

Central Region Life

AUGUST 2025

NEW PASTORS INSTALLED

In This Issue:

4Ten Mission Trip
Annual Gathering 2025
Salina Rescue Mission
Women in Ministry Lunch
Senior Adult Retreat 2026
The Rhythm of Seasons
Paulsen's 60th Anniversary
Planned Giving
Prayer Emphasis
RISE Youth Conference
Women in Ministry News
National ABWM News
4Ten Applications Open
VantagePoint 3- Way of Life
World Mission Offering
MPYC 2026

The Central Region, along with First Baptist Church of Garden City, Kansas and First Baptist Church of Ottawa, Kansas were overjoyed to welcome two new pastors to the Central Region, celebrated with an installation service. The last weekend of July was a busy weekend, filled with celebration.

Rev. Steven Mills was installed as pastor at First Baptist Church of Garden City on Saturday, July 26, 2025. Pastor Steven Mills has devoted his life to ministry from an early age, beginning as a gifted pianist in churches throughout Topeka and Wichita. His passion for worship and evangelism led him to serve in the worship department at Victory City Church in Topeka, later becoming the Minister of Music and Evangelism at Love Fellowship Church. In 2019, he was called to New Life Baptist Church in Topeka, where he faithfully served as Director of Music and Media Ministries. Pastor Mills also contributed his musical talents to First Baptist Church in Hutchinson before receiving a divine call to pastoral leadership, where he continues to lead with vision, compassion, and a heart for God's people.

Rev. Joy Martinez- Marshall was installed as pastor of First Baptist Church of Ottawa on Sunday, July 27, 2025. Joy grew up in The Colony, TX. She holds a B.A. in Religion from Baylor University and a M.Div. from George W. Truett Theological Seminary. In Waco, TX where she served as a Student Life Minister. Before serving at FBC Ottawa, Joy pastored in Lincoln, NE where she served as the Vice President of the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County. Joy is on the Board of Directors for Baptist Women in Ministry. She is committed to helping the local church partner with what God is already doing in the neighborhood while encouraging creative ministry.



2025 ANNUAL GATHERING

The 2025 American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR) Annual Gathering is scheduled to take place at First Baptist Church of Salina, Kansas. The theme for this year's gathering is "Together at the Table" with our theme verse coming from Luke 14: 12-15.

The keynote speaker at this year's Annual Gathering is Rev. Jacqueline "Jackie" L. Saxon. Jackie currently serves as the Executive Minister for Mid-American Baptist Churches (MABC) and resides in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in administration, pastoral care, financial management, preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

In the next few pages you will find an in-depth biography for Rev. Saxon, a schedule of events, hotel and lodging options in Salina, and an invitation to join others for the Women in Ministry lunch following the gathering on Saturday. You will also find a list of items for the mission project. This year's mission project is for the Salina Rescue Mission. There are paper and online registrations for individual registrations as well as childcare registrations.

Please look for information about workshops and other details in the coming weeks. We look forward to the fellowship and spiritual growth this gathering will bring. Plan ahead, register now, and secure your accommodations early.

**Links to online Individual
and Childcare Registration**

**Individual
Registration**

**Childcare
Registration**



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF THE CENTRAL REGION

Annual Gathering 2025

September 26-27, 2025

First Baptist Church of Salina

TOGETHER AT THE TABLE

"You'll be—and experience—a blessing"

Luke 14: 12-15

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Jacqueline Saxon



Rev. Jacqueline “Jackie” L. Saxon grew up in Rochester, New York, and was nurtured in the faith by the members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, where she was baptized at the age of 12. She attended Howard University and received a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Banking. She began her career as a Financial Analyst at IBM in Endicott, New York, and was soon transferred to Austin, Texas, where she became an Advisory Financial Analyst. While working for IBM, she contemplated attending seminary and pursuing a life in ministry. It was a seed planted in her youth while attending the New York State Girls Guild Conference (now known as ABGirls) every summer and nurtured as an adult by active membership as a layperson in ABCUSA churches in New York and Texas.

After much prayer, discernment, and 12 ½ years of work experience, Jackie resigned from IBM and enrolled as a full-time student and Presidential Scholar at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. While she was a seminarian, University Baptist Church of Austin called her to be their Associate Pastor and promptly ordained her in 2001 upon graduation. Contrary to popular belief there really are American Baptist Churches in Texas. She served as their Associate Pastor for eight years when Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary invited her to be the Admission Counselor Recruiter, which led to becoming the Vice President for Student Affairs and Vocation, which she served in that capacity for a total of eight years before resigning in March of 2017.

She once described herself as “swimming in waters that were not her own as a ‘Bapti-method-terian’” because she found herself in the company of not only Baptist congregations but Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, preaching, teaching, and leading workshops. She is a gifted leader with proven competencies in Administration, Pastoral Care, Financial Management, Preaching, and public speaking, to name a few. Her colleagues and friends greatly appreciate her creativity, humor, imagination, teamwork, and collegiality.

In May 2017, she walked the Way of St. James, also known as the Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile Pilgrimage that starts in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and ends in Santiago de Compostela, located on the northwest coast of Spain. In the last two years, she has completed this pilgrimage twice, and the coastal route that starts in Portugal. She wrote a book about her experiences on the Camino, which has recently been published, entitled: *Tales from the Trail: Keeping it Real on the Camino de Santiago—One African American Woman’s Quest for Clarity*.

