spirit!

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Treasurer

Our American Baptist Women's Ministries of Massachusetts receives its major support from the Eight Steps of Giving. I want to emphasize the importance of State Support. The description in the guidelines, "Helps with regional officers and office expenses" only touches the surface of what is included in State Support. It also includes paying the ever-increasing postage and copying costs to print programs and print and mail newsletters to those without email, as well as providing speakers for our meetings, retreats, and conferences.

Although certificates are earned for completion of all eight steps, partial participation is possible and recognized for the effort.

So far this year we have had Eight Steps of Giving submissions from:

- Barbara Anderson of Trinity Baptist in Arlington
- FBC Cambridge
- FBC Malden
- FBC Melrose
- WABC Women of West Acton Baptist Church

The information for the current Eight Steps of Giving, due in whole or in part on May 1, 2021, may be found at the end of this newsletter and on the AB Women's Ministries of MA website, www.abwomensministriesma.org, under Resources, Missions. The due date on the form will be somewhat fluid (perhaps a week or two), due to the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Our virtual Spiritual Retreat on February 27, 2021 provided a great relief for 26 attendees from the loneliness we may have been feeling after a year of isolation.

I hope to be able to see you in person when it becomes safe to do so. It still will not be possible to hold our annual Spring Conference at the Salvation Army Wonderland Conference Center in Sharon, MA, on June 4-5, 2021. We will have to wait until 2022 for that! Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing one another on June 5th for an AB Women's Ministries of MA picnic, a unique get-together.

If you would like to participate in a fun fundraiser for the Eight Steps of Giving and/or State Support, I have included a 4-week calendar, borrowed in part from Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. You may start on any day you wish. We were blessed in this country to be able to live relatively comfortably and worship without fear of persecution. This "calendar" highlights some of these blessings.

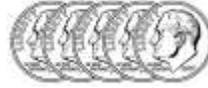
"...see that you also excel in this grace of giving." --2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV



Marilyn Glover
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Missions

DIMES FOR ANGOLA



It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone into the month of May. I have just recently been appointed to the Board of AB Women's Ministries of MA and I am so looking forward to important work in Missions and Service. Our special project is Dimes for Angola. Our goal is \$3500.00 dollars, but it would be great if we could reach for \$5000.00 dollars by June 2021. We have currently collected \$3,202.14. Once you have finished collecting dimes, turn them into the bank and send a check to Marilyn Glover. Her address is 40 East Border Road, Malden, MA 02148.

Angola is a west-coast country of south-central Africa. It is the seventh largest country in Africa, bordered by Namibia to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Zambia to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

Christian women of Angola make clothing for women and men out of special fabric that has scripture verses printed on it. Wearing clothing made from this cloth helps them to witness to those with whom they come in contact.

Jennifer Sten-Cromack
Address
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AB Women's Ministries of MA Store

Did you know that AB Women's Ministries of MA has a store where you can purchase products to give as gifts or keep for yourself? Available products include t-shirts, facecloths, and devotional.



T-shirts have "AB Women's Ministries" printed on them. The dark purple t-shirt is available in medium, large, and extra-large and costs \$18. The light purple t-shirt is available in extra-large and costs \$20.



Facecloths are white, 13"x13.5", 100% cotton and have purple embroidery of the AB Women's Ministries logo. Cost is \$8.



"Stitched with Prayer: A Christian Knitters' Devotional" written by Melinda Parry, Coordinator of AB GIRLS, contains 31 readings accompanied by scripture and prayer. Individual knitters may enjoy reading one selection each day of the month or one reading now and then for personal use. Knitting circles and similar groups might choose a reading to open, close, or enhance a meeting. Cost is \$10.

Visit <http://abwomensministriesma.org/shop/> to place an order. There is a \$3 shipping and handling charge per item ordered.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Merrimack Valley

Attention Merrimack Valley American Baptist Women!!

Knit one, Knit All.

The Annual Christmas Party plans are still to be announced, but while you are awaiting the news keep on knitting those hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens. Keep on collecting toothpaste, soap, and other toiletries!

Watch this space for more exciting news about the Christmas Party. And while you are knitting and collecting do not forget to count your blessings.



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National News

Happy 70th Birthday American Baptist Women's Ministries!

