

WOMEN ALIVE!

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Massachusetts
167 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 01450

Volume 4 - No. 3
Winter 2009 - 2010

Joyce Goldthwaite, President

Ladies, so much is going on in our lives. Due to new deadlines and exciting news, this issue will reach you before Christmas. With that in mind I suggest you explore "**The Advent Conspiracy**" (no, it is not anything spooky). The four concepts behind the Advent Conspiracy are **worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all**. Check out www.adventconspiracy.org and read how Christmas can (still) change the world.

I've just come home from Merrimack Valley AB Women's **Christmas program**. What a treat! Devotions that challenged us to be spiritually winterized so that we are protected from the elements and have a good spiritual tool kit on hand for emergencies, singing of our favorite Christian Christmas hymns and appreciating the delightfully decorated sanctuary, have all prepared me to be focused this Christmas season. I pray that you will be focused, too.

Speaking of being focused, I'd like to make a challenge to concerning our **state project** (to provide for modernization of our camping and conferencing facilities at **Grotonwood and Oceanwood**). This is for you, your women's groups and your church folks. Do you know how many quarters it takes to fill an average prescription plastic bottle? Do you think that your church could fill one?or maybe 2....or maybe 3? Here are the statistics – one bottle holds \$20, we have more than 200 churches, but if 200 churches responded that would be **\$4,000**. So you can do the rest of the math – 2 bottles each would be **\$8,000**, etc. This could be so exciting, so easy to do, such a wonderful commitment, shall we get on board together? This money will support a ministry that is so far reaching, that we will not know until heaven how many lives were changed there and how far reaching those kids were in our world. Let's do it. Collect those bottles, send your money to our treasurer, or bring it to spring conference.

Last bit of exciting news is the all new **All New England States Spiritual Renewal Retreat**. A special retreat committee represented by all the states has been working with the theme "**Women...Destined for God's Purpose**". You will want to join us for 2 nights and bask under the teaching of **Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray** and then be rejuvenated through worship with **Hornrette Washington**. The registration form is included in this newsletter and will be online. You need to mail your program registration to the registrar right away! There is limited room for the first 200 women and girls who sign up. I can hardly wait to see you all there.



Joyce Goldthwaite
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Request for News Items

We are always on the prowl to hear what's happening in your women's groups. So send us new ideas that are working for you so that we can share. Write to Joyce Goldthwaite with your ideas to share.
(7 Academy St, Chelmsford, MA 01824)



President Elect

Here's news from Messiah Baptist Church Women's Ministries

Molding, Beautiful, Caring Women's Ministries is the name of the vibrant, contagious, out of the box women's ministry of Messiah Baptist Church in Brockton, MA. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month from 1pm-3p and our meetings are open to women ages 18 and over. We engage in a number of activities to keep us focused on our primary goal which is to communicate a true understanding of Christ and God's word in an atmosphere of love so others will respond to it and lives will be changed.

One of our activities that was an enriching experience for us, we call "one to ones- 1:1s) Understanding that relationships are built on trust and we can't trust anyone that we don't know, 1:1s are relational, two-way conversations that help us get beyond the typical church greeting. You know them, they go like this: "Hi, how are you?" "I'm blessed." "Praise God, see you next week."

More than 30 women invited 2-3 women to meet for 2-3 separate 30 minute face-to-face meetings. What a buzz of excitement once the conversations got under way. Not that they all happened at the church. People met at their conveniences in locations in and outside of the church. The buzz occurred afterwards when the women were visibly more connected to each other. In the two-way conversations, participants learn about their sister's personal stories, families, values, disappointments, hopes, passions, interests, dreams, even what makes her angry.

Some of the comments Molding Beautiful Caring Women's members made after the experience were "That was the longest conversation we've had in the 22 years that we have been in this church," "I learned more about my sister in those 15 minutes than I learned in the entire time that we've been worshipping together", "The time went by so fast, we could've talked longer."

1:1s are 30 minutes long-that's it. It's important not to extend the time, because it needs to be doable. Each person shares for 15 minutes. The intentional, two way conversations are not chit-chat, there is no prying and it's not an interview. Each woman simply shares what she wants. A good way to begin the conversation is to simply say, "Tell me a story about yourself". Listen carefully, ask questions, don't interject your own story, listen, clarify, get to know one another and build a foundation for trust.



