

PERMANENT MINISTRIES

COORDINATOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

2021 – Although this was another challenging year for us, we have gradually returned to our CE programming. I want to recognize and thank the Christian Education Committee for their dedication and service in our attempt to carry on our mission of promoting Christian discipleship for all ages. Those committee members are Pastor Ivan, Brice Smith, Rexanne Greuter, Colleen Smith, Fran Seymour-Hunter, Betty Arnold, Marty Stevenson, Trena Ansell, Tera Triggs, and Pat Carpenter.

Sunday School returned with one adult class, taught by Jack Janway; a middle school/high school class, taught by Ernie Reed; and a Children's class, taught by Fran Seymour-Hunter and Pat Carpenter. Our popular Summer Sunday School Cinema made a return this year with great attendance, good food, fun movies, and interesting discussions. Thanks to all participants, and special thanks to Nancy Lindberg for her work on the movies and questions.

Vacation Bible School was held in the evenings for a week in July. Special thanks to Tom and Jan Mansfield for the beautiful scenery they created for the sanctuary. Many volunteers are needed for Bible School, and we are certainly appreciative of the directors and group leaders who made the Exodus story come alive. Also, thanks to the kitchen and cleanup crew.

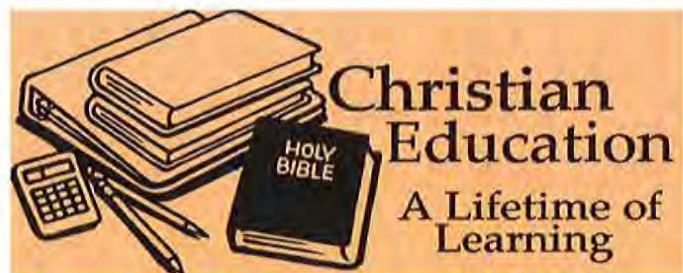
WWW started in September after being inactive since March of 2020. We are thrilled to be back to an average of around 20 kids from Kindergarten through High School. Thank you to all who contribute each week to this program of outreach to the children in our community.

Pastor Ivan faithfully continues to teach his Wednesday morning Bible Study. He also taught a small group on Sunday evenings for couples. The Women's Bible Study group, led by Rexanne, continues to meet via Zoom, now on Thursday afternoons. Adults are also invited to join a Bible Study, led by Jim Goodnow, on Wednesday evenings after the WWW meal.

The Youth Group has enjoyed a few activities this past year, including a movie night and a bonfire, picnic, and fishing outing. They held a very successful pie auction in the fall. They participated in the "Braving Discipleship" program at Ottawa. We are pleased to announce new sponsors, Matt & Ashley Smith, helping Tera, Dewey, Brice, & Colleen.

I sincerely want to thank the congregation for your encouragement and support during my five-year tenure as CE Coordinator. I also want to recognize Lynda Cokeley for her willingness to help with any task. Also, a special thanks to Pastor Ivan for his devoted leadership, guidance, and sincere interest in teaching. I hope you all will join me in welcoming Colleen Smith to this position, and if you're not involved with Christian Ed activities, give it a try! May God continue to bless each of us as we strive to learn and share more about Him. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Payne



COORDINATOR OF FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Fellowship and Membership Committee fulfilled its commitment to administer, coordinate and promote the spirituality and congregational care of the membership of West Side Baptist Church in the following ways:

- **Prayer Chain Groups:** We supported members with prayers and sent cards of encouragement and birthday cards. Thank you to Molly Morris for chairing this ministry.
- **Social Committee:** Hosted the Christmas Breakfast Business Meeting.
When requested, the committee prepared and served funeral dinners for the families and friends of deceased church members. Due to the COVID pandemic, dinners were not served for all deceased members.
- **Visitation:** We visited our homebound members at Christmas with a gift of cookies, candy, and fruit.

The following were accepted into membership at WSBC in 2021.

