



Women Word

ABWIM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009

Passion for Ministry

STEERING COMMITTEE
APPOINTED BY THE REV. MARY
HULST TO STUDY NEW
POSSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT
PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IN
MINISTRY



Rev. Mary Armacost Hulst
President ABCUSA
Pastor Emeritus
Calvary Baptist Church, Denver, CO

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*THE REV. MARY ARMACOST
HULST, PRESIDENT ABCUSA*

The title I wrote on the file folder was *AWFUL LETTER*. I filed it in front of the "A" section, so that it would be the first file I saw as I opened that file drawer. It was a reminder to me to work hard for advocacy and support of women in ministry. It is something about which I am passionate.

That letter arrived several days after my installation as Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Denver in 1993. A local paper had written an article about the event. The letter, written by a Baptist pastor in town, who had never met nor heard me, but had read the article, closed by saying, "It is a crying shame that a Baptist church is so spiritually dead, and so unfamiliar with the Holy Bible, The Word of God, that it has allowed you to be it's leader, and pastor. You were no more called of God to pastor that church, than the

devil going to heaven." He signed the letter, "sincerely," which I am sure he was.

Unlike far too many women, I have had few experiences of that nature and have felt incredibly blessed, supported and encouraged on my journey. That letter, however, was a constant reminder to be an advocate for other women struggling to respond to God's call to use their unique gifts in sharing God's love and building God's kingdom. It is that passion that prompted me to say "yes" to our General Secretary, Roy Medley's request of me to give thought to how we might restructure serving our professional women in ministry in ABCUSA.

Continued page 2.....



Rev. Alice Greene
President
Ministers Council



Rev. Lauren Ng
First Chinese Baptist
Ch. San Francisco



Rev. Holly V. Bean
MMBB

Hulst article cont...

Driven by the economic recession, which depleted endowment funds that supported the national program and Executive Director of Women in Ministry office, that position was defunded and a new approach to supporting ABC women needed. I have both respect for Valentine Royal -Thomas who served faithfully in that position and gratitude for her work.

With the blessing of the General Board Executive Committee, I have appointed a small steering committee to get us

started. This number will be expanded, but in order to get a handle on history of this ministry, a study done in 2005, and potential avenues of exploration and need, the following women in ministry will begin a process of exploration. Rev. Holly Bean from MMBB, Rev. Alice Greene, president of Ministers Council, Rev. Lauren Ng, a pastor at First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco and myself. This foursome represents wonderful diversity of age, experience, ethnicity and geography. We will look very quickly for input across the country. We will explore

partnerships with seminaries, and we will explore the writing of case statements for grant funding. American Baptists have been on the forefront of supporting women in ministry. That commitment is still very clear. In these days of transition to a new model, I believe that God calls and uses the gifts of women and men in mission and ministry. Finding a creative model for support, education, encouragement, networking and advocacy is our task.



A Psalm in a Time of Transition

Miriam Therese Winter

Our time is in Your hands, O God, the time of our liberation.
We are filled to the brim with pain as we await Your transforming Word.
Let the wind flow freely at the festival of our spirits.
Tell us that woman's pleas on behalf of women has been heard.
Your time is in our hands, O God, we beg You, delay no longer.
Let the future overlap our breaking with the past.
Let our time be Yours for making miracles among us.
And may it really be, You save the best wine until last.



Come to Orlando! Together In The Lord

A Ministry Renewal Conference

January 4 – 7, 2010

Presented by

The American Baptist Churches
USA
and the Ministers Council

Speakers and Preachers include...

Miroslav Volf (Yale Divinity School)

Shane Claiborne (The Simple Way)

Trinette McCray

Marvin McMickle

Celebrate the Ministry



The Rev. Valentine Royal-Thomas will be honored for her leadership and advocacy of American Baptist Women in Ministry.

Valentine served as Executive Director of American Baptist Women in Ministry from 1994 to 2009.



