

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

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“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)



GREETINGS in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we begin a new year, I am excited about the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed on us by allowing us to see 2009. This is a year of change, a year of hope and many opportunities for ministry. Hold to God's unchanging hand as we step out in FAITH to be the women God has created us to be.

Let us set goals to

strengthen our relationship with God – through prayer and reading our Bible daily; with our families – by spending quality time with each other and with the community – let them see Christ in us as we minister to them.

Our National Coordinator, Minister Carol Shannon, asked us to look ahead with great anticipation and allow God to work in us and through us.

I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve as your PA/DE Church and Community Coordinator for the past three years. My focus has been on advocating for women and children in poverty. I am asking that you continue the

programs you have started. The financial situations are tight for most of us but very traumatic for those living in poverty.

SAVE THESE DATES...

June 5 – 7, 2009 Regional conference at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org))

July 25 – 31, 2009 National Women's Conference at Lake Willamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL ([www.abwministries.org](http://www.abwministries.org))

Please continue to pray for our ministry as we strive to be all that God is calling us to be.

Grace, peace and love are yours in abundance.

Mary

### IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the “home going” of Bernice Woleslagle on Friday, March 6, 2009. Bernice loved her church where she served as Church Treasurer and sang in the choir. She was active in ABWMOPAD for many years and served as the Riverside Association President. Bernice will be missed by all of us in the ABCOPAD region.

## STUDENT LOAN COORDINATOR

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Hard to believe that Christmas break is over for the students and they

have either returned to school or will be shortly. Many of our current student loaners are now in their last semester of their senior year. These are students that began their student loans my first year as Student Loan Coordinator and it doesn't seem possible that these students will soon be graduating and heading in to the work force or continuing their graduate education. We do have a couple of new applicants for the spring semester.

Please keep all our students in prayer as they face another semester. These students are our future church leaders and it is encouraging to see these students striving to reach their education goals.

The ABWMOPAD student loan is available to any full time student that is a member of an American Baptist Church of PA/DE or Philadelphia Association. This loan is available to men and women attending a credited post secondary institution. Information/forms are available at the ABWMOPAD website under the student loan link. If you are unable to access the web, please give me a call or write. Information and application will be sent to you. If you know someone who is

interested in an ABWMOPAD student loan, they should consider applying now. It does take a few months to process a new student loan application. Therefore an application should be in by June if the loan process is to be completed before the tuition bill is due.

Please consider supporting this ministry for our youth by contributing to our Student Loan Tribute Fund. This monetary support is very important to our students, especially with financial aid drying up with the hard economic times. Also, I want to say thank you to all of you who have supported the students financially and in your prayers. *Karol*

*Dear Readers,*

*Thank you for your patience with me this year. As many of you know, it has been a rough 4 or 5 months for my husband and me. Vic, my husband, has had health problems for a number of years, but these past few months have been especially difficult. I began to think that we were living in the hospital—he was actually in the hospital more than he was at home. I was told by one doctor that it was a miracle that he was able to get off life support after his first stay. (He has been hospitalized at least 5 times since Christmas.) Vic is still very weak and not able to do very much except go to doctor's appointments. I can see improvement each day which is a blessing.*

*I was tired (no exhausted), frustrated, scared, angry, worried, and helpless—at least I thought I was helpless. I was going through so much emotionally and wondering constantly, "what's next!" I felt numb and empty inside. Everyday just seemed to blend with another. I couldn't seem to get anything accomplished. I kept telling myself that God was with me and people all over the world were praying for Vic and me, but I was still feeling numb and empty. Then one day, I opened my eyes. I looked around me and realized, that God had me in His arms the whole time. He was carrying me. It was at this point that things started to change. I could feel God's presence. Life has changed for us, but we can enjoy each day that we have together and we can love and laugh and enjoy the beauty of God's creation around us. God is good—God is love—God is Great! Thank you for all your love and prayers. Gaynor*

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# EWE

## Ethel Wheeler Enrichment

Hello to my Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter it is a snowy, blustery day, but I know God will soon be showing signs of new life with crocus, daffodils and tulips peeking from the warming earth. May your hearts also be warmed with new growth as you plan your spring Association Meetings.