Baptism:

Adelynn Cripe	4 April 2021
Jessica Gilmore	4 April 2021
Lilliana Matthiessen	4 April 2021
Mathew Peck	4 April 2021
Ashley Smith	4 April 2021

Letter of Transfer:

Dewey Freeman	7 Mar 2021	Bill Clark	12 Sep 2021
Angela Foster	27 Mar 2021	Leslie Mosher	12 Sep 2021
Carla Donnelly	4 Apr 2021	Will Self	12 Sep 2021
Thomas Donnelly	4 Apr 2021	Lisa Walder	12 Sep 2021
Cheryl Henson	23 May 2021	Sharon Donnelly	21 Nov 2021
Mike Henson	23 May 2021	Janice Hedberg-Boyce	5 Dec 2021
Ernest Reed	18 July 2021	Jetta Potts	12 Dec 2021
Donna Niegsch	5 Sep 2021		

The following WSBC members went to be with the Lord in 2021:

Helen Farrar	30 Mar 2021
Judy Joan Longstaff	11 Apr 2021
Helen Irene Bloom	9 July 2021
Grace "June" Cunningham	21 July 2021
Mary Lou Johnson	20 Oct 2021
George H. Linden	7 Dec 2021

Thank you to all who helped serve our membership in any way in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonna Hersh

COORDINATOR OF MISSION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The highlight of the year was... YOU! Yes, you read that right. Each year we collect four special offerings. These are the America for Christ offering in March, the One Great Hour of Sharing in June, the World Mission Offering in October and the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering in December.

The goal for each offering in 2021 was \$1,500.00. The year-end totals that we collected for the 2021 offerings were: America for Christ, \$1,799.00; One Great Hour of Sharing, \$2,078.00; World Mission Offering, \$2,065.00; and the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, \$2,115.00.

Wow! Due to your amazing generosity, we were able to exceed the goal on every offering. We also collected a total of \$385.00 for the ABW Love Gift and Project offerings combined. We serve a loving and generous God, and you have shown this same love and generosity through your gifts for the work of His Kingdom. Thank You!

In the past, many of you have been involved in a "5th Friday" program at Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City. When a month contains five Fridays, we have provided a meal and a speaker at Bethel on that 5th Friday night. However, due to the continuing pandemic, Bethel put a hold on their Friday night services. Since we were not able to be there in person, we provided a monetary contribution of \$200.00 from the old Capital Campaign account on each of those dates to help support their continuing ministry.

For our Fall Project, we hoped to return to the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma for a couple of days of service work there. But scheduling problems and the continuing virus situation prevented us from going. However, the Council voted to approve a gift of \$500 from the old Capital Campaign to help support them in their time of great need. A special thanks to Pastor Ivan for making us aware of the need and for the Council's generous response.

During 2021 we highlighted some of the work our Global Servants are doing throughout the world. We have been including a short bio in the newsletter each month entitled, "Global Servant Spotlight" that tells a little about a missionary (or missionaries) and their ministry. A big "thank you" to Pastor Ivan for his additional insights into their service and how the monies we collect are being dispersed to further God's Kingdom around the world.

Also, members of the Mission Committee and others have been praying daily for our Global Servants. We have a rotating list of names that changes each month. This gives us a chance to feel more connected to the incredible work God is doing through His servants in every part of the world.

We are looking forward to great things in 2022 because we serve a great God! If you would like more info about any of the projects listed above or would like to join us on the Mission Committee or in any of these projects, please let me know!

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Goodnow

MISSIONS
...at home and around the world



OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Outreach and Evangelism Committee (O&E) worked to honor its commitment to administer, coordinate and promote the outreach and evangelism program in the church, neighborhood, community, and world. COVID-19 provided many challenges and opportunities this year.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: O&E was only able to host one activity this year due to the pandemic. The Halloween Trunk or Treat was held on Halloween evening. Participation by our members and the neighborhood was great and the chance to be out and commune with the neighbors was a welcome relief from the day-to-day restrictions of the pandemic. Being unable to host an Easter egg hunt, our youth group put together baskets to distribute in the neighborhood. O&E applauds and appreciates this effort.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: O&E works with any group, organization, and agency that assists people in the community, especially those who are needy and less fortunate.