Anyone can do it. Isn't that what ministry is all about? After all God is in the people business, not the programs business. I encourage you to take the time. This is a great example that talk ain't cheap.

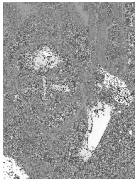
Cheryl Harris, Associate Minister, Messiah Baptist Church
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Treasurer

Hi from out in Central MA, 2009 has been a very busy year and with all that said we certainly have many Blessings to share. I am so grateful for the Women of my church and also in ABW for their patience with me. The position of Treasurer has been quite the challenge and honor.

Serving Our Lord in this way truly has allowed me to see just so many things.

The women of our church and I Loved spending time together at Sea Crest and we all want to go again and strengthen our Love for each other thru Jesus wonderful Spirit. Retreats are so dear to all of us and I believe changes can and will be felt so come on and feel the spirit in Billerica, MA at the Court yard by Marriott. I am hoping to meet many more spirit filled people. Amen



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Assistant Treasurer

Here's thinking that when you read this your Thanksgiving dinner will be past and Christmas shopping begun. We have had our Thanksgiving dinner in New England and are soon on our way to FL to celebrate the actual day with our son and daughter in-law.

This report is late getting in but comes with the hope that you will put the Spiritual Retreat on your calendar and prepare for a new experience. This year we will be sharing our time with all the New England States and for two nights. Will we see you there? Hope so!

Ruthie



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Coordinator of AB GIRLS

The ABGIRLS have some big plans for the upcoming Spiritual Retreat. Along with our normal activities of Bible Study, Worship and Music, we will be collecting small items to send to "My Father's House" in Chelmsford, MA. Our own Joanne Dull volunteers here and was so excited about our Mission Project, she has offered to be our liaison and assist us in our endeavors. If you are an ABGIRL leader please contact me at pennymulloy@gmail.com for a complete list.

Mission Statement-Life Saver Ministries is a local independent, non-profit Christian Ministry that offers an alternative to abortion by providing housing, counseling and other support services, enabling young women and teens in a crisis pregnancy to become self-sufficient responsible adults, through the loving example of caring Christians and the life changing power of Jesus Christ."

Blessings,
Penny Mulloy
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Coordinator of Mission & Service Ministries

Would you believe cows and sanitary milk production are a mission project? Tom Myers shared photos and his role in assisting Bulgarian farmers to meet the new European Economic Union standards for milk production. Tom and Terry Myers spoke at the Fall AB Women of MA conference and at several churches.

Four representatives from the Eastern Theological College in Jordat, Assam, India visited several churches in October. A DVD about the college is available from TABCOM. There is a crucial need for a new library and the college is expanding its degree programs for a number of students to offer more advanced degrees. ETC was a "Mission Explosion" project in 2002-2004. We hosted Rev. Dr. Narola Jamir, professor of Women's Studies and her husband Rev. Dr. Lima

Jamir, Chaplain and Dean of Student practical (preaching) in 2006-2007. TABCOM is working out how we may send theological and ministerial books to ETC.

National Ministries has notified us that Rev. Jack Cordell, Race Trak Chaplain at Philadelphia Park, has retired and is no longer on our list of Special Interest Missionaries.

Are you a member of a Missionary Partnership Team? Is your church? MPTs need on-going support for ALL International Missionaries. The World Mission Offering provides only a small portion of their support. MPTs send out regular newsletters from missionaries. Don't know who to support? Choose one of our state Special Interest Missionaries: the Damascenos in Great Britain, Kristy Enfgel in Dominican Republic, the Mayols in Mexico, the Reeds in Mexico or Karen Smith in Thailand. Contact Jim Wieger, International Ministries Development Director at 800-222-3872 ext. 2387 to get started by sending your special missionary cards and letters. Build a friendship! Make missions come alive for you and your family! "The Holy Spirit in Missions" is the theme for Missionworks 2010 on March 5th & 6th. Speakers and workshop leaders include: "They are Filled with the Holy Spirit" – Rev. Peppa Cottrell from RI, "They Spoke the Word with Boldness" – Ben Chan, IM Area Representative for Asia, Interview with Judith Sutterlin in China, "They Turned the World Upside Down" – Rev. Denton Lotz, Missionary Speaker: IM Global Consultant for theological education – Stan Slade, Jason Chumig Orphanage in Tibet – Brian McClatchy. The orphanage will be the Mission Explosion Project for 2010-2012. Cost: Friday Chinese meal and program \$30, Saturday \$35. Location: Courtyard in Fitchburg. Come! Be inspired!