In October 2018, she was called to be the Executive Minister for the Mid-American Region of Iowa and Minnesota. She says that she traded one capital city for another. She now resides in the Des Moines, Iowa, area and is learning all about the Midwest. She is delighted to have the opportunity to serve the Iowa and Minnesota ABCUSA church family in this capacity.

Rev. Dr. Wallace Smith and Jackie have been friends since serving together at ABCUSA National Youth Gatherings held at Estes Park, Colorado in the 1990s and 2000s.

2025 ANNUAL GATHERING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2025

Thursday, September 25

- 3:00 PM** Minister's Council Executive Meeting at FBC Salina
- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 6:30 PM** Business Meeting and Worship

Friday, September 26

- 8:30 AM** Registration Begins at First Baptist Church Salina
- 9:30 AM** Session #1
- 11:00 AM** Lunch
- 11:45 AM** ABW & AB Men Meetings
- 1:15 PM** Session #2: Keynote Speaker- Jackie Saxon
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** Workshop Session #1
- 4:15 PM** Workshop Session #2
- 5:45 PM** Dinner
- 6:45 PM** Session #3: Speakers- 4TEN Students, Alaska Mission Trip
- 8:00 PM** Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 27

- 7:00 AM** Camping Conversation and Refreshments
- 8:00 AM** Registration Continues at First Baptist Church Salina
- 8:30 AM** Devotion
- 9:00 AM** Business Meeting
- 9:30 AM** Session #4: Keynote Speaker - Jackie Saxon
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** Worship & Communion
- 11:30 AM** Journey Home
- 12: 15 PM** Women in Ministry Lunch

HOTELS & LODGING

There are many lodging options in Salina. You can choose between a large selection of hotels, bed and breakfasts, and Airbnb or VRBO options. You can find a list of hotels in order from closest to furthest from the church below.

Homewood Suites Downtown- 1.6 miles

115 E. Mulberry St. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-2600

Baymont by Wyndham- 2.5 miles

1740 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6900

Sleep Inn & Suites- 2.5 miles

1820 W. Crawford Salina, KS 67401
785-826-1711

Days Inn South- 2.8 miles

632 Westport Blvd.
785-827-9315

Candlewood Suites- 3.0 miles

2650 Planet Ave. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-6939

Quality Inn & Suites- 3.1 miles

2110 W. Crawford
785-825-211

Country Inn & Suites- 3.2 miles

2760 S. Ninth St. Salina, KS 67401
785-827-1271

Book with Airbnb

www.airbnb.com

Fairfield Inn by Marriott- 3.3 miles

2455 Virginia Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-515-5333

Holiday Inn- 3.8 miles

3145 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-404-6767

Hampton Inn & Suites- 3.8 miles

401 W. Schilling Rd. Salina, KS 67401
785-823-9800

Courtyard by Marriott- 3.9 miles

3020 Riffel Dr. Salina, KS 67401
785-309-1300

Hilton Garden Inn- 4.2 miles

3320 S. Ninth Salina, KS 67401
785-309-0440

Best Western Inn & Suites- 4.3 miles

745 W. Schilling Rd.
785-493-9800

Super 8 by Wyndham- 4.4 miles

705 W. Schilling Rd.
785-404-2771

Book with Vrbo

www.vrbo.com

2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering Individual Registration Form

September 25, 2025 - Ministers Council Meeting and Dinner
September 26-27, 2025 Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church of Salina, 843 Lewis Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

First and Last Name* _____

Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag

Phone* _____ **Email*** _____

example@example.com

Address* _____

City* _____ **State*** _____ **Zip*** _____

Are you a delegate from your church? * Yes ☐ No ☐

Church Name* _____ **City*** _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Individual Registration \$65 **(Includes dinner for Friday night)**

MEALS

Thursday Ministers Council Dinner: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Cookie

Friday Lunch: Soup and Salad

Friday Dinner: Pasta Bar

Choose Your Meals

- ☐ Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Free)
- ☐ Thursday Clergy and Spouse Dinner (Non-Clergy) \$15
- ☐ Friday Lunch \$10
- ☐ Friday Dinner **Included with registration**
- ☐ Saturday Morning Camping Conversation with Refreshments \$5

Dietary Restrictions

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Diabetic

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering Childcare Registration Form

September 26-27, 2025 Annual Gathering
First Baptist Church of Salina, 843 Lewis Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Please complete a separate registration form for each person

Child's Name* _____

Child's Age* _____ Child's Grade* _____

Address* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

Church Name* _____ City* _____

Parent's Name* _____

Phone Number* _____ Email* _____
example@example.com

Emergency Contact Name* _____

Emergency Contact Phone* _____ Relationship to Child* _____

Childcare Registration

☐

Childcare for Friday– \$50

Friday childcare will be provided from 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM, lunch and dinner are included in the cost of childcare. Childcare will not be provided during dinner or the evening session.

☐

Childcare for Saturday– \$12

Saturday childcare will be provided from 8:00 AM- 12:00 PM, no meals are provided.

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

MEDICAL

Allergies

Consent for Emergency Medical Care for a Minor: By signing this form, I hereby authorize the Kansas Baptist Convention, Inc. also known as the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region and First Baptist Church of Salina, Ks to consent to any medical care and treatment for my child that is recommended by a licensed healthcare provider to whom the Child is presented for treatment. To ensure that the Child receives prompt medical care and treatment, when necessary, I hereby release any licensed health care provider providing medical care to the Child in reliance of this form from liability relating to such provider's acceptance of my substitute caregiver's consent.