Midtown Community Services - Midtown Community Services is an organization comprised of churches, schools, and other non-profits that have come together to serve the needs of Midtown Topeka. O&E serves as the arms and legs of West Side Baptist in this organization. To date, the main emphasis of the organization has been the support of Meadows Elementary School. As Midtown Community Services evolves, more services for more people in the community will be provided.

Meadows Elementary School - West Side Baptist continued its long-time support of our neighborhood school. In partnership with other entities of Midtown Community Services, a significant number of back-to-school supplies and money was collected to assist families that could not afford the necessary supplies required for school. Anticipated need of supplies to support the teachers and staff was met and a surplus established to help throughout the school year. West Side Baptist supplied a meal for 80 staff members of the school during the fall parent-teacher conferences. West Side Baptist donated hundreds of pounds of needed clothing and food items in support of the annual Holiday Box event that assists families in need during the Christmas season.

Share fest 2021 - Share fest is an annual event that churches from all over the Topeka area come together to work one day at designated schools and non-profit organizations in landscaping, painting, and other improvement projects. West Side Baptist chose to work at Topeka High School and made significant improvements to the campus and parking lot.

Food Pantry - O&E continued to coordinate the weekly food pantry that is offered at West Side Baptist Church. The pantry will still operate out of the garage as a mobile food pickup due to the numbers of clients coming for food and safety/health concerns during the pandemic. We again set a record for the numbers of people served and the pounds of food we gave out.

Families	Adults	Children	Seniors	Total	lbs.
4689	7734	6338	3018	17090	206354

We have not received the Agency Impact Report for 2021 yet, but using the Feeding America's formula for 2020, we had an impact of \$334,293.48. This represents the value of the food and the amount of money saved by our clients on their food bill. We were very blessed to receive significant grants and donations to our pantry in 2021. O&E was able to purchase a refrigerator and freezer for the garage to aid in food safety. We were also able to purchase items to enhance the safety and comfort of our volunteers and the people we serve. As an extra blessing, we were able to obtain 92 turkeys and 160+ chickens for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays free of charge from Harvesters. With a bit more funds added we were able to provide 100 turkeys for Thanksgiving and all the chickens for Christmas.

Milk 2 My Plate - Blessed by three grants, O&E was able to establish and start a Milk 2 My Plate program every 3rd Wednesday of the month in conjunction with food pantry. The program is a controlled cost program to provide dairy items to programs through Harvesters. We were able to purchase a separate refrigerator for milk storage. At present we can provide 81 1/2-gallon 2% milk units per month (minimum order). We are funded through June 2022. At that time, we will need to evaluate the program, obtain more funding through grants, or subsidize the program with other Outreach monies. The program is extremely popular, and all product is given out every time. Our prayer is not only to continue the program but expand it.

Families	Adults	Children	Total	Gallons
493	937	582	1519	504

Blessing Boxes - O&E has identified 40+ Blessing Boxes throughout the city. These boxes are used to store non-perishable food items and hygiene items for needy persons in the neighborhood and for the homeless. All leftover non-perishable food items from the food pantry are disbursed to these boxes. Donated hygiene items are also placed in the boxes. Leftover perishable food items are donated to the Rescue Mission. O&E hopes to continue this program and have additional Blessing Box(es) built for the Ward Meade neighborhood.