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Communications Administrator

Well, we are off and running! I have tried to send any communications to the AB Women of MA that have come my way. The response to choosing the hard copy or e-mail version of the **Women Alive** newsletter has been very slow. I have received a few calls and e-mails asking why they stopped getting the newsletter, and explained that I was sorry they missed the bright gold insert in the Spring 2009 newsletter, but I'd be glad to add them to my list. If you know anyone that

has been pondering this same question, please have them get in touch with me.



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Love Gift Administrator



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The theme for 2009-2011: Women...Destined for God's Purpose

Theme Scriptures: **Psalm 138:8** "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; you love, O Lord, endures forever – do not abandon the works of your hands."

Philippians 2:13

"for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Check Out These Websites:

www.tabcom.org

ABW of Massachusetts has our own 'button', check for slideshows, registration forms and other info

www.abwministries.org

Contains national information, conferences, current events, ideas, AB GIRLS info, clip art, resources, etc.



Human Trafficking Awareness Prayer Service and Candlelight Vigil

Trinity Baptist Church,
Arlington
115 Mass. Ave.
January 10, 6:30pm

To bring awareness of this issue to the community, Trinity Baptist will be sponsoring a prayer service and candlelight vigil on their front lawn – Sunday, January 10th at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend to support and bring light to this issue. Please share this information with your congregation and plan to attend. For more information, please contact Barbara Anderson at abwbarbara@comcast.net or 781-929-7226 or visit the Trinity Baptist Website at www.trinitybaptistarlington.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

MERRIMACK VALLEY ASSOCIATION

The women of Merrimack Valley met for our Christmas Party at Chelmsford Street Baptist in Lowell. It was a wondrous evening of preparation for the true spirit of our Christmas season. The evening began with Judy Durant's compelling devotional talk.

Then a presentation from Saylo Kankeo, Manager of the "Christian Center for the Development of People with Disabilities" in Thailand where an amazing work is being done there in a country where the disabled are usually marginalized. This ministry is educating them and providing a place of safety and medical care. The evening's offering of almost \$1,000 (with 2 churches still to send their contributions) will probably be able to provide for half of the amount to provide roofing. State President, Joyce Goldthwaite, gave us updates on the latest events and programs and explained the

Oceanwood/Grotonwood “fill a medicine bottle” challenge. We are ready!

The evening ended with the musical ministry of vocalist John Anthony Volpe

The evening’s outreach project was collecting knitted and toiletry items for the Lowell Salvation Army. 352 knitted items and 3 huge baskets full of toiletries were artfully displayed under the Christmas tree by the 70 women who attended.



Saylo Kankeo, Manager of Christian Center for the Development of People with Disabilities in Thailand

At evening’s end, each woman received a beaded bookmark created by the women at Chelmsford Street Baptist in Lowell. Thank you so much.



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SAMUEL STILLMAN

In November Stillman Women gathered together for our annual Mission-A-Rama. This year’s focus was camp Oceanwood in Ocean Park, Maine. Donations such as; sheets, games, magazines, small appliances, and glassware were collected.

The theme of the day was the ocean! The women lunched on chowder, listened to

relaxing beach music, and looked at various books.

The high point of the day was a moving testimonial by Beth Gagnon, Assistant Camp Director of Oceanwood. She and her daughters shared the impact the camp’s ministry has had on their lives from the first year they attended family camp over ten years ago. Now their passion and time is devoted to continuing this ministry for others!

Upcoming Stillman events include; a visit to The Pines in Ocean Park, Maine for the Stillman AB Girls in December school vacation, a discussion on the book God Bless And Take Courage on January twenty-fourth at Trinity Baptist Church in Arlington and a Spring Tea (TBA).