If you consent, sign your name here: _____

I, the undersigned individual, grant American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABCCR located at 5889 SW 29th St, Topeka, Kansas, and First Baptist Church of Salina, KS the perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free right and license to: Record my participation and appearance on digital or film photography, video, audio or any other medium. Use my name (or any fictional name), likeness, voice, and biographical material and information in connection with these recordings to be used only in or for ABCCR written, electronic and web publications, including social media and apps to be used for the promotional material, multimedia and publication purposes of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. To Reproduce, distribute, publicly display, and/or publicly perform, in print, electronic, or any other medium, copies of the recordings, in whole or in part. Grantor represents that he or she possesses all rights necessary to grant this permission for and in connection. I am voluntarily making this grant of rights. I further agree to release and forever discharge ABCCR, its agents, employees, and designated representatives from any and all claims in law or equity that I, my heirs, or personal representatives have or shall have arising out of recordings. I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above and have the legal authority to execute the above release. I approve and waive any rights in this release.

If you consent, sign your name here: _____

Is there anything else we need to know?

Registration and Checks can be sent to ABCCR: 5889 SW 29th St. Topeka, KS 66614

SALINA RESCUE MISSION

MINISTRY PROJECT ITEMS



TOILET PAPER

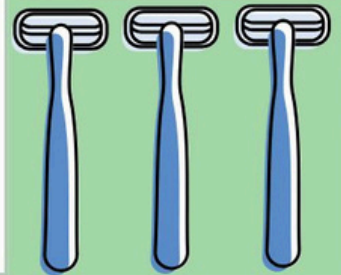
Possible Brand Options:

Angel Soft, Cottonelle, Charmin, Scott

DISPOSABLE RAZORS

Possible Brand Options:

BIC, Shick, Gillette



MEN'S JEANS

Any size

Greater need for smaller sizes- 30 -36 waist

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

Preferred Brand:

Free and Clear



For the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering mission project, we will be collecting the items above to donate to the Salina Rescue Mission.

Salina Rescue Mission offers programs to **Rescue and Restore** lives by sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, while also providing shelter, employment, New Life program, medical and mental health services, and street outreach. Each program is personalized to meet individual needs and encourages a relationship with the Lord.

ABCCR WOMEN IN MINISTRY LUNCH

September 27, 2025
12:15 PM

Please plan to join other women in ministry for lunch
after the 2025 ABCCR Annual Gathering.

Location of lunch will be shared at a later date.

Email Nancy Killingsworth to RSVP :
nancyjsnyder@gmail.com

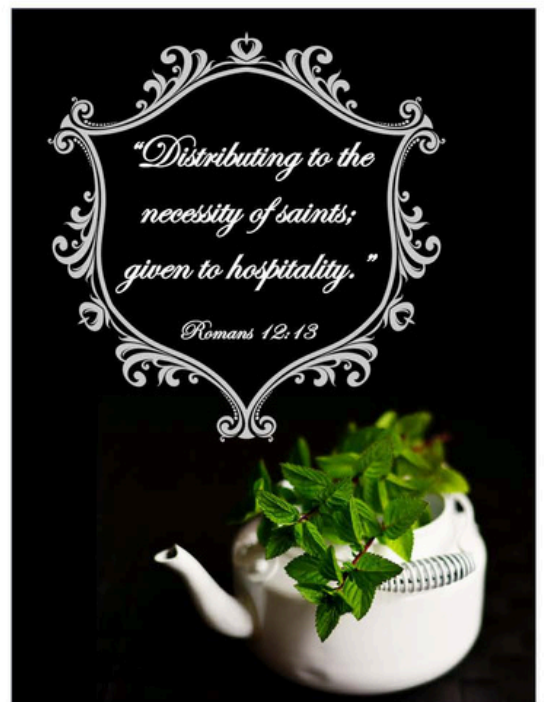
SR. ADULT RETREAT 2026

SAVE THE DATE
April 22-23
Milton Baptist Church

Put this information on your calendar
now. You won't want to miss this
event.

Wholly Holy Hospitality

More details will be shared soon!



THE RHYTHM OF SEASONS

REV. MELISSA NEWBERRY, ABCCR EVENT COORDINATOR

The one who penned Ecclesiastes reminds us that to everything there is a season and purposes under heaven, here on this earth. One of my favorite meteorological seasons is fall. Granted, while this particular time in the Midwest differs from those on various continents, the arrival of such is inevitable. There is really no debate as to whether it will arrive or not. In due time and with a non-restricted approach, seasons will, in fact, change. That is the rhythm our Creator set into motion, and it has not varied from its commencement.