Baby Closet - The Baby Closet will celebrate its 10th year Anniversary of operation this January 2022. Pat Carreno and her group of volunteers continue to provide infant, small child needs and mother's needs to needy families in the Topeka area. Baby food, formula, clothing (up to size 5), diapers, wipes, toys and hygiene items are kept in stock for this program. Due to the large increase in donations, more room for the Baby Closet is being planned. Baby Closet received a generous grant as well as many gifts and donations. This is a very popular program that continues to meet a critical need in the Topeka and surrounding area.

Families	Adults	Children	Seniors	Total	lbs
459	930	1225	64	2219	2406

EVANGELISM: Our program and services continue to be a major evangelism vehicle drawing visitors and new members to our church. Many of our volunteers are from the neighbor and they experience our love for others to the glory of our Lord. Some of our program dictates do not allow proselytizing during operations. This does not hinder many people approaching us with requests for prayers, a shoulder to cry on, and an ear to listen. More efforts to follow up on visitors need to be made and are being made. The pastor has put in a great effort in identifying the best ways to reach people living in our neighborhood and the results look promising.

THANK YOU: Thank you to the food pantry volunteers that put up with extreme heat, extreme cold, rain, snow, wind, heavy boxes, speed sorting, and seemingly endless lines to make this program run as smoothly as it does. Thank you to the Baby Closet volunteers that sort through endless donations, which change out clothing seasons, attend to clients, keep the stock current and orderly, and for working in tight quarters. Thank you to the volunteers that sit at the front door directing people to the closet allowing more volunteers to work with the customers. Thank you to the church membership for donating food, candy, time, clothing items and money to make each of our programs work. Thank you, neighbor volunteers and partners, for helping and working with us. Thank you, church council, for your support. Thank you, Lynda, and Rita, for putting up with my endless cries for help. Thank you, Pastor Ivan, for your advice, direction, and focus. If I have missed anyone, just know that I owe thanks to every person I come in contact within service to our Lord and Savior.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Janway

BABY CLOSET

The Baby Closet has been serving the community for ten years. We opened on January 9, 2011. We were open two days during the week. Those that began volunteering were Judy Longstaff, Rogene Moody, Marianne Spano, Almira Collier, Hilda Lundgren, and Jan Mansfield. This group of ladies made it possible to start this special ministry project here at West Side Baptist Church. The program has grown tremendously over the years. With this support, we have increased the families and children we serve and are able to provide much-needed help. My humble thanks to each of you for the support given to The Baby Closet.

A total of 458 families with 744 children were seen during 2021. We had a total of 127 new families that came to The Baby Closet. As we can see from the numbers, there continues to be a need for the children in our community.

We are open now from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Families that participate in the drive-up Harvesters Community Food Program and Wonderful West Side Wednesdays can shop in The Baby Closet during this time. This time has been well received.

Diapers, wipes, and formulas continue to be the most needed items for families. Each child may receive 30 diapers with 36 wipes each month. Formula is given out one can per month.

Donations from the community and church families increased this year. We can offer a variety of clothing and miscellaneous items to each child. These donations are so helpful to our ministry. Thanks to all for this support.

We are partners with Harvesters Community Food Program. We can give each family a bag of personal care items, snacks, and household products. Some of the items in the bags are shampoo, toilet tissues, detergent, and toothpaste. The items may change as we receive new items. Families are thankful to receive these bags.

Volunteers are so special, and it takes our church family working together to keep The Baby Closet doors open. With much thanks to Jack Janway, John Swain and Harry Carpenter for greeting families and showing them to The Baby Closet. Nelda Janway, Marianne Spano, Alice Payne, Angie Foster, Nancy Ohse, Bev McCurdy, Judy Billings, Lisa Walder and Tammy Carreno spent many hours sorting donations, stocking the shelves, and working with families that come in to receive help. There are many jobs that need to be taken care of each day when we are open. These volunteers are wonderful, hardworking and know how to get the work done. Thanks to each one of you for making it possible to keep this special ministry project open in our church. Pastor Ivan Greuter, Lynda Cokeley and Ernie Longstaff continue to support the Baby Closet's daily needs. They take phone calls, give out diapers, wipes, and formula, and keep the floors clean. The list is long. We are thankful for their support and time they spend each day on this special ministry project.