For more information on workshops and leaders, print out a copy of the new brochure :

<http://www.ministerscouncil.com/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/documents/TITLbro4web.pdf>

For registration and conference schedule visit this link:

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Together%20in%20the%20Lord/TITLinfolpage.aspx>

Scholarship money will be available. Click on the link and follow the instructions below:

www.nationalministries.org/

On the left side bar point to education. Click on Scholarship and Grants. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Tell me more about aid for Ministerial Leaders". click on "Cultivating New Life Grant Application" then follow instructions given there.



Words of Counsel



The Rev. Linda Lea Snyder

Associate Executive
Minister of the
ABC of
Connecticut

*"Our work is not
done—we must
take very seriously
still the work of
advocacy,
education,
encouragement,
speaking a
prophetic voice
even to deaf ears."*

It is not unusual to move into town today as the newly called woman pastor and find that other, sometimes the majority, of congregations in that town are also served by women. Not so 30 years ago when I began pastoral ministry in a small New Hampshire town. There are today more pastoral opportunities for women in ministry, at least Caucasian women of smaller membership congregations. Not so for women of color, or for all women seeking pastorates in larger congregations. (This is the take from the northeast United States; a few ABC regions around the country paint a bleaker picture--still widely known to shun placement of women in pastoral ministry altogether.

So, are things for women in ministry better, or worse? The answer is that the situation is better for some, but certainly not for others. That the economy tanked last fall has not made matters easier; pastorates do

not open up at the same frequency and second staff positions' budgets are being slashed, which women often fill. Another snag: we have been around long enough now that some folks point to mistakes a women pastor has made, attributing the misstep entirely to gender. (I give thanks that here in Connecticut there are outstanding examples of truly gifted women in all kinds of ministry that we can point to. Great models show a truer picture that competence, passion and flare are not related to gender!)

With our national ABC Women in Ministry office diminished, what strategies might we employ at the regional level or individually to better navigate our own search process?

Some of the tried and true strategies remain:

*In seeking placement, **be in touch with ABC regional staff** people prior to graduation to introduce yourself.

Offer, if distance allows, to travel and meet them so that they can have an accurate picture of who you are, and connect your ABPS profile information to a face and voice. In such a meeting, describe your call, the center of your passion, and accomplishments you feel proud of. **Be as positive as possible**; put your best foot forward; show your enthusiasm for the faith and for pastoring.

*If you have experienced trauma, as many of us have, insure that you have sought healing. This helps us to not bring undue anger and frustration into our next situation. Often we will live forever with the hurt we have experienced, but we are better candidates for ministry when we have begun the work of **redeeming the painful parts of our lives**. If we haven't taken a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education to learn what makes us strong or vulnerable, what makes us angry or afraid, we are at risk. Along with our gifts we must make peace

with our fragile places.

***Follow-up.** We might begin our search by contacting by phone the region staff, sending our ABPS profile and cover letter explaining what we are seeking and the particular gifts we bring, and then by making a note to check in by email every couple of weeks or so.

***Keep many irons in the fire.** God can use us in many places, not just those that thrill us at first glance. And, admit it, there will be seasons in our career when work in God's vineyard will be work in God's vineyard. Be ready to consider a call that is not perfect.

***Talk to other women in ministry.** We now have an Old Girls Network. Contact colleagues, tell

them what you are seeking, and explore what they might know of openings. ABPS and Ministry Opportunities Listing (MOL) are fine, but we must often use other venues to be in the know about available positions.

***Pray.** Nothing strengthens us in the practice of ministry or in a search process like a daily and rigorous prayer life. Here we can express the desires of our hearts, share our disappointments and anxieties, listen for a Word from God, and find rest and sustenance in good and difficult days. In praying, we are also reminded that our vocation is rooted in our personal relationship to Christ, not just in the particular ministry we have or do not have at the moment.

***Gather as women in ministry** at the local level. Do this as ABC WIM and ecumenically. Share stories, triumphs, questions, needs. Share worship and prayer, Bible study, beauty and recreational time together.

Do not neglect to encourage each other—in fruitful and in dry seasons. Our work is not done—we must take very seriously still the work of advocacy, education, encouragement, and speaking a prophetic voice even to deaf ears. If we have a formal call in chaplaincy, the pastorate, denomination or academia—let us use whatever platforms these afford to call the church to the increasing justice and blessing all receive when women and men serve equally together.

