

Winter 2012

The TellHergram

An American Baptist Women's Ministry of Ohio Publication

PRESIDENT – Sheryl Wise (Zanesville Assoc.)

Choose to be Happy

Choose to be happy.

Choose to feel great.

Choose not to let things make you irate.

I know that some people are not feeling great,
And I know that some people know how to hate.

And I wish that all people could be healthy and strong,
And I wish that all people could just get along.

If wands could be waved, and the world would be cured,
I'd wave that big wand you can be assured.

But I'll do what I can every day I am here.

And try to remember "the good" year to year.

I choose to be happy,

And I choose to feel great.

And I choose not to let things make me feel irate!

A good philosophy! This was on a piece of paper I found in a file. I have no idea who wrote it or even where I got it! But, it is good plan for making choices this New Year. So many of us start with good intentions or make resolutions each New Year, the challenge is always to keep them. God gave us His plan for making choices in His ten commandments. Matthew 22:37-40 reminds us of the greatest commandment of all. Jesus said- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (NIV)

As we enter a new year, my prayer is that our plans and choices follow God's commands and with His help we keep them all year long. Let's choose to make it a happy 2012! Blessings to you all!

Sheryl Wise

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SECRETARY- Jerri Wood (Dayton Assoc)

Greetings of peace and joy for the new year!

Please make these changes in your 2011-2012 ABWM of OH directory: Treasurer, Nancy Peto's zip code is 43229, and Peggy Burke's number is 614-236-8425

Please send to me your **association officer** changes for 2012-2013 by June 1, 2012. After that date information in this year's directory will be repeated. Contact me at bjwood68@aol.com or 1525 Stockton Ave., Dayton, 45409. Thank you so much!

Do you "Know Your ABC's"? We often include abbreviations in our minutes but do our readers know what they mean?

ABWM - American Baptist Women's Ministries
ABM - American Baptist Men
ABCUSA - American Baptist Churches of USA
ABHS - American Baptist Historical Society
ABHMS - American Baptist Home Mission Society (was National Ministries)
IM - International Ministries
NEC - National Executive Council
OGHS - One Great Hour of Sharing
AFC - America for Christ
WMO - World Mission Offering
RMMO - Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering
CWU - Church Women United
CWS - Church World Service

A goal for me for 2012 is to communicate clearly; I hope these abbreviations will be helpful to you.

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TREASURER – Nancy Peto (Columbus Assoc.)

Here are some helpful notes

- *State Project Funds - the current state project goal is to provide \$10,000 to the Zambia Schools. After the goal is reached any additional monies will be used to fund the project, Clean Water for Haiti.
- *Love Gift - make all checks payable to ABWM Love Gift and send all monies collected directly to:
Treasurer's Office
American Baptist Churches USA
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
- *Women's and Girl's Fund - this is the new fund designation for ABWM. Monies can be designated to five areas of concern: AB GIRLS, Leadership Development, Refit, National Mission Projects (examples: Haiti Cholera Project, Break the Chains Stop the Pain) or Women's and Girl's Mission (which uniquely supports missions with women and girls in this country and around the world).
- *Mileage reimbursement for ABWM of Ohio is 0.25 cents per mile.
- *All requests for reimbursement must be accompanied by a receipt and all expenditures must be approved in advance by the State Officer in charge of the event (conference, retreat, state meetings, association meetings, travel expenses).
- *Please make checks payable to AB Women's Ministries of Ohio. Do not make them payable to the State Treasurer, Nancy Peto.

Hopefully this will help us to better understand our funds and missions and to better understand why it is necessary to follow certain protocols. This will only make our finances more stable and long lasting for the next generation of AB Women in Ohio.

Nancy Peto
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(614)306-9768



Pray for our ABWM Ohio officers—national, state, association, and local.

Pray for our special interest missionaries, their families, their mission field, for the souls that they help.

Pray for the women in your local ABW: for their spiritual growth, their desire to serve the Lord, their families that they care for, and their friends that they witness to through their everyday contact, and that Jesus Christ will be seen in all they do.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – Barbara MacDonald (Western Assoc.)

Are we ready for the new year--for all the things in store for us? Praise God we have His wonderful gift that came at Christmas-Immanuel-"God with us!" Through Jesus God gave us the gift of salvation, hope, and love. We need to show the world that Christmas makes a difference in our lives.

One way we can do this and show our love to God is by giving—giving to others in need and giving our time to be alone with God to learn from His Word and to pray. Scripture reading allows God to speak with us; praying is the way we speak with God. Martin Luther said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Do we need to change our lifestyle so we have more time for prayer? Besides praying for our needs and those close to us, I Timothy 2:2 urges us to pray for "kings and all those in authority." If our government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people," we have a profound obligation to PRAY. We can use the newspaper or TV news as a prayer list. Pray!