This concludes my annual Report for 2021. If anyone has questions or concerns, please see me. Thank you all for your support, encouragement, and your kindness to the children in our community. West Side Baptist Church is a great place to be as we serve our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Carreno, Coordinator



COORDINATOR OF TRUSTEES (ADMINISTRATION)

The year 2021 saw maintenance to our church facility as the largest line-item expense as usual. Air conditioning and boiler maintenance as well as increases in the cost of utilities were the items with the most notable increases.

I want to thank Ernie, Clarence, Tom, and Brice for their response to these items: Brice and Tom installed the Ring cameras held with church security. Brice supervised the new soundboard and training. Clarence supervised the AVAC and plumbing problems as well as roof access update. We are responding to repairs of the towers, south sanctuary wall, concrete to replace the north parking lot and updates to the Baby Closet, painting the sanctuary and handrails for the sanctuary podium. I want to thank Lynda for her assistance.

We continued to serve outside groups by allowing them to use our building when health regulations allowed. The groups that used the building were: The Barber Shop group, TOPS, Prairie Flint Hills Chapter NSDAR, and church member gatherings.

Thank you to my committee members and others who helped care for our church in 2021.

In service to Christ Jesus, Harry Carpenter

COORDINATOR OF WORSHIP

I would like to thank those individuals who have served on the worship committee and helped plan the worship this past year. This past year, those individuals serving on the committee are Pastor Ivan, Matt Smith, Janice Kirby, Nadine Manley, Jan Mauck, and Kay Wildman. The worship committee met several times throughout the year to plan our worship services. So many volunteers assist with worship through our monthly scripture readers and communion servers, and I thank you for your willingness to add to our worship services. I also want to thank Clarence Payne for heading up the ushers for our worship services. As we progressed through 2021, we could go back to some of the things we did pre-pandemic with our ushers and communion servers. I want to thank Pastor Ivan for his leadership and guidance in planning our worship this past year.

There is a group of people who I will call the E-Missionary Team in 2021 that assists with providing our live streams to YouTube and Facebook: Tera Freeman, Dewey Freeman, Rexanne Greuter, Macy Greuter, Jessa Greuter, Nathan Poe, Tom Mansfield, Bruno Sprengs, Janice Kirby, Ashley Smith, Chuck Cozad, Ivan Greuter, and myself.

Those who have assisted with music include Matt Smith, Kay Wildman, Jan Mauck, Jim Goodnow, Tera Triggs, Rexanne Greuter, Colleen Smith, and Janice Hedberg-Boyce.

Brice Smith
Worship Coordinator

**PS. Please sign up to be a
Communion Server and
Scripture Reader in 2022!**



Love. Grow. Serve.

STANDING COMMITTEES

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

The Benevolence Committee works with the Church Office to review and approve Applications for Assistance from our neighbors for utility bills, rent, medical bills, medicines/prescriptions, unmet needs, and emergencies. The Church Council set up a system to accept, review, and decide which applications would be approved by a vote of a committee consisting of Alice Payne, Nancy Lindberg, Tom Mansfield, and myself. Thank you to the committee members for helping to discern the will of God in sharing the Lord's abundance with persons in need. The benevolence fund is received the first Sunday of the month after celebrating the Lord's Supper. These donations are dedicated to assisting persons with unmet needs. Thank you for your generosity toward to Benevolence Fund: \$7,128.25 donated in 2021.