“Do not neglect to encourage each other in fruitful and dry seasons.”

Rhode Island WIM Meet!



Janice Duerr
Reports!

Area
Women in

Ministry recently gathered in Westerly RI for a time of good food, fun, and fellowship. In addition to women serving in the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, sisters in ministry from ABC of Massachusetts

other denominations, shared in our time together.

Discussion focused on challenges in ministry, especially for single women and women of color. Women are encouraged to network and to support one another through prayer and encouragement. .

A review of the professional directory indicates that of the seventy-five American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island approximately one-fourth are served by Women in Ministry, either in called or interim positions. In addition, there are a number of retirees who are available for pulpit supply.



Those gathered donated a total of 38 lbs. of food to the local food pantry

**A Psalm for Remembering
Women
Miriam Therese Winter**

**Julia, Junia, Mary, Persis,
we remember You.**

For the times you walked the city streets
and ministered to the homeless;
For the times you preached the word of
God;
For the times you opened your home to
others;
For leading the church through its infancy;
For the years you spent in exile
disassociated from your roots.

**Tryphena and Tryphosa,
we remember You.**

For the years you worked hard for the
gospel;
For the times you were excluded from the
community life you cherished;
For the times you gave yourselves to
others;
For the freedom you brought to other
women;

**Sister of Nereus, Mother of Rufus,
we remember You.**

For the women and men you nourished
and nurtured;
For the centuries you were forgotten when
male leaders were remembered;
For having to enter communities now
where nobody knows your name.



Celebrating the Gifts

of

Dr. Ella P. Mitchell and Dr. David Scholer

**Women in Ministry
Biennial Celebration
Pasadena, CA**

American Baptist Women in Ministry
recognized the profound gift of advocacy,
encouragement and hope that Dr. Ella
Mitchell and Dr. David Scholer provided to
women during their ministry. Dr. Henry
Mitchell and Mrs. Jeannette Scholer
received the recognition on behalf of their
spouses.



Pictured above are (left to right):
Dr. Trinette McCray, Dr. Henry Mitchell,
Ms. Joyce Lake and Mrs. Jeannette
Scholer.



Get Connected

Stay Connected

Building community is difficult when we serve all over the world and have such busy schedules and have limited resources. It gets lonely without the support of your fellow clergy women to provide support and leadership. Many of you are fortunate to have a local chapter for Women in Ministry. Join them for support and encouragement. Regional and National Events are excellent ways to meet your Sisters in Ministry. When those ways are not available, join the cyber community to find support, encouragement, continuing education and news.

1. Update your profile with American Baptist Personnel Services.
2. Send your contact information to Joyce Lake, Administrative Assistant for ABWIM. This will assure that you are remembered for conferences, this newsletter and all matters concerning your ministry.

Email: joyce.lake@abc-usa.org

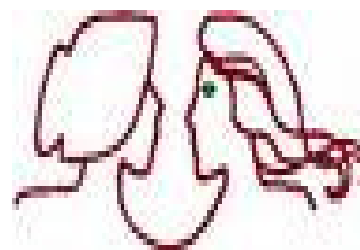
3. facebook and my family

Mary Mild has created two sites for American Baptist Ministry. Become a member of these sites by contacting;

Email: mary_mild@msn.com

4. Send news of your ministry to me as we begin to tell the story of our work and call.

Email: karen_pickler@yahoo.com



Regional Contacts

American Baptist Women in Ministry Groups

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut
Linda Snyder lsnyder@abconn.org

ABC of Indiana and Kentucky
Phyllis Goodyear
phyllisgoodyear@abc-indiana.org

ABC of Rhode Island
Joyce Duerr jbdurr@cox.net

ABC of the Great Rivers
Stephanie Johanpeter
johan37@mchsi.com

ABC of New Jersey
Gina C. Jacobs-Strain wimnj@abcnj.net

ABC of West Virginia
Karen Hargett karha53@gmail.com

ABC of Mid-America
Cheryl Thomas
cheryl_calvarydsm@msn.com
Shirley Pond lilypud66@aol.com

*Please update me with your group and contact numbers.