Hopefully, you are using our ABWM Resource Book, "In the Potter's Hands." This book and women's Bibles studies may be ordered on line at www.abwministries.org or by calling 1-800-458-3766. Your Christian bookstore or Lifeway store has many studies as well. A book to help one's prayer life is A Morning Cup of Prayer for Women by John A. Bright-Fey (Crane Hill Pub.)

My church women's group will soon be starting Beth Moore's study of the Book of James. I'm wondering what it will prepare me for in 2012. James 1:2 says, "Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance..." But, PTL, James adds, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

I would like to hear from you about your Bible study/prayer group so that I can share it with others. And I am always happy to help you in any way I can.

Praying that we can share the love of Christmas all year,

Barbara MacDonald
knbmcd@yahoo.com
(937) 663-4730



CHURCH & COMMUNITY – Susan Stotts (Zanesville Assoc)

Here we are in a new year! I hope your Christmas was wonderful and your New Year blessed.

Did you find things to do with your church and in your community during the holiday season? At my church, our women provided the gifts for our local youth center's Christmas party. We dedicated them at our own party, where we did Christmas karaoke. Before the Christmas Eve service, there was a time of caroling with hot, spiced cider and hot chocolate. In just those two events, we can report two items in the church section of our report and one in the community section.

Yes, it's time to start thinking about your report. Church Coordinators need to get your report to your Association Coordinator by April 25, so she can compile the Association report and get it to me by May 15, so I can have the State report ready for Conference. If you need a copy of the report form and your Association Coordinator doesn't have it, contact me and I'll be glad to send it to you, either by mail or email, just let me know which way you want it. That goes for you Association Coordinators, too. Your form has more space and it's helpful to have all the reports in the same order, so I'll be glad to get the forms to you.

One other piece of business; I finish up my term as your State Coordinator of Church & Community Ministries this spring and am looking for a replacement. This is not a hard job. Just four (I think) board meetings to attend, three TellHerGram articles to help encourage and give ideas for C&C activities and one report to compile. Then there are the somewhat larger tasks of organizing Women's Day in October and getting the information out for Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. Women's Day gets planned over a long span of time and all the information for World Day of Prayer is available through the national website. With just a little organization, this job can be a blessing. It has been for me. From the camaraderie with the Officers and Association Presidents at board meetings to the friendly chats with fellow coordinators to the opportunity to read and share the inventive and special ways you ladies fellowship and serve in your churches and communities, serving as Coordinator of Church & Community Ministries has been a joy. If you would like to know more about this position, please contact me. I will be glad to share what I know and have experienced.

Susan Stotts
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MISSION & SERVICE – Wilma Nicholson (Akron Assoc)

As I write this article, I am envisioning snow on the ground and hungry birds fluttering around the feeders. I trust that we have all been blessed during the "giving and gift-ing" season as we gave to help those around us in need.

Let's start this new year with a plan to raise our money for the two-part state project: Well Spring School in Zambia and community wells in Haiti.

Break the Chains: Stop the Pain is a national project. All kinds of violence is all around us. Call your local domestic violence shelter to determine their current needs as they provide a safe place for more and more women and children.

How can we address "Release and Re-Entry? Because AB Women met a big challenge last year at this time, we have been issued a new one. It is known as COTAAN (pronounced "cotton" and is an acronym for Covenant Outreach Through Advocacy and Agency Networking.

Our national leaders have challenged us to raise \$25,000 by the end of February to start a life-changing ministry that assists women returning to society after prison. This is a new outreach to Covenant Baptist Church in Wickliffe, OH. Send your gift to Women's and Girl's Fund, marked for COTAAN. This will be providing spiritual guidance and support to women as they return to society after prison and help them become connected with the agencies and programs available to help them. We don't have much time to address this!

The new work of missionaries Duane and Marcia Binkley is in partnership with Central Seminary in Kansas City. They are starting a program for the theological training for the lay pastors of the churches of the Chn, Kachin and Karen people resettling around the U.S. Your prayerful support is requested by the Binkley. They also need our contributions toward their "personalized goal" for 2011-2012.

Call me if I can be of help to you in any way. May God bless all of us and we serve in his name in 2012.