In 2021, we received twenty-two applications for assistance from residents in the Topeka area. The committee approved payment on seventeen of the applications, ranging in help from rental assistance, emergency food, emergency shelter / rapid rehousing, electric reconnections, gas bills, and water bills, to a new mattress for a grandmother sleeping on the floor. Clients are also referred to our community partners, such as Doorstep Inc., for further information and assistance. We were able to share God's abundance with Harvesters Community Food Network (\$500), Doorstep Inc. (\$1,000), and Meadows Elementary School (21 hams for Christmas). The total dispersed from the Benevolence Fund in 2021 was \$3,792.93. The balance in the Benevolence fund was \$3,453.88 on December 31, 2021.

Thank you for helping our neighbors! It's a joy to know we are getting a reputation for loving people!
Blessings, Pastor Ivan+

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE REPORT



Deaths and Memorial Gifts Received

Helen Farrar – March 30, 2021 – \$200
Judy Longstaff – April 11, 2021 – \$3,805
Helen Bloom – July 9, 2021 – \$615
June Cunningham – July 21, 2021 – \$920
Mary Lou Johnson – October 20, 2021 – \$130
George Linden – December 7, 2021

Memorials Expenditures in 2021

Angel and Rose Bushes – Cost – \$230 – We approved purchasing a 3 ½ foot angel statue along with new rose bushes for the northeast corner of the church close to the bench from Judy Longstaff's memorial fund. A member of the Longstaff family wished to purchase the angel, so the expense from the memorial fund was for the concrete base and plants.

Plants for Container next to Bench – Cost \$25 – Purchased new plants to replace flowers in the flowerpot next to the bench from Vera Cochran's memorial fund.

Sound System Upgrade for the Sanctuary – Cost \$4,507 – Memorial funds from: Ila Mae Martin (\$780), Laberta Paslay (\$403), Harold Calloway (\$110), Ed Olsen (\$535), Maurice Goslin (\$360), Maggie Chapman (\$140), Julia Merrifield (\$210), Ed Moody (\$1,640) and Bruce Johnson (\$328).

Music Cart – Cost \$191– Purchased for Holmer Hall to hold hymnals so they can be taken to/from the music room to Holmer Hall. Disbursement from Don Manley's memorial fund.

Sanctuary Computer – Cost \$1050 – Purchased for the sanctuary balcony to provide online church service. Disbursement from Gil McCurdy's memorial fund.

Memorials Committee: Nancy Lindberg, chair; Molly Morris, Alice Payne, and Bev McCurdy

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submitted its 2022 Slate of Officers (see Appendix I) for election. Nominating Committee: Marianne Spano (Chair), Janice Kirby, Karen Kirby, and Sonia Roling

PASTORAL RELATIONS REPORT

The Pastoral Relations Committee did not meet in 2021. No report was submitted.

PERSONNEL REPORT

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with Molly Morris, Jim Lagerberg, Brice Smith, and Pastor Ivan as members of the Personnel Committee. These folks are responsible for interviewing all applicants for any job vacancies within the church. They are also responsible for making personnel policy recommendations to the church council. I want to thank them for their faithful service.

We are pleased with the new staff that joined us this fall. There are two new nursery attendants, Judy Billings and Heather Hicks. We are glad to have them. Stop by the nursery and introduce yourself to these ladies.

We were also fortunate to have Janice Hedberg-Boyce join us as our new Organist/Accompanist. We are pleased that Janice has chosen to join our church family. We welcome her and are very pleased to share her talents with us. We want to thank Kay Wildman for her service as our Organist and pray her health improves.

I want to thank all the rest of the staff - Pastor Ivan, Lynda Cokeley, Ernie Longstaff, Matt Smith, and Jan Mauck - for their continued service and devotion to the work of our Lord.

I have enjoyed my time serving on the church council and appreciate Pastor Ivan's help and guidance with all personnel matters, along with everything else he does. I know Janice Kirby will be an outstanding addition to the Council. Thank you, Janice, for your willingness to serve as Vice-Moderator and Personnel Coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence Payne

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Technology Committee stayed busy in 2021 with the following items completed.