*If your region does not have a Women in Ministry group...START ONE! Let me know!

karen_pickler@yahoo.com
joyce_lake@abc-usa.org



Janet Chisholm
Peace and Training
Coordinator

Kirkridge Retreat
Center

Yearning for a More Peaceful World?

Yearning for a More Peaceful World? Then plan to attend the three-day workshop "Creating a Culture of Peace," where you will acquire the skills necessary to work actively and nonviolently for personal and community change. The training is highly participatory, drawing upon the wisdom, experience and talents of all the participants and the skills and knowledge of the trainers.

Presented by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

October 9-11, 2009
Park Road Baptist
Church, Charlotte, NC

Who: Any adults who
seek peace

Trainer: Janet Chisholm, Peace & Training Coordinator, Kirkridge Retreat Center

Cost: \$200 for BPFNA
members; \$240 for non-
members

This training provides
a holistic, practical,
spiritually grounded

foundation for active, nonviolent personal empowerment. You will learn skills for respectful engagement with opponents and practice nonviolent confrontation that eliminates polarization and demonizing. You can build a peaceable community.

For more information,
visit us at
www.bpfna.org,
ledayne@bpfna.org,
or 704-521-6051.

Given the global conflicts and the violence around us,

Isn't it time to declare yourself a Baptist Peacemaker?

Join with other individual Baptists from around North America who have dared to declare themselves **PEACEMAKERS** and are working through the network of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America to embody Jesus' beatitude, "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*"

As a member of the BPFNA, you will receive bi-monthly issues of the award-winning journal *Baptist Peacemaker* that will update you on peacemaking in Jesus' name. You will also be supporting the work of a distinctly Baptist voice for peace rooted in justice

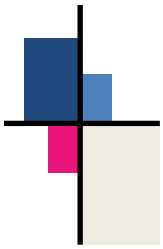
This fall, BPFNA is looking for 1,000 Baptists committed to peacemaking to join us in our movement.

Won't you be one?

To become a member, send a gift of no less than \$40 (and more if you can!) to:
BPFNA, 4800 Wedgewood Dr., Charlotte NC 28210
or visit www.bpfna.org to join online.



Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America



**Two-Week
Conflict Transformation
Training and Training for
Social Action....
January 12-22, 2010
Detroit, MI**

Dan Buttry, along with Daniel Hunter, will offer a two-week conflict transformation training program to be held in Detroit. It will be January 12-22, 2010.

The training will be geared to expanding and refining training and leadership skills in various areas of conflict transformation. It will include the following topics:

- conflict analysis
- conflict styles
- conflict resolution
- mainstream/margins
- communication
- nonviolence
- power
- strategizing
- Reconciliation
- trauma

The workshop will also include a three-day Training for Social Action Trainers (TSAT) that will be open to other participants--perhaps doubling the size of our group for those days. That training will focus on the practice of experiential education where you will also look at designing tools and workshops for your own use. We will also look at adventure-based learning for peace-building training.

**Facilitators
Dan Buttry**

Daniel Hunter of Training for Change

Cost: \$500.00

(includes food and lodging and materials)

Arrive January 11 and depart on January 23.
Contact Dan Buttry, for information and registration. Email: dbuttry@comcast.net

**Fall Harvest:
Imagining a new economy**

Together, we will explore what the Bible says about economics and economic injustice and envision new possibilities for a sustainable economy.

<http://www.gatheringbaptists.ca/Fall/index.html>

Friday, October 23 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Bring your own refreshments to a Soirée at Caldwell Farm.

Saturday, October 24 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Gather for speaker, lunch and panel discussion.