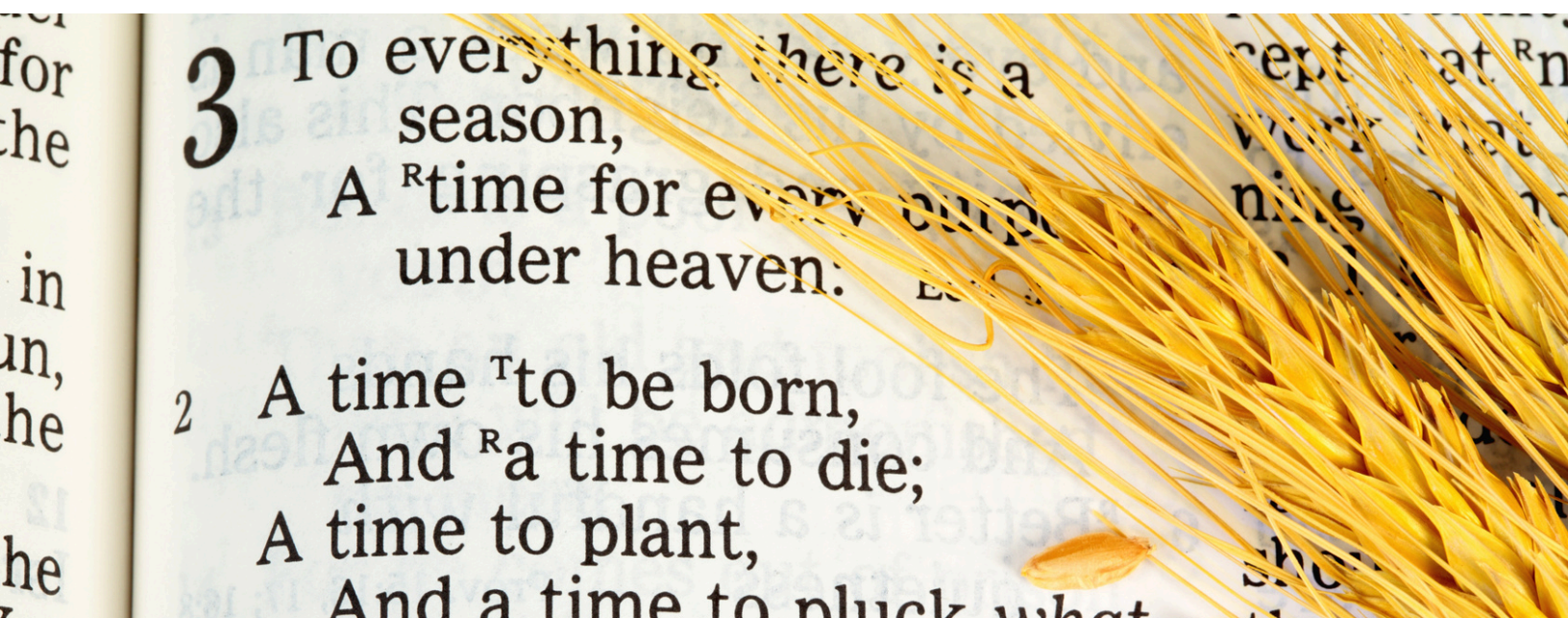
With each passing year, and with the opportunity to peruse what I have experienced during my lifetime, I have discovered that life can be marked by seasons as well. Granted, it may not mimic the pattern of nature. Yet, there is something to be learned from this truth that can serve as mile markers for our journey.

Perhaps the first aspect in recognizing such is to recognize such. This is great exercise for reflection, lessons learned, and experiences acquired. Doing so can create a space for God to unveil answers to questions you almost forgot that you had asked. This can also be a productive tool if you are looking for a way to measure your spiritual growth and see God's presence tucked in the middle.

The second aspect in recognizing such is to realize that seasons have their own timetable. Whether it is something of your own choosing, or something that choose you, all take on a different pattern and two are never identical. This is where God meets us, where Christ is our companion and where the Holy Spirit can do some of the most transformative work.

The third aspect in recognizing such is to realize that the arrival of a new season is rarely within our ideal timeframe. Oh, how life would have turned out distinctly different if somehow, we could truly decide the who, what, where and when. And within that, we would never experience the value of it truly being worth the wait. We would also never come to a place where we trusted more in who God is than what God can do for us or others.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, I would invite you to pause and consider the movement of our lives through the lens of seasons. I would also invite you to inquire of the Lord where and how He has been at work in the everyday rhythm of your life. And finally, I would invite you to pay attention to the reliable pattern of spring, summer, fall and winter as an everlasting promise of God's unwavering faithfulness.



WAYNE AND JULIE PAULSEN'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The family of Wayne and Julie Paulsen invite you to join them in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of their marriage. They were married at Prairie Baptist Church in Overland Park, Kansas, on August 15th, 1965. If you are geographically close in the area, we invite you to attend a reception on August 16th from 2-4 p.m. at Prairie Homestead, 1605 W. May St. in Wichita, Kansas, where they have been living for the past 7 years. The reception will be held in the main building's Garden Room.

If time and/or distance prohibit you from attending, we kindly ask if you would participate in a card shower for them. You may send a card to the above address in care of them or at their private address:

Wayne & Julie Paulsen
1613 W. May St., Apt. 4
Wichita, KS 67213

Thank you for your friendship with them through the years, either past or present, as you have been a support and comfort to them. They often speak of the churches where they served and the many fond memories they have. They will be thrilled to hear from you!



PLANNED GIVING

HELPING YOU TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,
REV. TIM SCHWARTZ
KBCF DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING
913-424-9939 / 785-272-7622
TIMMANS39@GMAIL.COM
TIM.SCHWARTZ@ABCCR.ORG

When August rolls around for many of us we think about going back to school, especially if you are a grade school, middle school or high school student or the parents of one of them. Maybe you are going to college, graduate school or even technical school? A lot of students, no matter their age, get excited about going back to school. But for some this year, they will not be going back to school, especially if they were students at Bacone College. On their official website, it says that they will not be enrolling students until further notice.

Bacone College has been a part of the central region and the Kansas plan for a long time, and it has also been a place that an annuitant could choose to send the remainder amount from their gift annuity to provide funding support to the school. That is why I am writing this article now.

I think it is important that we take a moment to look at the history of this pioneering and transformative college that has educated, touched and changed the lives of many over the past 140 plus years.