For more information please contact Sharon 978-251-2219 or segd9@comcast.net God’s Blessing to Each of You!

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**Women's Book Discussion
Trinity Baptist Church, Arlington
115 Mass. Ave.**

**Sunday, January 24th 3:00p.m.
Refreshments, fellowship & discussion**



PIONEER VALLEY

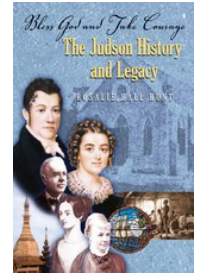
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The January selection for the book discussion is **Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy** by Rosalie Hall Hunt.

One reviewer states: *"Unlike many biographies there is nothing dry and uninteresting about this story of Adoniram Judson's missionary work and his family. It has everything a reader could want: romance, tragedy, adventure, sorrow, suffering and triumph...not to mention the golden thread of Christian love and godliness that runs throughout."*

Another writes: *"Because Mrs. Hunt has liberally utilized the personal journals and mission records of the Judson family, nothing is left out. I celebrated births into the Judson family and cried at funerals for those same family members. To be brought that close to a family through a book is a rare feat indeed. Mrs. Hunt has accomplished just that. If you have any interest in the beginnings of the American missionary movement, or want to **walk alongside an incredible man and his family as they courageously follow God** through difficult times of trials and triumphs, this book is a must read."*



Barbara Anderson's Blog

AB Women's Ministries' national President Barbara Anderson invites you to follow her journey with AB Women's Ministries by reading her blog entitled **"A Woman Destined for God's Purpose."**



Barbara's blog will include posts as she learns, grows, and fellowships with women across the country and around the world. Follow Barbara's journey as president at:

<http://www.awomendestinedforgodspurpose.blogspot.com/>

To order the book from Judson Press use this link:
http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=7918

Currently the book is listed for \$16.80.

For more information contact Barbara Anderson at:
abwbarbara@comcast.net or 781-929-7226

Items for prayer and praise:

Pray - You may have noticed that Boston Southwest Association did not have any news this time, nor were they listed in the contact list. We are praying for God to lead one or 2 women to consider leadership of this association. Please call Joyce directly if you feel God’s tug in this area.

Praise - For the recent 60th wedding anniversary of Jean and Norman Mills. (Jean is a past president of ABW MA.)

Prayer - For the family of Sara Osgood, on the recent death of her son. Her address is 18 Dunreath Street, Apt. 1, Roxbury, MA 02119

Prayer - For Dorothy Harrington who continues to fight courageously against the reoccurrence of cancer, which is terminal. Cards and letters may be sent to her at 19 Holborn Street, Milton, MA 02186 or you may connect with her by phone at 617- 698-5567.

Praise - For “Break the Chains” news that nationally we have gone over and above our two year goal of \$250,000. The total amount raised to fund new ministries at home and abroad is \$402,000

Prayer - For Carolyn Webster of Littleton as she is lovingly caring for her husband Bert.

Prayer – For Annie Bombard struggling with congestive heart failure and is in Lahey Clinic in Burlington for physical comfort and God’s peace. Also prayer for Twila and Bonnie as they and the rest of the family are with her.

From the song by John Ezzy, Daniel Grul, and Stephen McPherson....

*“Jesus, lover of my soul, I love You, I need You
Jesus, I will never let You go, though my world
may fall. You’ve taken me from the miry clay,
You’ve set my feet upon the rock, My Savior, my
closest friend, I will worship You until the very
end.”*

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|| Check out these websites: ||
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|| www.abwmbreakthechains.org ||
|| Specifically devoted to information about ||
|| human trafficking with Bible studies and ||
|| programming ||
|| http://nationalministries.org ||
|| Learn about “Children in Poverty” and ||
|| what’s happening in this country ||
|| http://internationalministries.org ||
|| Find out who your missionaries are. See ||
|| what work is being done around the ||
|| world. ||
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|| What’s going on ||
|| with the women ||
|| in your church? ||
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|| Your event could be ||
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|| Contact Joyce ||
|| Goldthwaite or Nancy ||
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