- Installed and configured a dedicated workstation in the sanctuary used to produce the live streams we provide on YouTube and Facebook.
- Updated the out-of-date workstation in the Finance Office with a new workstation that was installed and configured.
- Added a new server used to install an updated version of Power Church, and the data was converted to the current version.
- Additional Ring cameras were installed around the church and linked together.

Thanks to Tom Mansfield for his expertise in installing the Ring cameras. Also serving on the Technology Committee are Matt Smith, Harry Carpenter, and Brice Smith. In 2022, a shared folder will be created on the server for the office staff to use during normal office operations.

Brice Smith

AUXILIARIES

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is a diverse community of American Baptist women and girls serving in ministry in Christ's name. With local, area, region/state, and national levels of ministry, AB Women's Ministries creates a community of passionately faithful, mission-minded women and girls engaged in worship, service, and friendship. AB Women's

Ministries is part of the American Baptist Churches in the USA and is affiliated with the North American Baptist Women's Union, the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, and Church Women United. ABWM does not actively meet at West Side Baptist nor have any active Circles. All women of the church belong to ABWM. Speak with me if you are interested in forming a circle or having a meeting.



American Baptist Women's Ministries' 2021 mission focus was Covid-19 and related issues

- COVID-19 has forever changed the world, and organizations must change with it to continue to support communities. As the number of those impacted by COVID-19 grows, goods become scarce, and unemployment rises, the need for spiritual support and guidance has become more pressing than ever. American Baptist Women's Ministries is seeking your help to better serve its communities and constituents. Amid COVID-19, many support services and programming in our communities are no longer available. Food pantries, afterschool programs, and daycare are not open. Supporting programs and systems for women and children have been altered or halted due to COVID-19.

ABWM supports the following areas of ministry and mission:

LOVE GIFT - Love Gift is an over-and-above offering that supports American Baptist mission and ministry. Begun during the Great Depression, the denomination faced a deficit and the women challenged one another to raise enough funds to cover that deficit. They rose to meet that challenge and then some! Today, Love Gift is an extra gift to the United Mission support of the American Baptist denominational headquarters in Valley Forge. Through Love Gift, missions and ministries in the United States, Puerto Rico, and worldwide can reach out to millions of God's people through national staff. Donation boxes are available in the Church Office. We gave

\$335.00 to Love Gift in 2021.

NATIONAL SUPPORT - National Support provides opportunities for spiritual growth with 100 percent of your gift to National Support used for this organization to provide ministries that empower women and girls to serve Christ. Your gifts help provide programs, resources, and leader training for ministries with women and girls in your church, area, and region. National Support provides national staffing, speakers, conferences, retreats, program resources, and much more! When you give, you are partnering with us to provide ministry for women and girls in the US and Puerto Rico. Women who give \$228 or more a year to National Support are recognized as Vital Partners.

SPECIAL PROJECT – ABWM of the Central Region (Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas) have adopted **Rainbow Acres as the 2021-2022 Special Project Recipient**. Founded in 1974, Rainbow Acres is a Christian community with heart that empowers adults with developmental disabilities to live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose. We provide exceptional special needs housing, life-enriching programs, and loving, holistic healthcare in a safe, vibrant, inclusive ranch-style community. We are located in Arizona's scenic high desert of Verde Valley, just 1 ½ hours north of Phoenix and a short drive from Sedona. Our residents, affectionately called Ranchers, live, work, and socialize with their peers in a safe and caring environment. Love, hope, and faith create a community of authentic joy and growth.