Bacone was founded in 1880 as the Indian University, by missionary Almon C. Bacone. It began with three students in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The Muskogee Nation granted 160 Acres in 1881 for the college's permanent location. John D Rockefeller provided funding through a donation to erect the first building on the campus there in 1885. The building was named Rockefeller Hall, in honor of him and his family's gift.

Twenty-five years later, in 1910, the institution was renamed Bacone College to honor its founder, Mr. Almon Bacone. In 1935, the college established the school of Indian Art. It became a significant center for Native American art, that has been led by such prestigious directors as Acee Blue Eagle, Woody Crunbo, Terry Saul, Ruthe Blalock Jones, Tony Tiger & Michael Elizondo Jr.

Bacone College has had partnerships with several Oklahoma tribes, including the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Osage Nation, and Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. It has had a long-standing commitment to serving Native American students throughout its history.

In recent years it has also shared another commitment to educate students from other countries that have settled here in the Midwest, especially those from the country of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

Some of you who are reading this are former students, faculty and staff of this beloved Institution. Some of you are alumni of the school and others might be former financial supporters, volunteers and prayer partners for the college. You have been a part of the Bacone College family for many years and it is important to honor and acknowledge that!

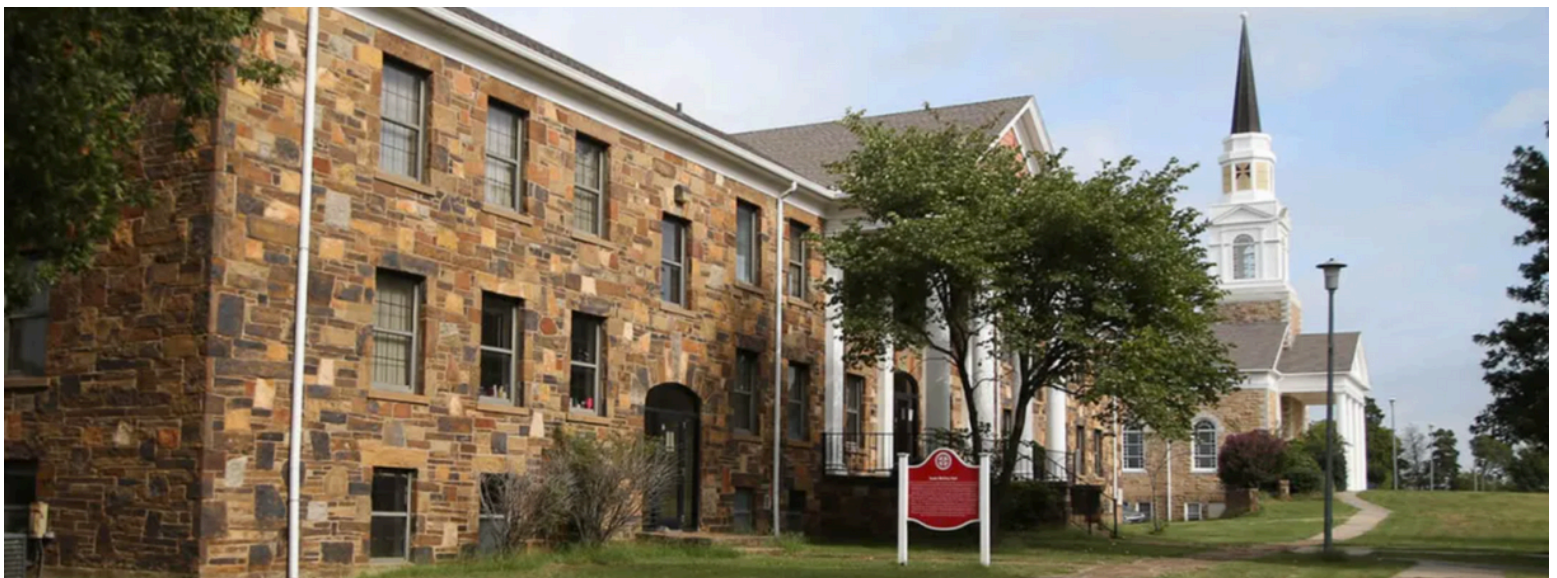
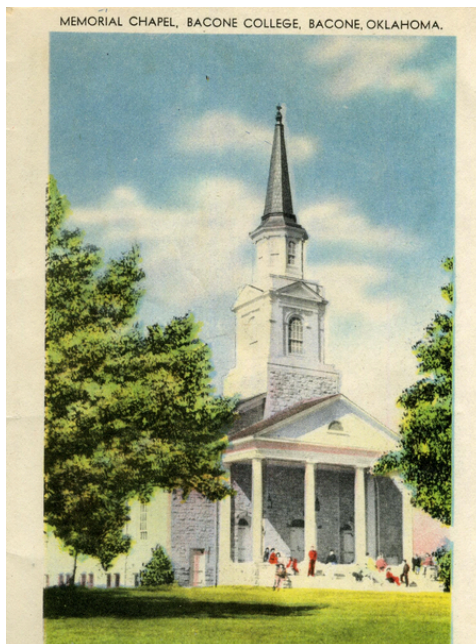
My own connection with Bacone College came not as a student, alumni, or staff person, but as a volunteer. When I served at Bethel Neighborhood Center, 15 years ago this spring, the program director, Rakmi Shaiza, and I led a group of middle school and junior high students to serve as volunteers for a few days there, during the Spring Break of 2010. It was shortly before that time they had bought the motel there and turned it into a dormitory for their students. Our group of around 15 students stayed there while we were volunteering. What did we get to do, you ask? We helped out with a variety of cleaning and maintenance projects, but the main work that we did was scraping all of the metal frame, stairwells and steps on the building. Then we followed up by giving those areas a fresh coat of paint. And if my memory serves me well, we also painted lines in the parking lot as well.