We, on the EWE committee, want to provide spiritual, educational, and inspirational retreats and seminars for American Baptist Women of Pennsylvania and Delaware. As you plan your meeting, consider some programs being offered: Chocolate Boutique; Clothes Really do Make the Woman; Forgiveness, Unity and Growth; Know The Heartbeat of God; Potpourri of Prayer; Spiritual Gifts; Stress Management; Tea Time With God, and Water Walking.

At the present time Jean Dunson and Bertha Koeller are planning to present "Tea Time with God" at Chapel Road Baptist Church in Coatesville, Pa. on April 25, 2009. Pastor, Myra Goss and I will present the "Chocolate Boutique" in Gillett Baptist Church on March 28, 2009 for Gillett and Coryland Baptist Churches.

After you have decided on a date, possible topic or emphasis, program length and estimated attendance please contact me at the above numbers or address. I look forward to serving you.

In His Service,  
Rieta

## AB GIRLS—Cindy Martin

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Come to the Edge....The last two years you may have been looking for your Edge. Your Edge may be becoming more involved in your Church – maybe attending Sunday School or attending a small group for the first time. Maybe the Edge for you is beginning to share your talents with others. Or, maybe your Edge is making a decision to look over the Edge for something that is really new and a bit scary. Whatever your EDGE may be, look at the Edge, around the Edge, and over the Edge...that is where we as women are being led to go. A few years ago, when I was asked to prayerfully consider leading the AB GIRLS of PA/DE, I was scared. I thought that I was content with my life and active in our Women and Girls group at church. I was afraid that my edge would CRUMBLE....You know that picture. You are standing looking over and the gravel under your feet begins to loosen and the next thing you know, you are down on the ground, looking at the sky. But guess what, my Edge is stable and secure. I have come to that Edge where I was led and looked around and looked forward. God has led each step for me, even when my own girls and I felt the worst this last year. I have come to the Edge and I am excited to say I am ready to jump off that Edge and see what God wants me to do!!!

Attention all Senior AB GIRLS of our Region. Applications are available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual AB GIRLS Scholarship. Some of the

criteria are you must be an active AB GIRL, accepted to a college, trade school, etc, as well as a written testimony of faith. Contact me for an application or go to the ABCOPAD website. Find the AB Women's section of the site, and the application will be located there. Deadline for applications will be May 1, 2009. Scholarships will be awarded at the PA/DE Women's Conference in June.

Are you and your girls computer savvy? Well, the time is now to get on the web. AB GIRLS of PA/DE will soon be located on Facebook. Encourage your girls and leaders to go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and join this group. National is also located on Facebook. Ideas can be shared, find AB GIRLS that you have met in the Region or Nationally....all this and more.

Houseparty 2009 – come and celebrate 150 year anniversary of First English Baptist Church as well as AB GIRLS Houseparty. Mark these days on your calendar – July 31 – August 2, 2009. It will be a PARTY!!! Complete with fun, workshops, friends, food, and so much more. This year's theme will be "HE Lifts Me Up." This year's mission project is the House of Hope Susquehanna Valley which provides teenagers with the help and encouragement they need to overcome their personal challenges. Additional info will be available soon. Also as a part of our host Church's 150th Anniversary, we are asking the groups to bring any non-

perishable food items, food storage containers, or paper products. The church is collecting 150 items each month for The Food Cupboard at Winona in Bloomsburg.

Do you know of any young women in your church or Association that served on the AB GIRLS of PA/DE Cabinet? Send me their names and addresses. We want these young ladies to come to Houseparty with us this year, lead a workshop if they are interested, mentor and show the present AB GIRLS opportunities for their future.

Cost for Houseparty 2009 are as follows:

Registrations received by June 30 - \$30.00

Registrations received by July 15 - \$35.00

After July 15 - \$45.00

Registration material will be available May 1. Packets will be mailed to all groups as usual. All info will also be available on the ABCOPAD website ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)) or by contacting me ([cingmartin@yahoo.com](mailto:cingmartin@yahoo.com) or 814-882-1558). Take advantage of the early registration fee and register your group early.

Are you in the Edge? Take that final step. Keep your eyes focused on the ultimate prize and you will soar. The opportunities are there....just take that step!!!

Cindy Martin