ABWM/CR We will be raising \$30,000 to help with this need including the following:

- Upgraded suite of new heavy duty and energy efficient appliances including electric stove/oven, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator, washer, and dryer
- Suite of Great Room furniture including large sofa with durable leather upholstery, dining room table and chairs ensemble to set 12 individuals, glider recliners (4) suitable for physical challenges, flat screen smart TV for entertainment and video/streaming education
- Replace water heaters (4)
- Replace HVAC heat pump

In 2021, WSBC ABWM donated \$50.00 to the Special Project. You can give through the offering plate, online, or send your project money to:

ABWMinistriesCR, c/o Alice Gruber, 1768 K-106, Minneapolis, KS 67467

SPECIAL INTEREST MISSIONARIES – The Central Region **International Special Interest Missionaries 2021-2022** are (<https://www.abwmcr.org/special-interest-missionaries>):

- Juan & Denise Aragon (Mexico)
- Rev. Dr. Dan & Sarah Chetti (Middle East)
- John & Amanda Good (Hungary)
- Drs. Richard & Anita Gutierrez (South Africa)
- Gordon & Lee Ann Hwang (Japan)
- Eric & Yuree Lembke (Thailand)
- Rev. Keith & Debbie Myers (Mexico)
- Larry & Rebecca Stanton (Hungary)
- Emerson & Ivy Wu (Asia)

Send all mail to:
Missionary's Name,
% International Ministries,
1003 W. 9th Ave., Ste A,
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Home Special Interest Missionaries for 2021-2022: Send mail directly to homeland agency

- Betty Martin, Executive Director at Murrow Indian Children's Home (Muskogee, Ok)
- Mang Sonna & Nem, Executive Director of Bethel Neighborhood Center (Kansas City)

WHITE CROSS - White Cross is a program through which American Baptists provide needed

supplies to diversified ministries within the mission program of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and International Ministries. It is essential to the support of the work of both American Baptist Home Mission Societies and International Ministries. It is the joining of mission center workers with local church workers in a united ministry and it is an avenue whereby we as Christians can show our interest in and love for persons of all races and nationalities. White Cross dates back to April 1919 when women in Ohio organized a mission society called the White Cross Service League. Later that year, both International Ministries and AB Home Mission Societies adopted the White Cross Service program and decided to unite the efforts while keeping two divisions, "overland" and "overseas."

- **Overseas White Cross** - Through International Ministries, Overseas White Cross supports the work of our missionaries and our mission partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, the Philippines, and Thailand as they serve in programs of education, evangelism, community service, and medical care. White Cross also goes to support missions in Myanmar, Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Chile, Cuba, Panama, Republic of Georgia, Liberia, Palestine, Romania, and Rwanda. Items requested through Overseas White Cross included roller bandages that are sent to the Congo as well as other handmade items and monetary gifts.
- **Overland White Cross** - Through AB Home Mission Societies, the new Operation Planting Hope (OPH) program, which will continue the tradition of White Cross Overland, will expand ABHMS' reach, providing opportunities for more ABHMS' mission partners to benefit from financial and hands-on support. An innovative model, OPH extends outreach to a wide range of related partners focused on healing and transformation, while streamlining the connection among American Baptist churches and vulnerable communities. It offers a fresh approach for individuals and groups to serve ABHMS' Community Outreach Ministries partners, the Rizpah's Children network, and many other missional entities. It eliminates cumbersome paperwork, mailing and copying, while broadening opportunities for volunteerism.

2021-2023 Ministry Focus: "Let the Walls Fall Down" - In 2019, the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) national board deeply reflected on the Ministry Focus for the next few years. They desired to implement a Ministry Focus that expressed our hopes for ABWM to thrive as a transformational space for spiritual growth and unity. The focus needed to be broad enough to inspire our sisterhood, challenge us to take necessary risks to move forward, and help us grow internally and externally. We wanted our witness in the world to be kingdom-building and life-affirming. We considered our history the need to continue championing women's equity, wellness, and wholeness. In 2019-2021, after prayer, the Ministry Focus was determined to be Sister Seeking Wholeness.



Find more information about ABWM at <https://abwomensministries.org>.

It is my hope to host an **ABWM Sunday on April 24, 2022**, with a guest speaker from ABWM/CR. Please watch for important information.

Your Sister in Christ,
Marianne Spano