Wilma Nicholson
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(330) 492-4907



WHITE CROSS – Crystal Engle (Zanesville Assoc)

Hello, everyone! After the Christmas celebrations, I am busy cleaning up “Santa’s workshop” (and my office). White Cross distribution lists will be arriving in 2 short months! I would appreciate an update on how many churches in your associations will be participating so that I can accurately divide the requests AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Everyone likes to wait until the last minute, but that makes it impossible for the person at the receiving end of the information train to get everything organized. Also, give your churches an end of March, early April deadline for submitting reports to you so you can get them to me at the end of April. Don’t wait....pick up the phone & call your sisters in Christ to get their info. I appreciate all you do for White Cross and with your help, we will make 2012 the best year ever!

Crystal Engle
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(740) 454-6629



SCHOLARSHIP – Evon Laubenstein (Miami Assoc)

Hope all of you had a blessed Christmas with family and friends. It is so good to share this time of joy and prepare for another year of blessing and ministry.

Please make correction in the name of one of our students and also a new address and place of education.

The assignment sheet has Brittany Perry, but should read Brittney Perry. She will be transferring from Trevecca Nazarene University as a Junior to Ohio State. She will continue her study in an area of social work. Brittney will be living at home, so her new address is:

34 South Sylvan Ave, Columbus OH 43204. Her home phone is (614) 351-0279.

Continue to pray for our students.

Evon Laubenstein
21 Hermay Dr, Hamilton 45013
(513) 863-2696

CONFERENCE – Jan Holt (Marion Assoc)

Yes, yes!! Where did all these wonderful holiday activities originate! Advent, Christmas Cantatas, preparing goodie bags to pass out on Sunday, SS Class dinners . . .and that's just at Church.

We are continuing to plan for Women's Conference. New and exciting workshops, and Bible Studies to expand our love of scripture and challenge our spiritual walk. And of course our own musicians, the world famous "Zanesville 5"! This will be more than tingling our senses.

We won't be just a bunch of "Cracked Pots" at the **Holiday Inn, 7007 N. High St., Worthington, Oh 43085, June 13, 14, and 15, 2012.** Outlining our new brochure and program booklet. Registration brochure will be ready at our March Board meeting.

Christmas Love to all,

Jan Holt
bigredholt@peoplepc.com
(740)382-3486



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT – Mariann Curl (Miami Assoc)

Mark you calendars now for **September 14-15, 2012** so you will not miss this year's retreat! We will be meeting again at the **First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon**, and I am working on reserving a block of rooms for overnight accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express just a few minutes from the church.

Jane Gibbons has graciously accepted the invitation to be our Bible study leader. You will enjoy music with Sheryl Wise and Nancy Hynds, Drama Queen for the King, round table study, prayer walk, crafts, and much more!

Watch for the registration form in the Spring Tellhergram that you can copy and share. I will also send forms to each association in March and you should also be able to access a form to print on the abc/ohio website and pbworks. Costs will be determined by that time.

Many Blessings for this New Year!

Mariann Curl
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CARE & SHARE – Paula Duncan (Lawrence Assoc)

Just want to remind you to continue supporting the ministries of Care & Share. If your church ABWM has not selected one or more to support, I encourage you to do so at your next meeting.

If Care & Share is something your church has not supported in the past, make a resolution for the New Year to do so.

Here we are, just a few days into the New Year, and many are lamenting the fact they have failed to keep their resolutions. New Year's resolutions consist of two truths: most of us make them, and then we break them. In fact, I've learned from experience not to make resolutions because I know I will break them. Most resolutions require real work. We make them because we want to be better. We want to be healthier. We long to be people who make a difference.

I challenge you (and me) to resolve to really know Jesus Christ and him crucified. Knowing Jesus makes us a better person. Jesus teaches us how to love people. Knowing Jesus makes everything new. Jesus allows us to have the perfect do-over. Jesus restores the broken resolution. We do not have to be perfect; we can't. But the blood of Jesus continually cleanses us. Praise God!

Know Him. Trust Him. Serve Him. Blessings for a healthy, safe and serving New Year!

Paula Duncan
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(740) 353-2229



PUBLICITY & TELLHERGRAM

– Doris Beckwith (North Central)

We all like to receive gifts as well as give them. Do you know someone who would like to know more about what ABWM of Ohio is doing? Share your TellHergram with them.

Doris Beckwith
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 17 ABWM of OH Exec. Comm.,
10:00 & Bd of Managers,
11:00 a.m. Granville

June 13 ABWM of Ohio Bd of Managers,
Worthington, 5:00 p.m.

June 13-15 ABWM of OH Conference,
Worthington

July 21-27 National ABWM Confeence,
Nashville, TN

Oct. 25-27 ABC of OH Gathering