Our students had a great time, just getting out of Kansas City, Kansas, and getting to know each other better, working together as a team and sharing times of prayer, devotions and reflections on each day that we were there.

I remember how hospitable, welcoming and gracious the staff and workers were there and I felt like they had opened their community to us and welcomed us into their family! I think and hope that it was a life-changing trip for many of our students. That spiritual and Christian connection began then but continues even now today.

There will be more to come in this continuing story, so we wait and pray. If you wish to share a personal story about your connection to Bacone College, please come over and visit with me at the Kansas Baptist Convention Foundation table at the Annual Gathering in Salina, and I will be delighted, eager and interested in your stories.

If you are interested in funding a charitable gift annuity with the foundation, for as little as a thousand dollars, please contact me about that and I will be happy to help you in that process. There are a myriad of mission partners, institutions, missionaries, offerings and mission centers that you can direct your remainder amount to, when your time on earth is completed. If you have any other questions about an annuity that you have already funded as well, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do my very best to provide you with an answer.



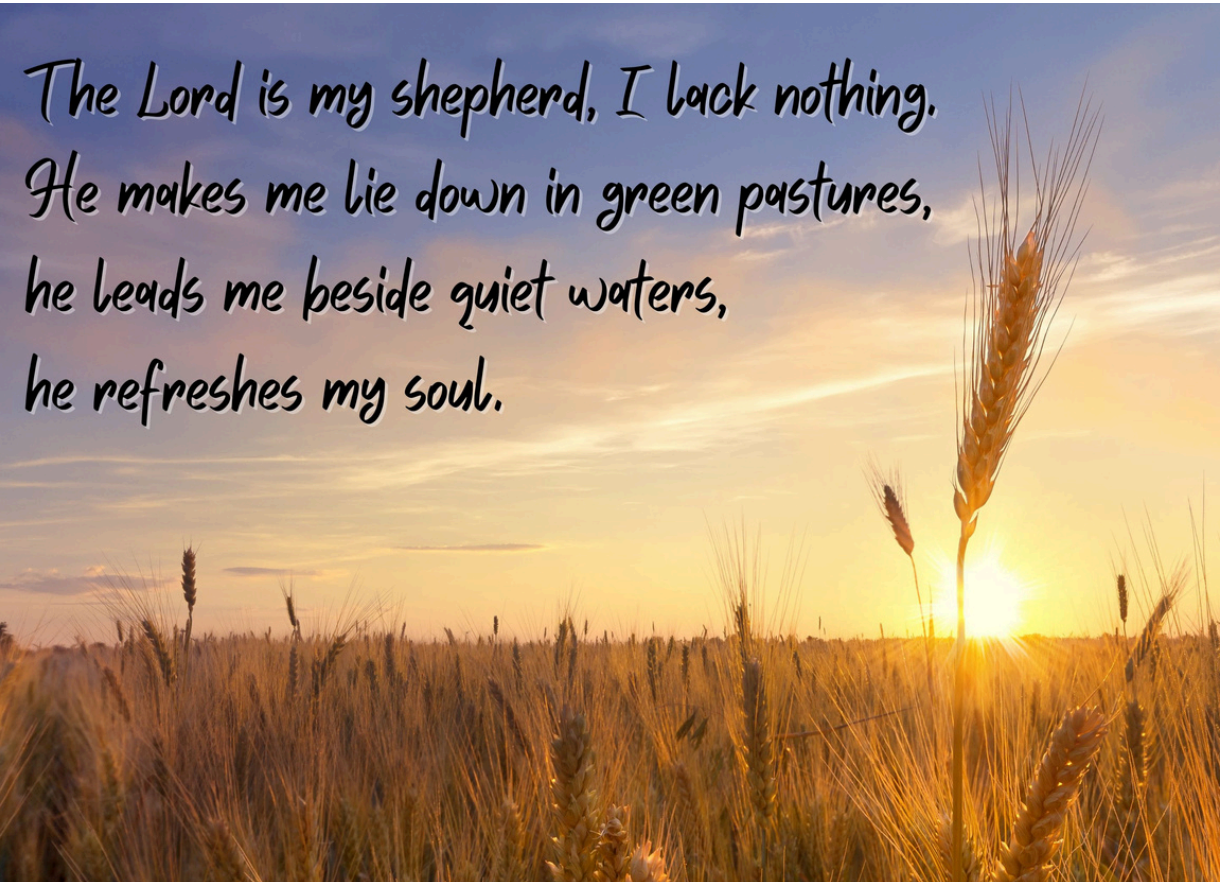


In this new month of August, let us pray for our Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Gregg LJ Hemmen, as he prepares to go on sabbatical at the end of this month.

First, let us offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for Gregg's seven years of ministry so far in the Central Region. Let us also thank God for the many aspects of Gregg's life including honesty, integrity, humility, wisdom, faith, and leadership.

Might we ask Jesus to guide and direct Gregg during this time away so that he might receive spiritual renewal, rejuvenation, and refreshment. Let's also pray that the Lord would bless all of Gregg's family and help Gregg to be an even better husband, father, son, brother, and family member.