Gary and Merle Caldwell
2464 Concession 2 West
Lynden ON L0R 1T0

Registration:

\$35 (\$25 members) includes Saturday lunch

To facilitate meal and room planning, please register before October 16 by contacting:

Bob Paterson-Watt

registergb@gatheringbaptists.ca

Tel: 416-467-1462

1171 Woodbine Ave. Toronto ON M4C 4E1

Patricia Dutcher-Walls

Associate Dean and Professor of Hebrew Bible at the Vancouver School of Theology, Patricia is a Presbyterian minister active in the church through positions in campus chaplaincy, part-time congregational leadership, preaching, and social ministries.

Marnie Saskin

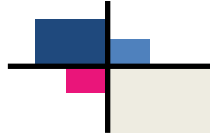
Marnie is interested in urban sustainable living and in particular food security. Marnie coordinates the Woodbine Heights hub of Not Far From The Tree and writes a blog on recraft.

Benjamin Watt

Benjamin is a Commerce graduate of Ryerson University, responsible for research and planning at SIRIUS Satellite Radio Canada. He is a triathlete and a volunteer with Canadian Diabetes Association, Karma Food Co-op and St. Michael's Hospital.

Angela Elzinga Cheng

Angela lives in Junia House, an intentional Christian Community based on new monastic values, in a Toronto neighborhood with her husband, two children, and other community members. She works at FoodShare Toronto which supports food projects and food policy change city wide.



Favorite Resources

Wayne E. Oates Institute

oates.org

The Wayne E. Oates Institute is a learning community advancing collaborative, compassionate, and integrative care. Our membership consists of professional and lay caregivers in the fields of religion, nursing, pastoral care and counseling, medicine, social work, and therapy. We accomplish our mission through education, publication, and research and make our resources available locally, nationally, and internationally on the Internet.

Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School

faithandleadership.com

Spirituality and Practice

spiritualityandpractice.com

Faith Streams Network

faithstreams.com

Margaret Marcuson Leadership Circle

margaretmarcuson.com

Speaking of Faith with Krista Tippett

speakingoffaith.publicradio.org

WATER: The Women's Alliance for Theology Ethics and Ritual

hers.com

Alabaster Jars: Women of the Bible and History

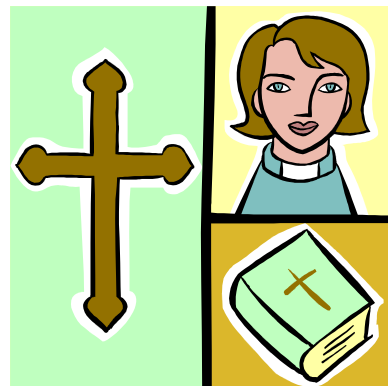
alabaster-jars.com

Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, Inc.

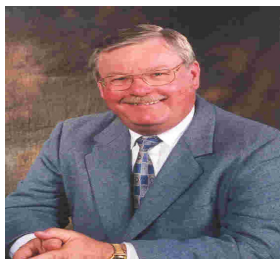
rcwms.org

As Women who follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we are compelled by His love, commanded by His Word and gifted by His spirit to share this gospel with those who have not seen or heard the salvation of our God. Therefore, we will radiate His light into the dark corners of women's experience; we will bear His life to those who are dying; We will share our bread with those who are hungry; We will declare His promise of resurrection to those who are powerless; We will bring affirmation to those who do not know they are made in the image of God.

1992 Baptist World Alliance



Ministers Council Senate Meets at Green Lake



**Report from
Rev. Joe Kutter**

The 2009 meeting of the American Baptist Ministers Council Senate was held at the American Baptist Assembly in Green Lake, Wisconsin August 15-18. The mission of the Ministers Council as an organization of Christian leaders within the ABCUSA who advocate for and covenant with one another to deepen their spiritual journey and their professional effectiveness was rehearsed and celebrated. Recognizing the nature of this community, the senate discussed applying the principles of the Community of Practice model advanced by Etienne Wenger to the networks of ministers represented in the Council. The Rev. Dr. Joe Kutter, the Acting Executive Director of the Ministers Council, reported that he has and will continue to meet with local councils throughout the country to provide training in this model. Pointing to its historic support for colleagues without regard to gender, the senate voted to establish a taskforce to continue its advocacy for women in ministry.

In other business, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Savage of Springfield, Oregon was elected to a four-year term as President.