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. –Proverbs 27:17 NIV



On June 11, 2021, American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) will celebrate 70 years of ministry. ABWM has inspired women to lead, addressed issues of economic and gender equity, and persisted in ministries amidst changing times and changing needs. ABWM journeys with women in career choices, leadership development, and changing economic and social conditions while simultaneously advancing kingdom building.

American Baptist Women's Ministries invites you to celebrate with them all year long!

- Share stories of women who have sharpened you!
- Participate in an exercise-a-thon throughout 2021
- Worship with your church on AB Women's Sunday (September 19)
- Celebrate with us for a virtual birthday party on Sunday, September 19, 2021
- Silent Auction in October



To learn more about AB Women's Ministries is doing visit <https://abwomensministries.org> for more details.

Scripture Cake Challenge – Get out Your Bibles!

In celebration of AB Women's Ministries 70th birthday, ABWM invites you to join the celebration and participate in a Scripture Cake Challenge through June 12, 2021.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

--2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

Find the women in your lives (grandmothers, mothers, daughters, or even a friend!), and determine the ingredients for making your cake right from the Bible! When your work is done, critique your findings: looks, taste, and family reaction.



Share your photos to American Baptist Women's Ministries' Facebook page or email them to info@abwomensministries.org. Prizes will be awarded for the best scripture cake, best attempt, and best story.

Scripture Cake Recipe

½ c Judges 5:25, last clause	a pinch of Leviticus 2:13
2 c Jeremiah 6:20	2 Chronicles 9:9 as desired
2 Tbsp 1 Samuel 14:25	½ c Judges 5:25, first clause
6 of Jeremiah 17:11, separated	2 c each 1 Samuel 30:12, chopped
1 ½ c 1 Kings 4:22, first clause	2 c Numbers 17:8, chopped
2 tsp Amos 4:5, first clause	

DIRECTIONS

1. Search the scripture for your ingredients.
2. Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Grease and flour 10-inch tube pan.
3. Cream. Add yolks. Mix dry ingredients.
4. Add spices. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture, alternating with liquid.
5. Beat whites until stiff and fold into batter.
6. Coat chopped "elements" with flour to keep them from sinking to the bottom and stir into mixture.
7. Pour into cake pan and bake for 2 hours.
8. Remove from oven, let cool, and remove carefully from pan.

Burnt Jeremiah Syrup

- 1 ½ c Jeremiah 6:20
- ½ c Genesis 24:45
- ¼ c Genesis 18:8

In a 2-quart saucepan over low heat, melt sugar, stirring continuously, until it is a deep golden brown. Add water and cook, stirring frequently, until smooth. Removed from heat, add butter, and stir until it melts; allow to cool. Pour over cooled Scripture cake.

CALENDAR OF BLESSINGS
Eight Steps of Giving Fundraiser

- \$ _____ 1. You are blessed if you own a Bible. Give \$1 for each Bible in your home.
- \$ _____ 2. Give \$1 for the blessing of reading.
- \$ _____ 3. Give \$.25 for every bed in your home.
- \$ _____ 4. Give \$.50 for each of your parents who are still alive.
- \$ _____ 5. Give the spare change in your wallet or purse.
- \$ _____ 6. As Jesus is the “Light of the World,” give \$.05 for every lightbulb in your home.
- _____ 7. Pray for the American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Massachusetts.
- \$ _____ 8. Give \$.10 for every year that you have safely lived in your home.
- \$ _____ 9. Give \$1 if you ate today.
- \$ _____ 10. For the blessing of access to safe water, give \$.25 for each faucet in your home.
- \$ _____ 11. Give \$1 for the gift of life.
- \$ _____ 12. Give \$.25 for every bathroom in your house.
- \$ _____ 13. Give \$1 if you have a job or are retired from a job.
- _____ 14. Praise God with a thankful heart for the gift of Jesus, His Son.
- \$ _____ 15. Give \$.50 for each high school and college graduate in your family.
- \$ _____ 16. Give \$.25 for each car in your driveway or garage.
- \$ _____ 17. Give \$.50 for every trip you made to the grocery store this past week.
- \$ _____ 18. Give \$.25 for every coat in your house.
- \$ _____ 19. Give \$.25 for each container of medicine in your medicine cabinet.
- \$ _____ 20. Give \$.10 for each carpeted room in your house.
- _____ 21. Pray for the refugees who leave their home country due to desperate situations.
- \$ _____ 22. Thank God and give \$1 for the privilege of attending church, live or virtually.
- \$ _____ 23. Give \$.25 if you play a musical instrument or have a love of music.
- \$ _____ 24. Give the price of your morning coffee.
- \$ _____ 25. Give \$.10 for every TV or computer monitor in your home.
- \$ _____ 26. Give \$.50 for each phone in your home.
- \$ _____ 27. Give \$.10 for each pair of shoes you own.
- _____ 28. Pray for the American Baptist missionaries who bring the Gospel to others.