As he receives this sacred and special time away, let us pray that the Holy Spirit would give Gregg new insight, wisdom and understanding during this reflective and quiet sabbatical journey. May Gregg experience what David wrote about in the 23rd psalm—" he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. " Psalm 23: 2b--3a (NIV)



*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.*



RISE YOUTH **2025**

ISAIAH 40:28-31

SEPTEMBER 7th
4-9pm



First Baptist Church Olathe
2024 E 151st St, Olathe, KS 66062
913.764.7088
www.fbcolathe.org/youth

Join us for Games, Worship, Food, & Discipleship!

CENTRAL REGION

Women in Ministry News

RENEW



TRANSFORM

BOOK STUDY

We are excited to begin a book study on *A Guide to Ministry Self-Care: Negotiating Today's Challenges with Resilience and Grace* by Olson, Rosell, Marsh, and Jackson.

When: Thursdays, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

First Session: Thursday, August 14th

Discussion: Chapters 1 & 2

EMPOWER

Come connect, reflect, and grow together as we explore practical insights for sustaining ministry with grace and resilience. Email Nancy Killingsworth to receive the Zoom link.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY RETREAT

Saturday, November 15th | Begins at 9:00 AM

We'll gather at the home and retreat center of Jim and Marsha Autrey in Council Grove for a day of rest, renewal, and meaningful connection.

A limited number of guest rooms are available for Friday night, November 14th, on a first come, first serve basis.

More details and registration information will be shared soon!

SERVE

Contact: Nancy Killingsworth, nancyjsnyder@gmail.com

National ABW Events

Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry

**Conference Speakers &
Workshop Leaders**
September 25th -27th, 2025
Euclid, Ohio



Pre-Conference Guest Presenter,
Thursday, 9/25/2025
Rev. Dr. LaVerne C. Hall
President, Board of Directors, Dr. James and Janie Washington Cultural Center, Seattle, WA



Workshop Leader,
Friday, 9/26/2025
Rev. Brian Upton,
Executive Director, Building Hope in the City



Evening Preacher,
Friday, 9/26/2025
Dr. Lumar Vargas
Managing Director of Leadership and Development at Teach for America, Founding Pastor, Aviva Church



Plenary Guest Presenter,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Dennis,
Founder and CEO of Minority Behavioral Health Group, Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio



Morning Preacher,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Rev. Dr. TaNikka Sheppard
Executive Director, Cleveland Baptist Association
General Secretary, North American Baptist Fellowship



Workshop Leader, Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Linda Peavy
Entrepreneur, Advisor, Instructor – Founder and Owner of LiPav Consulting, LLC



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Gimbiya Kettering
Author, former Director of Interculturalism and Diversity, The Church of the Brethren



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Ms. Chanté Roberts,
Executive Assistant, Mandel Community Center at the Sojourner Truth Building, Akron, Ohio



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Elder Linette Graddic
M.Ed., LPC, Director, Mercy Center Global Ministries; Therapist, Therapeutic Life Changers Counseling Center



Workshop Leader,
Saturday, 9/27/2025
Pastor Sadawna Gainer,
Executive Pastor and 1st Lady of M.A.S.H. Ministries New Life Center, Cleveland, Ohio, Infrastructure Engineer for Cuyahoga County Department of Information Technology

Scan the QR code for more information



Conference sponsored by the Rudd Empowerment Center at American Baptist Women's Ministries

www.abwomensministries.org

Shalom Retreat



Sisters living in God's perfect peace: Building bridges of love, respect, and understanding while embracing God's wholeness, harmony, and rest



Worship Leader
Mickala Cheadle Josey
Beth Eden Baptist Church



Speaker
Rev. Lana Rice
Allen Temple Baptist Church



Speaker
Rev. Katie Choy-Wong
Consultant, trainer and writer in intercultural ministries

October 10-12, 2025 | Beth Eden Family Life Center |Oakland, CA

For more information visit www.abwomensministries.org/events or call 610-768-2288



4TEN is cutting edge leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall. 4TEN was formed by the scripture I Peter 4:10.

It exists to empower our youth to employ their gifts to serve Jesus and set an example.

Youth are the leaders of the future; we need them to step up NOW in their local churches!

Students who are chosen for this program are young people who love Jesus and are willing to grow in their relationship with Christ. Students do not need to feel a call to full-time ministry but do have the gifts and desires to be leaders in their churches.

If you would like to nominate someone, send their name, church, and phone number to Rev. Jennifer Schneider or scan the QR code that will take you to then website where you can fill out an application.



CONTACT US

jennifer.schneider@abccr.org



**FIRST EVENT
OCTOBER
24-26**

A VantagePoint3 Group

JOIN A WAY OF LIFE

Have you completed The Journey and want to keep growing in faith and community?

Join us for A Way of Life— An ABCCR lead next-step spiritual formation group rooted in reflection, meaningful connection, and deepening your walk with God.

STARTING SEPTEMBER 2025

The Journey is for those who have already completed VP3- The Journey.

A Way of life participants will meet twice a month, via Zoom.

It will cost \$150 to participate (ABCCR covers the rest!)

Interested? Let us know by July 28th!



**Contact Jennifer Schneider at:
jennifer.schneider@abccr.org**



world mission offering

Each year, during the months of September and October, churches across our region and beyond set aside intentional time to focus on global mission through the World Mission Offering (WMO). This annual initiative, coordinated in partnership with International Ministries (IM), invites us to be part of God's transformative work around the world.

International Ministries is a historic cross-cultural mission agency with deep roots in the global mission movement. Through the WMO, churches of all sizes can actively participate in ministry alongside IM global servants—supporting them through prayer, financial gifts, and shared advocacy.