Rev. Dr. Mark Savage

The Revs. Margaret Marcuson of Portland, Oregon, Shakespeare Osorio of Chicago, Illinois, and Dr. Thomas Gilmore of Cleveland, Ohio were elected Vice Presidents of Spiritual & Personal Wholeness, Membership & Constituency, and Denominational Relationships respectively.



**Rev. Margaret Marcuson
VP of Spiritual and Personal
Wholeness**



**Rev. Shakespeare Osorio
VP of Membership and
Constituency**



**Rev. Dr. Thomas Gilmore
VP of Denominational
Relationships**

The Rev. Dr. Michael Sayler of Colorado Springs, Colorado was appointed to serve as the of Minister Magazine.

The Ralph Garfield Schell Award, presented annually to the clergyperson who best exemplifies the values of the Ministers Council, was received this year by the Rev. Rick Harris of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Harris was nominated by the Rev. Jamie Munro, Executive Director of Interim Ministries for ABCUSA. Harris is retiring at the end of September after serving 26 years in the pastorate and 13 years as the Director of the American Baptist Personnel Services of National Ministries.



Rev. Richard Harris

Ralph Garfield Schell Award



*“We covenant
together
to deepen our
spiritual
journeys
and to increase
our effectiveness
as leaders in
Christ’s
church.”*



Endings and New Beginnings

or, Lord, What's Next?

Rev. Carolyn Piper, M.Div, LSW Fellow: AAPC

This morning I packed a box of material that represented my past four years as president of the Ministers Council for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors. It went to the next president, our Editor, the Reverend Karen Pickler who is a hospital/hospice chaplain on Long Island, NY. I have had many endings and I have found they are also the path to new beginnings, even when I did not know what or when or where. I remember being courted for this position by Dr. George Langhorne, then the Endorsing Officer and Shepherd for chaplains and pastoral counselors. This was such a good ministry for me. I thought it could also be a fitting way to serve my colleagues, since I was present when the group first pondered the idea under Dr. Jack Gleason's guidance. He was our Shepherd and EO in 1987. Little did I realize all that would happen and the leadership the group would need.

A scholarship was established to honor Jack when he left to return to hospital chaplaincy, but no guidelines were in written form. That was the topic of my first meeting. Thanks to the help of several members, guidelines were established that detail the requirements so endorsees can apply for financial support and earn continuing education or academic credits to better equip them for ministry. Things went well until George was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and went on medical leave. Plus the long-time support person retired, and there was no one with a corporate memory in the C & PC office. So, I prayed for George and pondered my role. I am a volunteer – not NM staff. But I knew that “new occasions teach new duties.”

NM appointed new staff to maintain the endorsing responsibilities, and I appointed myself the keeper of corporate memory. My efforts were well received, and we worked well together in maintaining our ABC visibility in chaplain and pastoral counselor organizations. In addition, I attended to my primary responsibility and kept the endorsees informed of all the changes and inviting their cooperation. This was my primary focus for almost two years until a new Endorsing Officer/

Shepherd was appointed. Now my term has ended, and a new set of officers are installed. My colleagues are in good hands, but what's next for me continues to be my question.

I am well aware of the seasons of life, but are they still true at age 81? God has given me health, energy, interest, ability and a loving community. I am waiting for the time when I will know my next ministry, but maybe this will be like my pre-seminary days – being a volunteer and this time being thankful for my monthly MMBB annuity checks. Even so, which invitation shall I accept or does it matter? I have had so many wonderful opportunities, and I call myself a “recycled old woman.” My neighbor is 92, and she is studying to renew her RN credentials. I have renewed my LSW license and will maintain my Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, but that is another ending. So my pondering and waiting continue, and by God's grace I'll know what's next.



Rev. Carolyn Piper

*What we call the
beginning is often
the end, and to
make an end is to
make a beginning.
The end is where
we start from....*

T. S. Eliot

*Extract from Four
Quartets.*



ONE PASTOR'S STORY

Donna Colletti Lowre

I am a child of God, a woman, mother, wife, minister, actress, singer, teacher, and seeker of God's Truth. These are the many titles I wear and the gifts that have been given me. I believe that we all have God given gifts and bring them to all we do. My writing *In Her Own Voice* comes from all my faith and life experiences.