- _____ TOTAL

Thank you for participating in the Eight Steps of Giving fundraiser. Attach your **CALENDAR OF BLESSINGS** to the completed Eight Steps of Giving Remittance Form. You may give your total donation to State Support (Step 4) or designate it as you like between the seven steps listed.

If you have questions, contact Marilyn Glover, Treasurer, at glovermarilyn46@gmail.com or 781-322-563.

EIGHT STEPS OF GIVING REMITTANCE FORM

Date: _____ Group/Individual Name: _____

Association: _____ Church: _____

(please include city/town)

Name and Address of Person Sending Form: _____

STEP	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	AMOUNT
1	SCHOLARSHIP FUND	Assists Massachusetts American Baptist women students to prepare for church related vocations.	
2	CAMPING MISSION	Helps provide camperships for youth at Grotonwood and Oceanwood.	
3	STATE PROJECT Goal: \$3,500 Challenge Goal: \$5,000	Contributions support Christian women of Angola, who make clothing for women and men using a specially made fabric that helps them to evangelize. Funds will be used by the women to have more fabric made so that they may continue to witness.	
4	STATE SUPPORT FOR AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF MA	Helps with regional officers and office expenses.	
5	AB GIRLS	Supports the needs of the Massachusetts AB GIRLS ministry, which is focused on building relationships, encouraging leadership, and developing skills.	
6	FRIENDSHIP FUND	Provides scholarships for women and girls to attend Massachusetts' AB Women's Ministries and AB GIRLS related gatherings.	
7	WOMEN AND GIRLS' MISSION FUND	Supports the AB GIRLS ministry, Leadership Development Fund, Refit, and national mission projects. Your gifts will help AB Women's Ministries, USA to have funds readily available to support missions at home and around the world that focus on bringing healing, wholeness, and hope to women and girls.	

Your check #: _____ Dated: _____ Total: \$ _____

**Send a check payable to "AB Women's Ministries of MA" for these seven steps to the
AB Women's Ministries of MA Treasurer:
Marilyn Glover, 40 East Border Rd., Malden, MA 02148-1104**

To receive the Honor Roll Certificate, please: a) complete the following **Step (8)**, b) fill in the information for this step, and c) check the "yes" box.

8 Partnering Ministry: Make contributions directly to one or more of the partners following the directions on the Partnering Ministry form during the AB Women's Ministries 2020-2021 year. Complete the information below.

Partner: _____ \$ _____ Yes: _____

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF THE EIGHT STEPS OF GIVING IS May 1, 2021

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE EIGHT STEPS OF GIVING REMITTANCE FORM

It is important that the Eight Steps of Giving Remittance Form be completed and accompanied with a check made payable to "AB Women's Ministries of MA" to ensure that you/your church will be recognized as an "Honor Roll" individual/church at the end of our fiscal year. All remittances need to be received by the Treasurer, no later than **May 1, 2021**.

ITEMS 1 THROUGH 7

Remittance of these Seven (7) Steps should be included in one check payable to "**AB Women's Ministries of MA**" and mailed to:

Marilyn Glover, Treasurer
AB Women's Ministries of MA
40 East Border Rd.
Malden, MA 02148-1104

ITEM 8

1. Remit these funds as instructed on the Eight Steps of Giving Remittance Form. **Do not send payments to the AB Women's Ministries of MA Treasurer.**

2. Complete the form on the other side making sure that "yes" is checked off filling your Eight Steps of Giving.

BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE EIGHT STEPS OF GIVING REMITTANCE FORM WITH ALL THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

Marilyn Glover at 781-322-5631 or email at glovermarilyn46@gmail.com

THANK YOU!