In 2025, we are highlighting the tangible impact that local churches can have when they partner with IM. From caring for immigrants and refugees, to empowering vulnerable women and children, to educating students in places like Mexico, these ministries are bringing hope and healing in Christ's name.

Global Servants 2024

IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Barbara & Dwight Bolck Regional Consultants
- Carlos Donillo & Mayra Giovannelli Regional Consultants
- Dolores & Motos Camille Joseph Mexico
- Walscha Fabian Hernandez Colombia
- Marcy Gonzalez-Bames Regional Consultant
- Seo Hogarty Costa Rica
- Elberto & Molly Juarez El Salvador
- Christine Lafferty Nicaragua
- Patti & Tim Long Mexico
- Luis & Sarah Matos Mexico
- Ricardo Mayol Bracero Regional Consultant
- Sarah McCurdy Regional Coordinator
- Dobbie & Keith Myers Mexico
- Kholmi Ngunjiri & Nzungu Mahodga Dominican Republic
- David Panajin Nicaragua
- Kelly & Val Pierre Dominican Republic
- J.D. Reed Regional Consultant
- Stacy & Tim Rios Dominican Republic
- Dylan & Lynette Smith Dominican Republic
- Coreene & Phil Smith Brazil
- Joe Stockton Mexico
- Ruth Vindas Costa Rica
- Dina Zelaya Honduras

AFRICA

- Ann & Bill Clemmer Regional Consultants
- Anita & Rick Gutierrez South Africa
- Boaz Kibarak Kenya
- Christina & Lance Mubye Zimbabwe
- Katherine & Wayne Nden DR Congo
- Kathy & Tim Rice DR Congo
- Faye Yarbrough South Africa

EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND LIBERIA

- Melanie Duggan Lebanon
- Don & Sarah Chelli Lebanon
- Herminda & Jorge Damasceno United Kingdom
- Laura & Rich Freeman Turkey
- Amelia & Jon Good Europe
- Camille Jones Regional Consultant
- Nora & Peter Kalkman Regional Consultants
- Bucky & Larry Stanton Hungary

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

- Lanetomjam Jamir & Alema Ao India
- Katie & Saku East & South Asia
- David Sagar India

GLOBAL CONSULTANTS

- Myndia Bails Restorative Arts
- Lauren Bethell Abolishing Global Slavery
- Kristy Engel Health & Wellness
- Mike Mann Economic Development
- Rodney Ragsan Theological Education
- Ray Schallenger Immigrants & Refugees
- Juanine & Walt White Health & Wellness, Capacity Building

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND JAPAN

- Apharan & Scott Coats Myanmar & Thailand
- Annie & Jeff Dinsberg Thailand
- Joel & Trish Hoffman Magat Thailand
- Gordon & Lee Ann Huang Japan
- Alise & Mark Juarez Thailand
- Eric & Tere-Lombke Thailand
- Docky Mann Thailand
- Lori & Matt Mann Southeast Asia
- Sarah McCloy Japan
- Jonathan & Thelma Nambu Philippines
- Aaron & Valorie Osterback Malaysia
- Kel Dapley Thailand
- Ruel Dabait Philippines
- Shipomi Komita Japan
- Aaron & AmyEstelle Teat Southeast Asia
- Katrina & Kyle Williams Southeast Asia

GLOBAL COORDINATORS

- David & Joyce Reed Spiritual Care
- Rhonda Reed Health & Wellness
- Dobby Warner Missionary Aid & Family Care

Our Ministry Priorities:

- EVANGELISM
- DISCIPLESHIP
- THE GLOBAL EDUCATION
- IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
- PEACE AND JUSTICE
- ABOLISHING GLOBAL SLAVERY
- EDUCATION
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- EVERYWHERE TO EVERYONE
- SHORT TERM MISSION
- YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
- CHURCH BUILDING

1003 W 9TH AVE, STE A, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406 • 610-768-2168 • INTERNATIONALMINISTRIES.ORG

WHAT IS THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING (WMO)?

Each year through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands of churches and individuals come together to promote and support ministries that God is using to transform the world. We want you to join in, too!

Many of our partner churches will dedicate time in September and October to use our free World Mission Offering promotional resources (available in print and through www.worldmissionoffering.org) to make it easy to share stories of God at work through global mission. Build excitement for mission in your congregation! Some churches will take a one-time offering for world mission during this time, and many others make monthly recurring gifts to the WMO.

As one pastor described his church's involvement in the WMO, "God allows us to participate in what he is doing, which blesses our church and inspires us to get involved in our own mission activities where we live and beyond."

Join with us, as we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

HOW ARE WMO GIFTS USED?

WMO gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, international partner, and other ministry support), for administrative support, and for development costs.

WHAT ABOUT MY GIFTS TO SPECIFIC GLOBAL SERVANTS?

All personalized global servant support is targeted for the global servants and keeps them in their ministries.

WHAT ELSE WILL MY WMO GIFTS DO?

As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world—when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expense. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funds they need but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry. When personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap and keep global servants in their country of service. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable us to address crises when they arise, and so much more. Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure that you support all of IM's ministries.

Questions? Email wmo@internationalministries.org or call 610-768-2311 to speak with someone on our development team.



mpyc-abc.org



MOUNTAINS & PRAIRIES

Youth Conference

JUNE 14-18, 2026

**YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH
GRANBY, COLORADO**



Keynote Speaker
**REV. JOY
MARTINEZ- MARSHALL**