My first recollection of faith and call is when I was five years old lying in bed to say my prayers. I was afraid of the dark, but when I closed my eyes, I could feel and "hear" someone or something that embraced me with love and called me to follow. I was Catholic, but my family did not go to church together except sometimes on Christmas and Easter. But, I loved going to church and would walk by myself or with a friend. At seven I remember asking my father if he could take me to church for High Mass with Father *King*. I loved the smell of the incense, the sound of the bells and seeing the beautiful colors all around. It was all very regal, very mysterious and majestic for this future thespian. (I found out later the priest's name was Father *Kane*).

I left the Catholic Church very angry when I was 19. I then began my spiritual journey as a philosophical student and atheist. I later worshipped in the Native American culture and Self Realization Fellowship (a Hindu/Christian path where I learned to meditate and "Be Still" to be with God). Jesus and I found each other again when I was pregnant with my daughter, and His wayward disciple came home again.

I now understand that while I thought that I had always been searching for God, God was seeking me and was the one speaking to me all those years ago. Through different signs God was letting me know I was loved and cared for and that She or He was watching over me—that She or He knew me "in the womb" and called my name many years ago.

When I began in depth study of Scripture, I discovered *The Women*. I really *saw* my ancient mothers and sisters of great faith and courage. I wanted to tell their stories, and what could be their back-stories as real people. I wanted to bring them to life so that my modern sisters could see themselves in these fascinating disciples of God. I have always loved Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with her I began *In Her Own Voice*.

"What does God require of us? To do justice, to love and be kind and to walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8



In Her Own Voice

*Written and Performed by
Pastor Donna Coletti Lowre*

A one-woman play (with song and dance) that gives distinctive voice to named and unnamed women in the scripture. Donna was a professional actress, singer and director before she answered God's call and entered seminary in 2004. She has performed many roles from Shakespeare to commercials; in theater, TV and film; in New York, L.A. regionally and in Europe. Donna is bringing "In Her Own Voice" to churches, retreats and conferences.

What audiences are saying about "In Her Own Voice":

"Breathtaking! Donna brings these women to life; their faith, struggle and power."

"Fantastic! And she sings like an angel."

**Contact Donna at 802-592-3015 or
Email: dancingspirit@fairpoint.net**



WomenWord

Rev. Karen Pickler, BCC
Editor

karen_pickler@yahoo.com

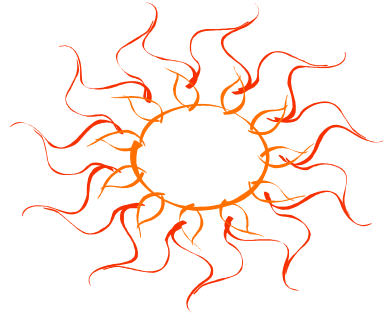
WomenWord is an e-newsletter for American Baptist Women in Ministry. These pages will tell the story of our ministries, celebrate our accomplishments, provide news of denominational interest, list resources and opportunities for continuing education and provide nourishment for your soul.

Send me
your story of ministry,
comments,
feedback,
transitions,
news items
and inspiration.

Be sure to include your contact information and pictures if they are available.

The Seven Steps of Morning

A Meditation Upon Waking
Joyce Rupp



First Step is Gratitude
for the gift of another fresh day of life.

Second Step is Love
for the Holy One and for all of my dear ones.

Third Step is Hope
for the possibility of growth in each moment.

Fourth Step is Compassion
for all of creation and our deep connection.

Fifth Step is Generosity
for all that shall be asked of me this day.

Sixth Step is Laughter
for all the joys that will refresh my heart.

Seventh Step is Patience
for the difficult challenges that may arise.

Giver of Life, awaken my entire being so that I can enter this day with the eagerness of one who sees beauty and truth strewn through every part of life. Deepen my bond with you and strengthen my peace. Amen